

Violence Against Women in Conflict and Post Conflict Situations

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Introduction

Over the past forty years until today, Africa has been the stage of long term civil conflicts that have affected its population and impacted the social, political and economic environment of the region. The entire region is under going extensive transformation, with Darfur and Eastern part of the Democratic Republic of Congo situation being the latest in the chain of the ongoing conflicts in the region.

Violence against women(VAW) in conflict and post conflict situations is extensive and deeply rooted in the continent, Women in both conflict and post conflict situations, are systematically experiencing various forms of violence that affect their lives, hindering their personal development as well as that of the continent in general. However, this issue of violence against women , particularly in light of conflict, has consistently been overlooked by international ,regional and national power structures and other actors in the conflicts. As a result, violence against women has become a daily challenge for women to contend with. The continuation and the acceptance of violence against women extends beyond times of conflicts time into post conflict arena , as observed in different parts of Africa such as DRC, Sudan, Somalia. Although VAW may be invisible in peace times, continued exposure during times of conflict will result in it being more accepted and justified.

Women account for most casualties of war and make up most of the world's refugees, IDPs and poor populations. At least 1 out of every 3 women worldwide are beaten, coerced into sex, or otherwise abused in their lives with rates reaching 70% in some countries.

Difference between Violence against Women and Gender-based Violence

It is different types of violence targeting both men and women

What is Violence Against Women (VAW)?

Violence against women (VAW) is a type of "gender-based violence, it is: "Any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual, or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion, or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private". VAW is a widespread human right abuse around the world. Women experience violence during times of peace and conflict, in the home and in the workplace. Women endure mistreatment and discrimination in the law enforcement system and the judicial system. Types of violence that affect women disproportionately include domestic violence, sexual assault and harassment, honor killing, and harmful traditional practices. The most widespread gender based crimes during armed conflict are sexual assault and rape. The latest conflict in Darfur became serious and led to intensive international and regional interventions. The roots of the present conflict in Darfur are complex.

Women Circumstances in conflict Situation:

The onslaught of violence and war affects the security and human rights of men and women in society. In most instances, the basic social, economic, or political rights of men and women are violated, as schools close, healthcare services diminish, the economy weakens, jobs are lost and militia and armed forces take over. In addition, for men, enforced conscription into fighting units, imprisonment and death are immediate dangers. For women, the circumstances vary. While they may not be in immediate danger of conscription, they are more vulnerable to attack and kidnapping within their homes and communities, whether it is from security forces or criminal gangs and looters. Women and girls are often deliberately targeted for sexual abuse as a means of "dishonoring" their community or "demoralizing" their male cohorts in liberation or ideological struggles. They are also used as tool for conflict. Serious and widespread violations have taken place in the latest conflict, according to the Report of the International Commission of Inquiries on Darfur, about two million have become refugees in the neighboring countries. Serious violations of the international human rights and humanitarian law have occurred particularly sexual violations of women and girls. Rape cases took different forms: individual, gang rape and even systematic rape. According to this source, many cases have been recorded of different types of sexual violence such as insulting, beating, torture, taking off clothes etc. Women and girls continue to be subject to sexual violence during attacks on their villages and in the displaced camps. The report also revealed that all types of sexual violence and sexual slavery have been widely occurred in the Darfur area.

Types of Violence against Women: • Physical Violence • Psychological Violence • Socio-economic Violence.

Definition of rape in the international law:

Rape is any physical invasion of a sexual nature perpetrated without the consent of the victim, that is by force or coercion, such as that caused by fear of violence, duress, detention or by taking advantage of a coercive environments **enforcing laws during conflict to protect women**

Existing Mechanism: Three levels International, regional and local level and/or a number of mechanisms exist through which NGOs and other groups of individuals who can report human rights violations.

International Mechanism

Internationally, and within the UN system there are key institutions which include: • UN Commission on Human rights • UN Human Rights Committee • UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural rights • UN Commission on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women. • UN Committee Against Torture • UN Commission on the Status of Women

Regional Mechanism

African Commission on Humans and People's Rights African Court for Human and People's Rights. Merged to one

National Mechanism

Judiciary System, National Human Rights Commission

Assessing and Using the International and Regional Mechanism to protect Women in Conflict and Post Conflict situations:

To use the international and regional institutions effectively, it is essential for civil society groups, advocates and activists to understand how they work and what can be done to strengthen their capacities to promote and protect women's human rights. Questions to be asked before embarking on any communication with these bodies include: What is the mandate of the committee and procedures for reporting? Is available to individuals and/or states? What do activists need to do to use the procedures? How does it work? What are the remedies available? What are the advantages of using the mechanism?

