



OSCE Chairmanship Workshop on Post-Conflict Rehabilitation: Stabilization, Reconstruction and Peacebuilding

Concept Note

Introduction

As a regional arrangement under Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations, the OSCE is a key instrument for, *inter alia*, post-conflict rehabilitation in its region.¹ Moreover, it has gained significant experience in this subject-area since the early 1990s, particularly in its field activities. During the Organization's so-called Corfu Process and the preparations leading to the 2010 Astana Summit, participating States have highlighted, including as part of addressing the conflict cycle, the need for the OSCE to enhance its role in post-conflict rehabilitation². Subsequently, the Lithuanian Chairmanship's 2011 Work Programme³ includes that it will "*examine the possibilities of further development and strengthening of the OSCE role in post-conflict rehabilitation and reconciliation*".

Accordingly, a workshop on 'Stabilization, Reconstruction and Peacebuilding' will be held in Vienna on 2 and 3 May 2011, organized by the OSCE Secretariat for the Lithuanian OSCE Chairmanship and at the request of interested participating States.

The UN Secretary General's Report on 'Peacebuilding in the Immediate Aftermath of Conflict' (dated 11 June 2009) may be considered a particularly pertinent underpinning for the workshop, as it highlights, *inter alia*, the stabilization and reconstruction challenges that post-conflict countries and the international community face following conflict. Additionally, the OSCE's considerable post-conflict rehabilitation efforts in South Eastern Europe and elsewhere may serve as useful references, including with regard to the Organization's added value.

¹ 1999 Charter for European Security; 2003 OSCE Strategy to Address Threats to Security and Stability in the 21st Century.

² For example, 'Ideas on civilian operation/mission to improve OSCE response in post-crisis and post-conflict rehabilitation, PC.DEL/94/10/Corr.3 (29 June 2010), Draft 'Astana Framework for Action', CIO.GAL/179/10/Rev.5, Para 6(b)iii, (30 November 2010).

³ CIO.GAL/4/11/Rev. 1 (12 January 2011).

*) re-distribution due to change of distribution status

The above-mentioned UN Secretary General's Report also stresses that partnerships and co-ordination among the main regional and international actors is essential since no single actor has the capacity to meet the needs in any of the priority areas of peacebuilding. In that respect, the workshop will take account of the 'International Stabilization and Peacebuilding Initiative' (ISPI) which, launched on 12 February 2010, seeks to improve the effects of stabilization and peacebuilding, by enhancing civilian capabilities globally and strengthening interoperability among international actors, through an informal network of governmental, multi-national and international implementing partners.

Purpose

The purpose of the workshop will be to take stock of the OSCE's civilian capability to respond coherently, rapidly and effectively as an international contributor to building comprehensive and sustainable peace in the aftermath of conflict, and to identify areas for further development that takes account of the Organization's comparative advantages. Besides furthering the OSCE's efforts in post-conflict rehabilitation and taking into account initiatives related to this issue-area in other OSCE dimensions, the workshop will serve as a forum for stabilization, reconstruction and peacebuilding-related discussions among the wider international community, thereby also contributing to the ISPI.

Objectives

The workshop will serve three objectives: (1) to engage in a mutual exchange of experiences and best practices in stabilization, reconstruction and peacebuilding capacity building, taking also into account the unique experiences of the OSCE in post-conflict rehabilitation; (2) to identify wherein positive progress can be reinforced or where gaps exist, and to recommend corrective actions; and (3) to facilitate networking and closer and more co-ordinated interaction on the level of experts and practitioners from interested participating States, OSCE executive structures, OSCE Partners for Co-operation and invited regional organizations.

Modalities

The workshop, to be focused at the expert-level, will be held over one and half-days and include participation from interested participating States as well as appropriate OSCE institutions, thematic units and field operations. OSCE Partners for Co-operation, international and other regional organizations and individual subject experts, including from think-tanks and non-governmental organizations will also be invited, particularly within the ISPI context.

