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Introduction

Conflicts around the world are coming to an end and the countries that are or were involved in those conflicts have to succeed in transitioning from a state of war to a state of peace and stability. Naturally this process of transition is not something any country can manage on its own; therefore the United Nations conceived the idea of peace-building missions and post-conflict operations. While the two are connected, they are in their core, different, as peace-building focuses on the reestablishment of peace and security and post-conflict recovery aims to tackle multiple aspects that arise in a post-conflict area.

One of the outcomes of wars and conflicts is that they have a strong effect on the economy, environment and society long after they have ended. Many countries are not capable of dealing with issues that might arise at the time of their transition and relapse into war or violent conflicts. What is more, war-torn countries have been weakened from the said conflict or war and therefore their government, legal and judicial systems are, most of the times, destroyed. Other immediate concerns might involve distorted economic incentives, problems with poverty and unemployment, as well as destroyed human, social and physical capital¹. Moreover, it is not uncommon for criminal networks, former warlords or organizations to take advantage of the state's resources or powers, seeing as the post-conflict states are more often than not, in no condition to face them.

As mentioned above, no country would be capable of dealing with the previously mentioned issues that are likely to arise while in transition. Therefore it has been one of the United Nations primary concerns to enhance peace-building missions and improve post-conflict recovery operations. As a concept, they include a wide range of activities, functions and roles that are taken up by governmental as well as non-governmental organizations, the UN and other bodies. Some of these functions aim

¹ Physical capital: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Physical_capital
Social capital: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Social_capital
Human capital: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_capital

to rebuild the political and institutional framework and the legal and judicial system as well as to establish the socio-economic foundations for long-term peace.

Definition of Key-Terms

Peace building

According to the United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office: “Peacebuilding has covered a multidimensional exercise and tasks ranging from the disarming of warring factions to the rebuilding of political, economic, judicial and civil society institutions. [...] Peacebuilding involves a range of measures targeted to reduce the risk of lapsing or relapsing into conflict by strengthening national capacities at all levels for conflict management, and to lay the foundations for sustainable peace and development. Peacebuilding strategies must be coherent and tailored to specific needs of the country concerned, based on national ownership, and should comprise a carefully prioritized, sequenced, and therefore relatively narrow set of activities aimed at achieving the above objectives.”

Post-conflict

According to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Centre for Research on Peace and Development (CRPD), conflicts can recur after a short period of peace or even when conflict seems to have ended. Post-conflict countries' progress is based on a range of ‘peace-building milestones’. The most important peace-building milestones are: easing hostilities and violence, signing of peace agreements, demobilization, disarmament and reintegration, return of refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs), establishing the foundations for a functioning state, initiating reconciliation and societal integration and commencing economic recovery.

Post-conflict recovery

According to the Centre for Research on Peace and Development (CRPD), post-conflict recovery includes achieving a broad socio-economic well-being, including restoring citizen and societal security, ensuring food security, restoring shelter, public health and educational systems, as well as reconstructing the physical infrastructure, generating employment, opening markets, re-establishing prudential systems for banking and financial institutions.

Background Information

Origins of Peace-building

One of the original goals of the United Nations has been to help in reducing the level of conflict globally. In order to achieve this goal, the United Nations promote and supervise peace agreements and negotiations, as well as the implementation and outcomes of these agreements. The United Nations recognized the term 'peace-building' when Secretary General Boutros-Boutros Ghali introduced it in his Agenda for Peace in 1992. According to the agenda, 'peace-building' was defined as "an action to identify and support structures which will tend to strengthen and solidify peace in order to avoid a relapse into conflict." The original idea of peace-building involved the idea of a conflict cycle. This conflict cycle passed from pre-conflict preventive diplomacy, to the conflict itself, to peace-making and negotiations, leading to peacekeeping and post-conflict recovery. If lasting peace and post-conflict recovery are not feasible, i.e. if the conflict cycle is not completed, a relapse into conflict is more than likely in the near future.

'An Inventory of Post-Conflict Peace-Building Activities' was published in 1996 and presented identified peace-building activities which could be undertaken by UN agencies. So as to identify the said activities, a UN inter-departmental Task Force had been put together by the Secretary General in 1995. Related publications such as "An Agenda for Development" (1994), "An Agenda for Democratization" (1996) and the United Nations Development Programme Report on Human Security (1994) have greatly contributed to the UN understanding of 'peace-building'. As a result, security issues now correlate with issues regarding development, human rights and economy.

