

PEACE BUILDING CONFERENCE: KIGALI OUTCOME DOCUMENT

This document summarizes the outcomes of the High Level Meeting on Peace and Statebuilding: The Rwandan Experience, held in Kigali on 8 and 9 November, 2011. The meeting was convened by the Government of Rwanda, in partnership with the United Nations Peacebuilding Commission and the African Development Bank.

The meeting was opened by President Paul Kagame with the participation of President Pierre Nkurunziza of Burundi and Prime Minister Gillaume Soro of Cote d'Ivoire. The United Nations Secretary General was represented by Judy Cheng-Hopkins, Assistant Secretary General for Peacebuilding Support, and the African Development Bank by Mr. Youssouf Ouedraogo, Senior Adviser to the President. The event was moderated by Zeinab Badawi of the BBC.

High-level dignitaries from Rwanda, Burundi, the Central African Republic, Cote d'Ivoire, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Sierra Leone, Haiti and Timor Leste, The African Union, World Bank, Chairs of the country configurations of the Peace Building Commission, international and regional partners, the civil society and the diplomatic community in Rwanda participated in the discussions.

There was much appreciation of the efforts of Rwanda to address the challenges that the country faced in the immediate aftermath of conflict.

Lessons from the Rwandan Experience of Peace and State Building

1. Inclusive ownership and leadership

1. The leadership brought together representatives from across society through a dialogue process from 1997-2000 to build consensus on a vision for the country. Vision 2020 and the new Constitution were some of the key outcomes. This was based on the view that the population of each country know what is best for them. 2. Building institutions included building the capacity of the people in them. This led to a change in mindset about how results are delivered and promoted accountability within the country and with its partners.

2. Innovative approaches to nation building and socio economic development

1. Confronted with the overwhelming nature of the reconstruction needed, Rwandan leadership and citizens decided to reach back into their traditional practices and culture, looking for remedies. A number of practices from the old day were revived and modernized, injected with today's financial and legal standards, and applied to daunting problems the Rwandan society faced. 2. To redefine the relationship between state and citizen and between citizens, equal access and minimum standards for basic services and public goods were guaranteed in urban and rural areas and for all income groups. Barriers for women were dismantled and legal rights and guarantees for representation were put in place. 3. Unity and reconciliation was a source of strength to drive the development agenda, including through national dialogue and community based justice.

3. Strategic use of aid

1. Aid was made more manageable by reducing the number of coordination mechanisms and channels, agreeing common business practices, setting out clear lines of authority, a division of labor and results oriented planning. 2. Mutual accountability was built by continuous and clear dialogue and regular mutual assessments. Donors used country mechanisms, aligned with national priorities and supported the Government as the primary service provider, and the Government made effective use of the aid and was transparent in how it was used.

The conference recommends that the following actions are taken:

The PBC should draw lessons from the Rwandan experience and, if found relevant for the specific country contexts, will reflect them in the development and implementation of the instruments of engagements with the countries on its agenda.

The PBC should build on existing mechanisms within the UN system to facilitate lessons sharing between countries that have experience in peacebuilding and statebuilding and those about to undertake such processes.

African countries represented at the Conference called for sustainable mechanisms of driving a more pro-active African agenda of sharing lessons and best practices in peace building and nation building, for the benefit of African countries that underwent conflict

The Government of Rwanda will continue to share its expertise with countries on the PBC agenda and other countries emerging from conflict through various existing development and nation building institutions and initiatives.

The African Development Bank, as a partner of the forum, is committed to taking the lessons learned from the Rwanda experience to other post conflict countries, for example, in its country dialogues in preparation of the country strategy papers.

Taking advantage of this opportunity to reflect on the Rwandan experience on the importance of self driven and nationally owned state building processes, a peer to peer exercise will be established for post conflict countries in order for them to take a lead in sharing this learning in other post conflict countries.

These outcomes will be shared with the g7+ Group of conflict affected states to draw on the lessons learned in the implementation of the “New Deal” at the High-Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness in Busan, Republic of Korea from 29 November to 1 December 2011.

Kigali, 9th November 2011