International Mechanism International Humanitarian Law (IHL)

The Geneva Convention and protocols

UN Security Council Resolution 1325

Women peace activists worldwide are using the 1325 as a tool for raising awareness about women experience of conflict and for holding governments accountable. The resolution acknowledges the responsibilities of the state end the impunity and executes the perpetrators of genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes and all forms of sexual crimes against women and girls. The resolution also acknowledges the role of women in peace and security issues.

International Criminal Court (ICC)

The International Criminal Court (ICC) is the first permanent international judicial body and shall has the power to exercise its jurisdiction over persons for the most serious crimes of international concern, and shall be complementary to national criminal jurisdictions with respect

to the following crimes: (a) The crime of genocide; (b) Crimes against humanity; (c) War crimes; (d) The crime of aggression.

Crimes against Humanity

According to the Rome Statute which acts as the court constitution the crimes against humanity include: a) Murder; b) Extermination; c) Enslavement; d) Deportation or forcible transfer of population; e) Imprisonment or other severe deprivation of physical liberty in f) Violation of fundamental rules of international law; g) Torture; h) Rape, sexual slavery, enforced prostitution, forced pregnancy; i) enforced sterilization, or any other form of sexual violence of comparable gravity; j) Persecution against any identifiable group or collectivity; k) Political, racial, national, ethnic, cultural, religious, gender l) Enforced disappearance of persons; m) The crime of apartheid; n) Other inhumane acts of a similar character intentionally causing great suffering, or serious injury to body or to mental or physical health.

War Crimes

War crimes are defined by the Rome Statute as crimes constituting grave breaches of the Geneva Conventions of 1949. Those crimes are. Rape, sexual slavery, enforced prostitution, forced pregnancy enforced sterilization, or any other form of sexual violence of comparable gravity (as stated by article (7). Article 27 Irrelevance of the official capacity this Statute shall apply equally to all persons without any distinction based on official capacity. In particular, official capacity as a Head of State or Government, a member of a Government or parliament, an elected representative or a government official shall in no case exempt a person from criminal responsibility under this Statute, nor shall it, in and of itself, constitute a ground for the reduction of sentence. Immunities or special procedural rules which may attach to the official capacity of a person, whether under national or international law, shall not bar the Court from exercising its jurisdiction over such a person.

Regional Mechanism African Charter for Human and People Rights

The Maputo Protocol. The protocol articles emphasize the elimination of all forms of discrimination against African women, calls for new legislation prohibiting all forms of violence, the establishment of violence victims rehabilitation programs, women's participation in basic services, policies such as education, health, housing, water ...etc. Basic Information on ICC: The Court shall have jurisdiction for any person who is above the age of 18 without any distinction based on official capacity. The Great Lakes Pact and the SADC Gender Protocol

Advantages of the Protocol: The protocol is considered as a valuable and basic for the African Charter in field of women's rights, the issue of violence against women is recognized by the protocol article (22) which states the principle of compensation for victims through judicial or administrative authorities. The protocol also recognizes women's rights during conflict and their role in conflict resolution and the peace settlement process.

National Mechanism: National Legal System

Many African countries inherited the colonial legal system.

VAW IN POST CONFLICT SITUATIONS

Post-conflict reconstruction periods are times of tremendous change that lay the groundwork for the future of the state and society. Post-conflict reconstruction occurs in three broad areas: political, economic, and social all of which are connected

It is important to put Women at the centre of Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development (PCRD) by the development of comprehensive policies and strategies that elaborate measures that seek to consolidate peace, promote sustainable development and pave the way for growth and regeneration in countries and regions emerging from conflict in order to protect Women in particular. Given the peculiarities of each conflict situation, the approach should be as a flexible that can be adapted to, and assist, affected regions and countries, in their endeavours towards reconstruction, security and growth. There is also greater need towards progress in resolving conflicts on the African continent. The AU and the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) should put enormous efforts in the facilitation of negotiations for peaceful resolution of existing conflicts and the effective implementation of peace agreements with the participation of Women.

