



IRELAND

Peacebuilding Commission Organizational Committee
Informal Meeting

New York, 13 July 2009

STATEMENT

BY

H.E Mr. Paul Kavanagh
Permanent Representative

ON BEHALF OF

Egypt and Ireland as Co-chairs of the meeting in Cairo
on 18-19 May 2009

entitled:

“Post-Conflict Peacebuilding:
Contemporary Challenges and the Way Forward”

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Mr. Chairman,

On behalf of both the Arab Republic of Egypt and Ireland, let me thank you for the opportunity to address the Peacebuilding Commission. I have the honour to present the Co-chair's Comprehensive Report of the recent meeting on "Post-conflict Peacebuilding: Contemporary Challenges and the Way Forward" that our two governments were pleased to convene on 18-19 May in Cairo, Egypt. A copy of the Co-chair's Comprehensive Report has been circulated to Member States.

The Cairo Meeting was very timely as it took place ahead of the release of the Secretary-General's report on Peacebuilding in the Immediate Aftermath of Conflict. We have been informed that the views expressed by participants in the Cairo meeting proved useful to the Secretary-General as he finalised his own recent report: "Peacebuilding in the Immediate Aftermath of Conflict".

The Cairo meeting featured presentations by Mr. Ashraf Jehangir Qazi, Special Representative of the Secretary-General in Sudan (UNMIS), and Mr. Finn Reske-Nielsen, Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General in Timor-Leste (UNMIT), who both provided an analysis of the challenges and opportunities for post-conflict peacebuilding from their experiences. Ms. Sally Fegan-Wyles, Senior Project Director from the Peacebuilding Support Office also gave a presentation on the issues addressed in the Secretary-General's report.

As co-chairs, Ireland and Egypt approached the Cairo Meeting as part of a lessons-learning and sharing process for member states and international actors.

The meeting provided an opportunity for interested and engaged member states which may not be members of the Peacebuilding Commission, to exchange views and develop their thinking on matters of crucial concern with regard to peacebuilding.

It was felt that discussion of peacebuilding had hitherto been somewhat New York-centric. Consequently, we encouraged representatives from Capitals to take part in the meeting in order to broaden consideration of this issue.

Mr. Chairman,

Let me mention five of the issues of particular interest for the participants in Cairo:

- First, a **common strategy** is needed to provide a framework for national-international partnership for peacebuilding. Post-conflict peacebuilding needs to begin early, immediately after a peace agreement is signed and alongside any peacekeeping efforts. Priority objectives must be addressed, while keeping in mind the interdependence of many of these objectives. Quick and tangible results are needed to build confidence and support, without sight being lost of the longer-term objectives.
- Second, **Clear leadership** is essential. The United Nations has a vital role to play in coordinating an effective and coherent international response to peacebuilding. Improved coordination is needed, with all parts of the UN system working together from the outset to allow for fast and appropriate

action. Clarity of roles between the UN and the World Bank, and other international partners is also needed.

- Third, **National ownership** is central to sustainable post-conflict peacebuilding. Efforts should focus on the need to build effective and resilient national institutions through strengthening national capacity and instilling a value system that would promote the peaceful settlement of disputes.
- Fourth, the **role of regional organizations** and the importance of south-south cooperation in supporting peacebuilding efforts should be recognised and supported, and
- Fifth, **Rapid, flexible and appropriate funding** is key in post-conflict situations in order to implement the appropriate strategy from the start. The capacity of governments to absorb funding should be kept in mind and efforts should also be made to reduce the multiplicity of funding instruments, which can overburden governments in post-conflict situations.

Mr. Chairman,

Before concluding, let me turn briefly to recommendations specifically addressed to the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC). Participants felt the PBC could play a role in promoting greater coherence among the different parts of the UN system and other international actors.

It was also suggested that the PBC could consider enhancing its current functions in helping to mobilise resources. The upcoming review of the PBC in 2010 will provide an opportunity to further reflect on the role of the PBC.

The overall response from participants was very positive with regard to the elements to be contained in the Secretary-General's report as presented by Ms. Sally Fegan-Wyles. The key in moving forward will be effective implementation of the report.

In conclusion Mr. Chairman, Ireland and Egypt commend the conclusions of the Cairo Meeting to the Peacebuilding Commission in the hope that it may prove useful to intergovernmental consideration of the Secretary-General's report.

In this regard, my colleague Ambassador Abdelaziz of Egypt will make a parallel presentation to the Security Council on 22 July.