However, the 2000 Report of the Panel on United Nations Peace Operations (also known as the Brahimi Report) redefined 'peace-building', causing confusion. The definition given was: "Peace-building are activities undertaken on the far side of conflict to reassemble the foundations of peace and provide the tools for building on those foundations something that is more than just the absence of war." Therefore, it is of great importance for the United Nations to be clear on the definition of 'peace-building', an issue that should also be addressed in this conference.

Major Countries and Organizations Involved

The UN Peace building Commission (PBC)

"The [UN] Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) is an intergovernmental advisory body that supports peace efforts in countries emerging from conflict, and is a key addition to the capacity of the International Community in the broad peace agenda.

The Peacebuilding Commission plays a unique role in (1) bringing together all of the relevant actors, including international donors, the international financial institutions, national governments, troop contributing countries; (2) marshalling resources and (3) advising on and proposing integrated strategies for post-conflict peacebuilding and recovery and where appropriate, highlighting any gaps that threaten to undermine peace.” (according to the UNPBC’s official website)

Countries currently on the PBC agenda are Burundi, Sierra Leone, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia and the Central African Republic.

UN Peace-building Support Office (PBSO)

According to its official website, “the Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO) was established to assist and support the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) with strategic advice and policy guidance, administer the Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) and to serve the Secretary-General in coordinating United Nations agencies in their peacebuilding efforts. In the founding resolutions (A/RES/60/180 and S/RES/1645(2005)) establishing the Peacebuilding Commission, the United Nations General Assembly and the Security Council requested “the Secretary-General to establish, within the Secretariat, from within existing resources, a small peacebuilding support office staffed by qualified experts to assist and support the Commission”. The office comprises the Peacebuilding Commission Support Branch, the Policy, Planning and Application Branch and the Financing for Peacebuilding Branch.”

United Nations Development Programme

The UNDP is funded by voluntary contributions and constitutes one of the most active UN organizations. The Programme “helps more than 80 countries to strengthen development gains in post-crisis countries by helping governments respond to disasters and mitigate the risk they pose; addressing the underlying causes of violence; reinforcing governance and the rule of law; supporting livelihoods; and by using short-term employment schemes that allow local people to rebuild critical infrastructure following disaster.”

- <http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/ourwork/crisispreventionandrecovery/overview.html>

United Nations Peacekeeping Operations

“UN Peacekeepers provide security and the political and peace building support to help countries make the difficult, early transition from conflict to peace.”

- <http://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/operations/peacekeeping.shtml>

European Union Peace building Partnership (PbP)

The EU responds to crises and addresses some longer-term security threats around the world. With that in mind, the European Commission established the Peace-

building Partnership (PbP) to respond to crisis situations worldwide. It is an instrument for stability of the European Union External Action. The Peace-building Partnership attempts “to develop early-warning systems, to provide mediation and reconciliation services and to address inter-community tensions. It also addresses measures for improving post-conflict and post-disaster recovery.”

- http://eeas.europa.eu/ifs/pbp_en.htm

Interpeace

“Interpeace is an independent, international peacebuilding organization and strategic partner of the United Nations. We were created by the United Nations in 1994. We became an independent organization in 2000 while maintaining a unique partnership with the UN. As a result, we operate either as an independent NGO or as a UN initiative. [...] Through our Advisory Council we bring together governments, multilateral and UN agencies, and experts to analyze the latest in peacebuilding trends. The three main bodies of Interpeace, the Governing Council, Advisory Council and the Secretariat, provide the necessary support to over 300 peacebuilders in the field. Consisting exclusively of people from the societies in which we are active, our local teams lead the programmes on the ground. [...]

Our approach contributes to building lasting peace through inclusive and nationally-led processes of change. Our added value is our tested approach in strengthening capacities within societies to manage conflict without resorting to violence or coercion. Peacebuilding must be led and owned from within a society so we work exclusively with national teams in countries across Africa, Asia, Central America, Europe and the Middle East. We support peacebuilding initiatives in: Belize, Burundi, Costa Rica, Cyprus, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guinea-Bissau, Honduras, Israel, Liberia, Libya, Nicaragua, Palestine, Panama, Rwanda, Somali Region and Timor-Leste. Programmes in Côte d'Ivoire, the African Great Lakes region, Madagascar and Mali are currently under development.”