However, experience has indicated that in the early phases of transition from conflict to peace, peace processes remain fragile and the risk of resumption of violence high. This is because countries emerging from conflict are characterized by weakened or nonexistent capacity at all levels, destroyed institutions, and the absence of a democratic culture, good governance, rule of law and respect for human rights, as well as underlying poverty. Furthermore, responses to post conflict situations have, in the past, remained fragmented and largely ineffectual. Africa should therefore focus more attention on measures that consolidate peace and pave the way for growth and regeneration. More specific is the mandate proffered by the Protocol Relating to the establishment of the Peace and Security Council, which was created to *inter alia*, promote and implement peace building and post conflict reconstruction activities and to consolidate peace and prevent the resurgence of violence (Articles 3a, 6). Thus, peace building, post conflict reconstruction, humanitarian action and disaster management constitute core activities of the PSC. In view of this, the PSC Protocol delineates a number of post conflict reconstruction activities that require action, including the restoration of the rule of law, establishment and development of democratic institutions, and the preparation, organisation and supervision of elections in the concerned Member States (Article 14(1)). This mandate is extended in countries affected by violent conflict to include the consolidation of the peace agreements that have been negotiated, establishing conditions of political, social and economic reconstruction of the society and government institutions, implementation of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes, including those of child soldiers; resettlement and reintegration of refugees and internally displaced persons; and assistance to vulnerable persons, including children, the elderly, women and other traumatized groups in society; (Article 14 (3)). The Protocol also emphasizes the link between prevention of conflict and consolidation of peace and mandates the PSC to take all measures that are required in order to prevent a conflict for which a settlement has already been reached from escalation.

THE AFRICAN PCRD POLICY

The policy whose objective is to improve timeliness, effectiveness and coordination of activities in post conflict countries and to lay the foundation for social justice and sustainable peace, in line

with Africa's vision of renewal and growth is an effective tool but needs to put Women at the centre of it. It is a tool to:

- a) consolidate peace and prevent relapse of violence;
- b) help address the root causes of conflict;
- c) encourage and fast track planning and implementation of reconstruction activities; and
- d) enhance complementarities and coordination between and among diverse actors engaged in PCRDR processes.

It is imperative that PCRDR processes be viewed and used as an opportunity for the reconstitution and social, political, economic and physical transformation of the affected state and society; that the promotion of human security be at the basis of all PCRDR activities; and that this policy be pursued within the global context of the search for peace and security, and hence complement existing international initiatives.

The PCRDR policy draws on lessons learned from past African reconstruction efforts, which indicate weaknesses from the conceptual to the strategic and operational levels. Most reconstruction models have been borrowed from outside Africa and have lacked comprehensiveness, favouring some aspects of PCRDR to the exclusion of others, sometimes risking the resumption of conflict. Taking this into account, there is critical need for PCRDR processes to translate the commitment to peace into tangible benefits. This is dependent on the formulation of comprehensive integrated strategies and approaches that require substantial institutional and human capacities in the implementation of PCRDR. There is also a need reduce pressure on affected countries by providing a consistent and coherent strategy that will fast track the planning and implementation of quick impact programmes, consolidate peace in the emergency/transition phase, and hence increase the chances of successful long term sustainable development and find provide parameters to improve coherence and coordination of all action, between state and non state actors operating at local, national, regional or/and international levels, during all phases of PCRDR.

Definition

For the purposes of this paper, Post Conflict Reconstruction and Development (PCRDR): a comprehensive set of measures that seek to: address the needs of countries emerging from conflict, including the needs of affected populations; prevent escalation of disputes; avoid relapse into violence; address the root causes of conflict; and consolidate sustainable peace. PCRDR should be conceived within the African vision of renewal and sustainable development and while its activities are integrated, and many must be pursued simultaneously, in the emergency (short term), transition (medium term) and development (long term) phases. The scope of these activities should encompasses six indicative elements, namely: security; humanitarian/emergency assistance; political governance and transition; socioeconomic reconstruction and development; human rights, justice and reconciliation; and women and gender.

The Scope of PCRDR to protect Women:

PCRDR should commence in line with the Constitutive Act, determine that a situation warrants attention, or when parties to the conflict have demonstrated political willingness to resolve differences through political negotiation, have ceased hostilities and/or have signed a peace

agreement. The end state of PCRDR is one where peace, law and order prevail; the humanitarian situation has stabilised and populations are able to meet their basic needs; frameworks to protect and assist vulnerable groups are in place; political mechanisms and institutions have been established to prevent and manage conflict through peaceful means and to institutionalise equitable participation of Women in political and socioeconomic life; policies and programmes to promote broad based sustainable development are being implemented; access to justice ensures and human rights are guaranteed.

