

**UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY
INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS OF THE PLENARY ON THE
PEACBUILDING COMMISSION
STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR ROSEMARY BANKS
ON BEHALF OF CANADA, AUSTRALIA AND NEW
ZEALAND
7 OCTOBER 2005**

Thankyou Mr President

We welcome the deadline that you have set to complete our negotiations by early November on the details of establishing a PBC, so that it can be functioning by the end of December. We need this quick success – for our own credibility as members of the GA and because our communities will expect us to now prove that we can move from discussion to implementation. For these reasons, we reject any suggestion of linkages between progress on PBC and other issues still on our agenda. We are so close to agreement on the details of the PBC that we must keep up our momentum and now focus on the core remaining issues as listed in your letter. Significant progress was made on many of these outstanding core issues in the lead up to the Summit and - while not all of this was reflected in the final draft – it will be important to base our discussions on those areas where we got close, rather than start again from the beginning.

At this point we would like to offer brief comment on each of the five areas listed in your letter:

Establishment

- CANZ preference remains for joint creation of the body by simultaneous resolution of the General Assembly and Security Council. There was substantial agreement amongst the Membership and the Core Group on this issue in early September and we believe this is close to resolution.

National Ownership/involvement of the host country

- While the consent of national authorities is clearly preferable where it can be obtained, CANZ sees it as important to retain flexibility for the situations where this is not achievable. As pointed out during the extensive discussions on this issue in the Core Group, there are many instances in post-conflict situations where national authorities may not yet be in place or may not be in a position to focus on the issue. Accordingly we prefer language reflecting a need for “close consultation” rather than “consent”. We would not see a need for a formal request from national authorities.

Reporting lines

- CANZ favours a reporting design that allows the Peacebuilding Commission to provide advice to all relevant actors, including the Security Council, ECOSOC and key players such as the International Financial Institutions as appropriate and in accordance with their respective mandates. Our preference is that this is done simultaneously, but if necessary, we could live with other options as proposed in Core Group discussions.

- We would however like to stress that given the advisory nature of the Peacebuilding Commission, we do not see a need for a formal “reporting” relationship as such. The existing decision that the outcome of the Peacebuilding Commission’s discussions, advice and recommendations should be made publicly available as UN documents to all relevant bodies and actors already meets this need.

Agenda

- We also favour an approach that ensures that Member States who will benefit from the particular type of support the Peacebuilding Commission offers are able to apply to the Commission for assistance, whether or not that Member State is on the Agenda of the Security Council. While we agree that the criteria for application should be defined, we do not wish to see the barrier placed impossibly high.

Membership

- CANZ preference is for balanced composition of the standing Organisational Committee. We favour participation from the Security Council and ECOSOC, ideally seven from each. We also favour participation by the top providers of assessed and voluntary contributions, ideally using a formula of five out of the top ten contributors. We also support participation by the three top troop contributors. The inclusion of representatives from the World Bank and the IMF will be critical to the success of the Commission.

Finally we welcome Denmark and Tanzania as Co-Chairs of discussions and we assure you of our full CANZ support in the work ahead.