- <http://www.interpeace.org/about-us/fast-facts/7-about-us>

World Bank and Center on Conflict, Security and Development (CCSD)

Since 2000, the International Development Association (IDA), the World Bank's fund for the poorest, has provided over US \$22 billion in post-conflict reconstruction assistance to fragile and conflict-affected countries. To help meet this challenge, the World Bank was brought in. The World Bank consists of five institutions and one group, as mentioned on their official website: The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), the IDA, the International Finance

Corporation (IFC), the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA), the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID) and the World Bank Group). The latter launched the Center on Conflict, Security and Development (CCSD) in February 2012 to strengthen the Bank's work on fragile and conflict affected situations. With help from the CCSD, the Bank is able to respond to Fragile and Conflict affected Situations (FCS) faster, in a more flexible manner, and in accordance with the special needs of each unique context. The CCSD also serves as a global hub connecting people working in fragile and conflict affected situations across the world, to provide knowledge and resources to FCS clients and practitioners, and ultimately to help improve development in these countries.

International Monetary Fund (IMF)

"The International Monetary Fund (IMF) is an organization of 188 countries, working to foster global monetary cooperation, secure financial stability, facilitate international trade, promote high employment and sustainable economic growth, and reduce poverty around the world."

- <http://www.imf.org/external/about.htm>

United Nations Peace building Portal

"The Peacebuilding Portal is part of the Conflict Management Capacity-Building Project implemented by the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs and funded by the United Nations Development Programme's Regional Bureau of Africa. The Peacebuilding Portal was developed to connect and strengthen organizations working on peace building and conflict prevention. The main objectives of the Portal are: to fill the need for information dissemination and networking among the peacebuilding community, build their capacity to respond and mitigate conflict [...]. The Peacebuilding Portal provides a practical way to connect with local, national and international organizations dealing with conflict management and peacebuilding, locate specific data on related projects and programmes that are implemented by the NGOs in a country or geographical region; and identify NGOs and experts working on particular themes within conflict management and peacebuilding."

- http://www.un.org/esa/peacebuilding/peace_building_portal_presentation.pdf

Catholic Relief Services (CRS)

"Catholic Relief Services was founded in 1943 by the Catholic Bishops of the United States to serve World War II survivors in Europe. Since then, we have expanded in size to reach more than 100 million people in 91 countries on five continents."

- <http://crs.org/about/>

“Peacebuilding emerged as one of CRS' top priorities in 2001. Historically we worked on many activities related to peace and justice, but in the 1990s we began to focus more explicitly on them. This grew in large part out of experiences in East Africa and the Balkans. We pair peacebuilding with justice to ensure that our activities address the root causes of conflicts and not just surface issues. [...] A yearlong consultation process for CRS culminates in a World Summit in 2000. The CRS Agency Strategy Visionary Direction Statement that emerges from the summit commits the agency to "build a culture of peace throughout the world based on a foundation of justice and reconciliation.””

- http://crs.org/peacebuilding/general_background.cfm

Timeline of Events

Date	Description of event
1992	Peace building became a familiar concept within the United Nations following Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali's report (An Agenda For Peace).
2005	Creation of the new Peace-building Commission.
2006	After the request of the General Assembly and the Security Council followed the establishment of the Peace building Fund (PBF) by the Secretary-General.
2012	Launching of the Center on Conflict, Security and Development by the World Bank.
2012	Joint Event of ECOSOC and PBC with focus on “Partnerships for job creation for young people emerging from conflict”.

Relevant UN Treaties, Resolutions and Events

United Nations Peace building Fund (PBF)

“The United Nations Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) is currently supporting 222 projects in 22 countries by delivering fast, flexible and relevant funding. [...] The PBF is a global fund designed to support several country situations simultaneously and therefore

combines the scope of a global fund with the country-specific focus of a multi-donor trust fund. The Fund addresses immediate needs in countries emerging from conflict at a time when sufficient resources are not available from other funding mechanisms and will support interventions of direct and immediate relevance to the peacebuilding process and contribute towards addressing critical gaps in that process. It focuses on delivering services in the very early stages of a peacebuilding process, before donor conferences are organized and such funding mechanisms as country-specific multi-donor trust funds have been set up. [...]

