

## UNICEF Executive Board

### Informal Session on UNICEF's Role in Peacebuilding Monday, 1 November 2010

#### *Background Note*

While the principles and values of peacebuilding have been at the core of the UN Charter, the institutionalization of peacebuilding in the UN system remains relatively new. The Peacebuilding architecture (Peacebuilding Commission, Peacebuilding Support Office and Peacebuilding Fund) was established in 2006 under General Assembly Resolutions 60/180<sup>1</sup> and Security Council Resolution 1645<sup>2</sup> (2005) in an effort to fill a critical gap in the UN system in ensuring a coordinated, coherent and integrated approach to post-conflict peacebuilding and reconciliation with a view to achieving sustainable peace.

Since then, peacebuilding has been particularly at the forefront of the UN's agenda. The Secretary-General's Report on Peacebuilding in the Immediate Aftermath of Conflict (2009)<sup>3</sup> set out an ambitious agenda for the UN system and partners to respond in a more consistent and efficient manner to the many challenges of post-conflict contexts, including: supporting political processes that aim to resolve power and leadership imbalances so that the fragile peace becomes more stable and robust; ensuring personal security and the re-establishment of the rule of law as essential to creating political space and addressing potential spoilers; strengthening the institutional capacity of the state so that is able to manage its own affairs; revitalizing the economy to bolster security and provide the engine for future recovery; and achieving visible peace dividends attributable to the national authorities, including provision of basic social services, resettlement of disarmed or displaced people, and the provision of early employment. Among its many recommendations, the Report also called for a revision of the Terms of Reference of the Peacebuilding Fund.

Most recently, this year the Secretary-General reported on the status of the implementation of his 2009 Report, and the Peacebuilding Commission has undergone an important review to reinvigorate the vision behind its creation. Both processes have underlined the need to further streamline our efforts, increase our collaboration.

As a humanitarian and development agency on the ground before, during and after conflict, striving to ensure that children can live in peace has been integral to UNICEF strategies and interventions in conflict-affected contexts since its inception.

UNICEF is redoubling its own engagement in peacebuilding. This effort has been supported by recently established headquarters functions, in concert with dedicated efforts by Country Offices across a range of conflict-affected settings. The presentation will underscore that UNICEF is uniquely suited to make strategic contributions to peacebuilding. It will explain why UNICEF engages in peacebuilding, how it engages, and what UNICEF is currently doing in peacebuilding. It will also provide ideas on how to strengthen UNICEF's work in peacebuilding, by building on its known programmes for a more strategic, coherent peacebuilding outcome.

#### **Purpose**

The purpose of this Informal Session is to offer Members of the Executive Board and partners an opportunity to discuss UNICEF's role in peacebuilding, and steps underway and planned to strengthen UNICEF's contributions.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.un.org/peace/peacebuilding/General%20Assembly/Resolutions/The%20Peacebuilding%20Commission%20-%20A%20RES%2060%20180.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> [http://www.un.org/peace/peacebuilding/Security%20Council/Resolutions/Post-Conflict%20peacebuilding%20S%20RES%201645%20\(2005\).pdf](http://www.un.org/peace/peacebuilding/Security%20Council/Resolutions/Post-Conflict%20peacebuilding%20S%20RES%201645%20(2005).pdf)

<sup>3</sup> [http://www.un.org/peace/peacebuilding/Security%20Council/Resolutions/Post-Conflict%20peacebuilding%20S%20RES%201645%20\(2005\).pdf](http://www.un.org/peace/peacebuilding/Security%20Council/Resolutions/Post-Conflict%20peacebuilding%20S%20RES%201645%20(2005).pdf)