

MDRP Welcomes Announcement of New UN Peacebuilding Commission

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New York, December 20, 2005- The World Bank Multi-Country Disarmament and Reintegration Program (MDRP) welcomes the creation on December 20th, 2005, of a United Nations (UN) Peacebuilding Commission.

A key outcome of the UN's 2005 Summit, the commission represents one of several major steps toward overall reform of the United Nations.

The UN and its partners are highly mindful of past failures, particularly those in Africa, such as Angola and Rwanda, and of the fact that approximately half of all peace agreements in the last two decades have later collapsed into renewed violence.



MDRP hopes that the Peacebuilding Commission will fill what the UN Secretary General has called “a gaping hole in the United Nations institutional machinery,” and address the lack of coherent and sustained stabilization, recovery and development strategies in post-conflict settings.

Operating on a consensual basis, the intergovernmental advisory body will serve as a nexus for international institutions, donors, troop contributors, regional actors and national authorities engaged in peacebuilding. It will act as a forum for coordination and information exchange, and provide recommendations and best practices, particularly for cross-cutting issues requiring a broad-based multi-sectoral approach, such as demobilization, disarmament, reintegration (DDR).

Members will consist of seven Security Council members, including permanent members, seven members from ECOSOC, the top five UN contributors, the top five troop and police providers to UN missions, seven members elected by the General Assembly, as well as the IMF and the World Bank.



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African nations have expressed their support for the new Peacebuilding Commission, as have other regions with nations emerging from recent conflict.

MDRP, which supports demobilization and reintegration projects in seven countries in Central Africa, also welcomes the creation of the new body.

“The Commission represents a real breakthrough in the international system, removing the traditional barriers between diplomatic, military and economic spheres of engagement,” says Bernard Harborne, Lead Conflict Specialist of the World Bank’s Africa Conflict and Development Team. *“This new way of working will result in more coherent strategies, such as those required for DR, which in turn can lead to better efforts at building peace in the future.”*

For more information on MDRP, please visit www.mdrp.org or contact Bruno Donat, Communications Officer, MDRP Secretariat, World Bank at info@mdrp.org.



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