The PBF extends fast, relevant and catalytic support to countries and has so far garnered \$400 [...] million, from which it is funding 193 projects in 22 countries. These projects cover a wide range of areas, such as supporting national peace dialogues, promoting community reconciliation, strengthening the rule of law, reforming the security sector, supporting disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, providing economic stimulus for community businesses and addressing youth unemployment.

The PBF is managed, on behalf of the United Nations Secretary-General, by the Assistant Secretary-General for Peace building Support, supported by the Peace building Support Office (PBSO). The UNDP Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office (MPTF Office) is the PBF fund administrator. The PBF relies upon voluntary contributions from Member States, organizations and individuals.”

- <http://www.unpbf.org/>

Brahimi Report

Secretary General Kofi Annan had requested that the Panel on United Nations Peace Operations describe the processes and explain the changes which would be needed in the 21st century, so that the United Nations can be completely ready to tackle the issues that would threaten Member States and the UN. The Brahimi report was created with that request in mind, thereby offering feasible and pragmatic solutions to issues concerning peacekeeping and peace-building as we face them nowadays. As stated on the official website of the UN, the report focused on shortcomings in the existing system, realistic recommendations for change, political and strategic issues and last, but not least, operational and organizational issues.

The Economic and Social Council's decision on African countries emerging from conflict

According to the United Nations Peace-building Commission, on July 27, 2012 at the ECOSOC'S 48th plenary meeting the Council took note of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of integrated, coherent and coordinated support to South Sudan and requested that another report on the subject be submitted for the

Council's consideration at its substantive session in 2013. Moreover the Council invited the Chair of the Peace building Commission to continue to inform it of the economic and social challenges of peace building in the African countries on the Commission's agenda.

Joint Event of ECOSOC and PBC with focus on "Partnerships for job creation for young people in countries emerging from conflict"

The event took place on June 4, 2012 and stressed the importance of partnerships between governments, the private sector and civil society to tackle the issue of job creation in post-conflict countries. Job creation strengthens the economy and doing so, is an essential factor in peace-building and conflict-prevention.

Previous Attempts to solve the Issue

Based on past attempts to solve the issue, a strategic peace-building pathway has been created by the Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies, which follows the process of current peace-building.

In the core of the pathway there are three goals highlighted: efforts to prevent, respond and transform violent conflicts, efforts to promote justice and healing and efforts to promote structural and institutional change.

Following measures and actions include: education of the civilians and restoration and development of the education system in post-conflict areas, sustainable development, tackling threats (either local or international), such as terrorism, poverty or injustice, re-enforcement of the law, restorative justice, including reforms for the prison system, transitional justice, trauma healing, which includes social therapy, victim support and resettlement, humanitarian action, government and global efforts in goals such as post-conflict reconstruction, intergovernmental organizations and other actions based on diplomacy, non-violent social change promoted by media and campaigns and conflict resolution strategies.

Possible Solutions

It is very important that peace-building and post-conflict recovery are addressed both individually and together.

First of all, a clear definition or even redefinition of the term "peace-building" is needed, so as to avoid misunderstandings. Secondly, you should include which activities are authorized when mentioning the term "peace-building". Furthermore,

you could consider proposing that if a state intervenes in a conflict-torn country without authorization by the Security Council, it should be able to prove the legitimacy of its actions based on an international treaty, which you could lay the foundations for.

What is more, it should be made clear to what extent post-conflict recovery goes. What is of utmost importance is the collaboration and coordination of all NGOs and UN agencies active in that field, so as to avoid accidents, conflicts of interest, etc. and achieve swift post-conflict recovery. Perhaps it is worth considering proposing the creation of combined funds or the establishment of a new sub-commission of the Peace-building Commission or of a new UN body to be responsible for institutional and civil reforms in post-conflict countries. You should outline the process of post-conflict recovery as detailed as possible.

Post-conflict recovery and peace-building includes activities seeking to strengthen the state, decrease the potential for violent conflict, and enhance local capacities to manage conflict without violence. Keep in mind that countries in post-conflict situations have the primary need of ensuring domestic security and after that they require aid to rebuilt their cities and recuperate the destroyed sources. This aid may include strengthening governance and the rule of law, training local leaders in conflict resolution methodologies, demobilizing and reintegrating soldiers, developing local economies or establishing an effective and functional conflict early warning system.

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