A High-level event on Post-Conflict Peacebuilding: the Experience of Rwanda

11, 12 November 2011

Concept Note and Proposed Programme

Background

Rwanda experienced one of the most violent conflicts of the 20th century and yet it has succeeded to launch on a solid path towards reconciliation, reconstruction and development. This has been the result of a combination of leadership, national ownership, and innovative approaches to governance and employment generation with the support of the international community.

On 26 January 2011, Rwanda, represented by its Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Ambassador Eugène-Richard Gasana, was elected as Chair of the UN Peacebuilding Commission, for a one year term. In his inaugural statement, Ambassador Gasana offered the solidarity of Rwanda with other post-conflict countries and committed to share the Rwandan experience in post conflict reconciliation, reconstruction and development.

Rwanda’s experience included its interaction with key international and regional partners, whose role has remained crucial in support of the ongoing peacebuilding processes in the countries on the PBC agenda and other countries emerging from conflict. The United Nations, the World Bank, the African Union, the African Development Bank (AfDB) are among these key partners and have become crucial actors in the evolving multidimensional approach to peacebuilding support in these countries.

The year 2011 witnessed the launching of important global initiatives aimed at addressing the challenges facing countries emerging from or affected by conflict. The International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding, the emergence of the g7+ of fragile and conflict-affected states and the release of the World Bank’s World Development Report on Conflict, Security and Development are examples of the increasing focus on improving global awareness of and response to peacebuilding challenges and complexities. Another example is the Africa Regional Meeting on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding (September 2011 in Ethiopia) on the Road to Busan organized by (AfDB, AU, UNECA) that reflected the urgent priority for accelerated progress towards peacebuilding and statebuilding processes in Africa. Moreover and with the recent establishment of its Fragile State Facility and the newly emerging partnership with the PBC, expected to take shape during the planned visit of the PBC Chairs’ Group to the Headquarters in Tunis on 8, 9 November 2011, AfDB is becoming a crucial actor in support of peacebuilding efforts in Africa.
It is in this context that the Government of Rwanda, in partnership with the AfDB, is inviting the Heads of State and Government of the countries currently on the PBC agenda and other countries emerging from conflict in Africa and other regions, together with the Commission’s Chairs of the Country Configurations and leaders of key international and regional organizations to visit Rwanda on 11 and 12 November 2011 and to participate in a High-Level event on post-conflict peacebuilding drawing upon Rwanda’s experience in addressing some of the critical peacebuilding challenges.

**Objectives of the High-Level Event**

The High-Level Event will provide a platform for:

- Countries on the PBC agenda and other countries emerging from conflict to reflect on the experience of Rwanda in tackling post conflict challenges on the basis of national leadership and ownership and to draw the appropriate lessons for their respective countries.

- The Chairs of PBC Country Configurations to reflect on lessons learned from the Rwandan experience in certain areas of possible wider applicability in the countries on the agenda.

The presence of representatives of key international and regional organizations, as well as select experts, could further help enrich the discussions and provide an external analytical perspective on certain aspects of Rwanda’s experience with wider applicability.

**Areas of Focus**

Rwanda’s experience in post-conflict peacebuilding and reconstruction is rich and diverse. However, the High-Level Event will address a few areas of particular significance for the countries on the PBC agenda and other countries emerging from conflict, namely:

- Leadership and ownership (including governance and accountability);

- Donor coordination mechanisms (including the strategic use of aid);

- Job creation (including through successful reintegration strategies and the promotion of private investment).

- Innovative approaches to national reconciliation and gender promotion (including local mechanisms and constitutional reforms);

**Participants**

- Government of Rwanda;

- Heads of State/Government/Ministers/ from the six countries on the UN PBC agenda and other countries emerging from conflict in Africa.
- UN Secretary-General.
- The Chairperson of the AU Commission
- President of the African Development Bank.
- Managing Director of the World Bank.
- Chairs of the PBC Country Configurations and WGLL.
- Representatives of key bilateral partners of Rwanda.
- Representatives of the international community accredited to Rwanda.
- Representatives of relevant civil society organizations.
- Select experts (invited as moderators and/or participants).

Format

The working sessions of the High-Level event will be structured in a roundtable and or “Interactive Sessions” format with a view to encouraging interactive discussion among Heads of State and Government, Ministers and other participants. Working sessions will be moderated by an identified expert or participant. The discussion will be initiated by a lead speaker from Rwanda followed by interactive exchange. (Please see the attached programme)

Background documentation

The Government of Rwanda will prepare a background paper which will highlight key issues and lessons learned around the topics identified for the discussion. The paper will be shared with participants three weeks ahead of the event.

Outcome

An outcome document summarizing key recommendations under each of the topics and identifying possible next steps and follow-up will be developed. The PBC Chairperson and the Chairs of country configurations could utilize the content of the outcome in relevant policy fora and as possible reference for advice rendered to the countries on the agenda.

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Programme of Events

10 - 12 November 2011

Thursday, 10 November 2011

Arrival of Dignitaries and Delegations to Kigali

Friday, 11 November 2011

Visits to key national institutions

09:00 – 09:45 AM Visit to the Genocide Memorial,
10:00 – 11:15 AM Visit and discussions at the National Unity and Reconciliation Commission
11:30 – 12:45 PM Visit to an association of women’s economic and income generation activities (e.g. AGASEKE)

01:00 – 02:30 PM Lunch hosted by the Minister of Foreign Affairs

High-level Event

Opening Session: (03:00 – 4:45 PM)

1. Opening remarks by the President of the Republic of Rwanda,
2. Opening Remarks by the UN Secretary-General;
3. Remarks by the President of the African Development Bank;
4. Remarks by the Heads of State and Government of PBC agenda countries and other countries emerging from conflict;
5. Remarks by the Chairperson of the AU;
6. Remarks by the Managing Director of the World Bank.

Break: 4:45 - 5:00 PM

Session 1: (05:00 – 06:30 PM)

Leadership and ownership

Moderator: (Options include: Zeinab Badawi, BBC Anchor, or, Isha Sesay, CNN Anchor)
Lead Speaker:
- President of the Republic of Rwanda
Dinner Hosted by the President of the Republic of Rwanda (Theme: Governance and Accountability) (7:30 – 9:30 PM)

Saturday, 12 November 2011

Session 2: (9:00 – 10:30 AM)

Donor Coordination [and the Strategic use of Aid]

Moderator: (TBD)
Lead Speaker:
- Mr. Donald Kaberuka (Former Minister of Finance, Rwanda and President of the AfDB)

Break: 10:30 – 10:45 AM

Session 3: (10:45 AM – 12:15 PM)

Job Creation [and the Promotion of Private Investment]

Moderator: (TBD)
Lead Speaker:
- Representative of Rwanda (Minister of Foreign Affairs or Chair of the Rwanda Development Board?)

Break: 12:15 – 12:30 PM

Concluding Session (12:30 – 1:30 PM)
- Outcome of the High-Level Event: Chairperson of the PBC

Saturday, 12 November 2011 (Evening)

Departure of Dignitaries and Delegations

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