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BRIEFING NOTE ON THE 4TH BRAINSTORMING RETREAT OF THE PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL (PSC) AND OTHER PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES TO THE AFRICAN UNION (AU) ON POST-CONFLICT RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT (PCRD) IN AFRICA

BRIEFING NOTE ON THE 4TH BRAINSTORMING RETREAT OF THE PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL (PSC) AND OTHER PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES TO THE AFRICAN UNION (AU) ON POST-CONFLICT RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT (PCRD) IN AFRICA

1. The 4th Brainstorming Retreat for the Peace and Security Council (PSC) and other members of the Permanent Representative Committee (PRC) of the African Union (AU), to discuss Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development (PCRD), was held from 4-5 September at the Hilton Hotel in Durban, South Africa. The Retreat was convened to discuss experiences and lessons learnt by organizations working in the field of post-conflict reconstruction and development, to deliberate on the constitutive elements of PCRD, to identify the key actors, institutional set-up and coordination required, and to generate a broad agreement on a process roadmap towards the creation of an AU framework for PCRD, which would be adaptable to different conflict situations to guide the reconstruction of countries emerging from conflict. Forty-three (43) representatives of the AU Member States in Addis Ababa, as well as members of the AU Commission, and observers from the United Nations system, the World Bank, the EU, and other experts in various aspects of PCRD participated in the Brainstorming.

2. During the deliberations, participants underscored a number of issues that should be reflected in the AU Framework for PCRD. They explored the constitutive elements of the envisaged PCRD framework, which would elaborate the minimum standards and benchmarks that should guide action in dealing with the provision of security; humanitarian issues; governance in transition; justice, human rights and reconciliation; socio-economic recovery; gender in transition and recovery; and resource mobilization in support of PCRD.

3. They also discussed the principles and values that should underpin the African policy framework for PCRD, and began reflecting on the implementation of the Framework. Among the most important issues discussed were the following:

➤ ***African Leadership***

- ✓ The AU should guide the policy formulation process. Member states could constitute a supporting mechanism to the AU to maintain the momentum towards an African PCRD.
- ✓ PCRD should be used as a tool to consolidate peace, prevent the relapse of post-war countries into renewed violence, and to reconstitute and modernize the affected state.
- ✓ The AU framework should be guided by African definitions and perceptions of their own needs and aspirations.
- ✓ Human security should form the basis for the African PCRD framework.

➤ **Local ownership in the affected states**

- ✓ Local ownership is critical in leading all aspects of PCRDR, from assessment to implementation and evaluation.
- ✓ Local actors should determine the priorities and drive the PCRDR process, without de-legitimizing government.

➤ **Need to build capacity for PCRDR**

- ✓ Most PCRDR situations are characterized by limited domestic capacity and therefore, the framework should consciously provide for the building of local capacity – beginning with the state, local and civic institutions.
- ✓ The framework should pay special attention to youth because building their capacity enhances the strategic development of the state.
- ✓ The framework should provide guidance on the modalities of international engagement in building local capacity.
- ✓ The framework should provide for leveraging of African capacity behind countries emerging from conflict. This includes local expertise, regional and continental expertise, and Africans in the diaspora.

➤ **Resource mobilization for PCRDR**

- ✓ National resource mobilization should form the basis of PCRDR because all countries, irrespective of status, have some national resources.
- ✓ The framework should provide for the building of other, complementary alliances for resource mobilization e.g. the South-South cooperation.
- ✓ The framework should provide for the establishment of an African PCRDR fund.
- ✓ Donors should be encouraged to simplify the procedures, and reduce barriers to accessing resources, and ensure early availability and quick disbursement of funds to those countries emerging from conflict.
- ✓ Donors should be encouraged to translate their pledges and commitments into concrete support without delay.
- ✓ African contributions to PCRDR in Member States should not be limited to financial contributions, but should include support in areas such as training, provision of expertise, etc.

➤ **Breaking the cycle of violence**

- ✓ The PCRD framework should simultaneously address multiple issues including the root causes of conflict; deal with the ravages of war; place the country firmly on the path to sustainable development, and provide an opportunity for countries to modernize.
- ✓ It is crucial to identify both economic and political incentives for peace, which entails a systematic approach and strategy for dealing with war economies.
- ✓ The principle of equity and fairness in the distribution of power and wealth must be applied throughout the process of PCRD.
- ✓ The PCRD framework should incorporate regional approaches to the consolidation of peace and improved coordination between the AU and regional organizations on PCRD. Such a regional approach should begin by examining the root causes of conflict in a particular region.
- ✓ Truth and reconciliation is important to consolidation of peace and addressing the root causes of violence.

➤ **Coordination and synergy of actors**

- ✓ The framework should ensure coherence, foster collaboration between organizations, provide for strategic coordination, common understanding of PCRD challenges and expectations, especially between actors within the affected countries, but also between the local, regional, continental and international actors;
- ✓ The AU Framework should elaborate a mechanism for integrated planning of policy and operations, budgeting, mobilization and allocation of resources, and implementation and evaluation of PCRD;
- ✓ Women must be involved at all levels of PCRD.

➤ **Gender**

The PCRD framework should:

- ✓ Recognize and support the opportunities for the empowerment of women and the transformation of society in regard to the redistribution of power and resources.
- ✓ Provide for measures to ensure the participation of women in all processes of conflict prevention, management, resolution, and PCRD.

- ✓ Reflect zero tolerance for sexual violence and exploitation of women and girls during peace support operations (PSOs).
- ✓ Provide for gender analysis in needs assessments from the onset of PCRD.
- ✓ Provide for benchmarks and indicators to assess the impact of PCRD policies and programmes on gender equity.
- ✓ Encompass all international and continental instruments that guarantee the protection and improvement to the status of women.
- ✓ Provide for the allocation of resources for gender programmes and activities.

➤ **Implementation**

- ✓ The AU should work with African institutions such as the ADB, in implementation of the PCRD.
- ✓ The Commission should establish a database of expertise on PCRD.
- ✓ A dialogue and consultative process should be commenced at the AU level on issues such as coordination, partnership, identification of local, continental and international resources to be used in PCRD efforts in Africa, identification of capacity building needs to stakeholders that must implement PCRD activities; and other issues ensuring coherence and integration in the approach to PCRD.
- ✓ The AU should deepen its dialogue with the EU and other development partners regarding PCRD.

4. The meeting also came out strongly in support of maintaining the momentum to elaborate the PCRD Framework. The Commission has now completed the second version of the Draft Framework, which is in the process of being translated. A meeting of technical experts will be convened in early November to further improve the document. This will be followed by a meeting of experts from Member States, which will be held in early December. The Framework document will then be submitted to the Executive Council in January 2006, for adoption.

5. The English version of the report of the Brainstorming is herewith attached.

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