There will be an opening address by the OSCE Secretary General or the Director of the Conflict Prevention Centre, with a keynote address given by a senior official from another international or regional organization. Thereafter, and to ensure wide information sharing across several separate but linked topics, there would be three working sessions, each lasting half a day and structured in a presentation/discussion format. The workshop will end with a final session summarizing the conclusions from the workshop and highlighting concrete recommendations on follow-on

actions.

Working Session 1 - The Role of Regional/Multilateral Organizations in Support of Stabilization, Reconstruction, and Peacebuilding

Effective co-operation and co-ordination between international organizations, and especially between their respective operations in the field, is vital. Integrating the efforts of diverse international actors can increase financial, technical and political efficiency and burden-sharing as well as reduce duplication and avoid wasted resources. It can also strengthen the legitimacy and accountability of the international stakeholders, bring greater coherence and ensure differing efforts are complementary. Additionally, co-operation and co-ordination may help to ensure contradictory project philosophies and competing implementation methodologies are avoided, and can reduce the administrative burden on the host country as well as the confusion and frustration that might otherwise be experienced by programme beneficiaries.

This session will have a broad focus on improving regional co-ordination in support of the affected country. In addition to the OSCE, many other international, regional and national actors have been active for a long time in peacebuilding, including through the development of noteworthy peacebuilding capacity to engage in post-conflict stabilization, reconstruction and/or rehabilitation tasks in conflict-prone countries. While the demand for such work is steady if not increasing, peacebuilding actors have a long way to go to formulate an effective 'supply side'. This session will thus also focus on how to improve co-ordination not only with multilateral actors, but also among national actors.

Working Session 2 - Strengthening local ownership of Non-Military Confidence Building Measures (CBMs)

The imperative of national ownership is a central theme of the UN Secretary General's aforementioned Report on Peacebuilding and it remains a recurring tenet of the OSCE's approach, on the premise that only national actors can address their society's needs and goals in a sustainable way. This session will take that widely accepted thinking a step further, by combining it with a particular focus on how the international community can support conflict-affected countries in developing and implementing non-military CBMs, as tools in reducing tensions and building trust between inter- and intra-State adversaries in all phases of the conflict cycle.

Recognizing that non-military CBMs may be employed on their own or alongside other rehabilitation and reconciliation instruments to accentuate the positive and guard against the negative, this session will draw on field experiences and seek to identify where positive progress could be reinforced or where gaps exist, and to recommend corrective actions. Such actions could be operational (such as clearer policy, guidelines and/or working practices) or organizational (such as procedural improvements in knowledge management, training or the recruitment/deployment of civilian experts).

Working Session 3 - Taking stock of Lessons Learned, Recruitment & Rosters and Training in Peacebuilding with a view toward recent initiatives of OSCE participating States.

Implementing good practices used elsewhere under similar circumstances is a key to success, including in stabilization, reconstruction and peacebuilding, as is ensuring that those who are deployed on such operations are properly recruited and prepared for their roles and tasks. Taking account of processes and activities in other national, multi-national, and international fora related to lessons learned, recruitment & rosters and training, this session will seek to identify positives and negatives in co-operation and interoperability and recommend corrective actions.

Thereafter, the major portion of this session will be devoted to ISPI partners briefing OSCE delegations on this newfound partnership of 15 countries and 6 multilateral organizations that is both a network for partners with noteworthy peacebuilding capacity, as well as an initiative seeking to establish an eventual ability to be interoperable in the field. ISPI is open to any country or organization in possession of such capacity.

A report from the workshop will be distributed to all participating States, participating organizations and ISPI implementing partners. The report may also be discussed in the Security Committee as necessary.

Funding for the workshop will be provided by combination of the 2011 Unified Budget and a specifically developed Extra-Budgetary project through which interested participating States can make their financial contributions to the workshop.