Human Security:

In line with the Common African Defense and Security Policy, human security should be promoted as it is a multidimensional notion of security that goes beyond the traditional notion of state security. It encompasses the right to participate fully in the process of governance, the right to equal development as well as the right to have access to resources and the basic necessities of life, the right to protection against poverty, the right to access basic social services such as education and health, the right to protection against marginalisation on the basis of gender, protection against natural disasters, as well as ecological and environmental degradation. The aim of a human security framework is to safeguard the security of individuals, families, communities, and the state/national life, in the economic, political and social dimensions. Focus on Socioeconomic development: In line with the AU vision, the 2004/2007 Strategic Framework of the African Union Commission, the NEPAD framework document [2001], and the Millennium Declaration [2000], socioeconomic development is a multidimensional process that contributes to improved living conditions, improved ability to meet basic needs (such as health, education, and food), the reduction of poverty and inequality, and enhanced capacity of human beings to realize their potential.

Principles

PCRDR should be underpinned by **five core principles**, which constitute the basic minimum values and standards that inform action across all PCRDR activities and programmes. These principles are derived from the rationale for the PCRDR framework and will ensure that PCRDR activities address the root causes of conflict, contribute to the creation of sustainable peace, social justice, renewal and participatory governance. The PCRDR principles are African leadership, national and local ownership, inclusiveness, equity and nondiscrimination, cooperation and cohesion, and capacity building for sustainability and these are:

African Leadership: This principle is critical to ensure that the priorities, implementation and oversight remain the responsibility of African governments and that partners in reconstruction undertake to respect this leadership:

National and Local Ownership: This principle is critical to ensure that PCRDR activities are aligned to local needs and aspirations, enhance a common understanding of a shared vision, maximise support for PCRDR through the reengagement of the population in their governance and guarantee sustainability of recovery efforts.

Inclusiveness, Equity and Non Discrimination:

This principle is fundamental to addressing exclusion and inequitable distribution of power and wealth, which have traditionally been amongst the root causes of conflict. In this regard:

Cooperation and Coherence: The complex challenges of PCRDR, the pressure to deliver peace dividends, and the presence of a myriad of actors require cooperation and coherence to ensure that actors and activities respond to the needs and priorities of the affected country and peoples.

Cooperation and coherence clarifies, and defines roles and responsibilities in ways that guarantee national ownership, African leadership, legitimacy and accountability.

Capacity Building for Sustainability: All PCRDR efforts have as their goal the attainment of sustainable peace and should, as a matter of priority, build and/or strengthen national and local capacities. Therefore:

INDICATIVE ELEMENTS OF THE PCRDR

This PCRDR should have six indicative elements, that are both self standing and cross cutting and that represent the pillars upon which all PCRDR efforts should be developed and sustained across the different phases of action, taking into account that the basic objective is to address and resolve the root causes of conflict. The indicative elements are:

- a) security;
- b) humanitarian/ emergency assistance;
- c) political governance and transition;
- d) socioeconomic reconstruction and development;
- e) human rights, justice and reconciliation; and
- f) women and gender.

Each of these indicative elements highlights the political objectives that must be pursued and the base line actions needed to support constructive and comprehensive processes across all phases of PCRDR.

Security

The objective of the security element of PCRDR is to create a secure and safe environment for the affected state and its population, through the reestablishment of the architecture of the state, including the elements of juridical statehood, defined as accountable state control over territory and the means of coercion, and to guarantee the safety of the population. All activities in the security cluster should be based on the concept of human security as stipulated and defined in the Common African Defence and Security Policy.

Humanitarian/Emergency Assistance

Humanitarian/Emergency assistance is a set of integrated and coordinated measures that seek to save and sustain lives, maintain basic human dignity, ensure the protection of civilians, support the return and reintegration of displaced populations and help resuscitate socioeconomic activity, particularly in the immediate postwar situation when state capacity is most limited. Activities under this element stabilise and rehabilitate the society including the return, reintegration and rehabilitation of refugees, internally displaced persons (IDPs), excombatants and other war affected populations.

Socio Economic Reconstruction and Development

Socioeconomic development is a multidimensional process that contributes to improved living conditions, improved ability to meet basic needs, such as health, education, and food, and the reduction of poverty and inequality. The long term goal of PCRDR should be to place the affected country on the path of sustainable socioeconomic development and to improve human

development indicators. The immediate objective is to accelerate socioeconomic recovery through 'jumpstarting' livelihoods, creating enabling conditions for rehabilitation and development, and delivering peace dividends.

Political governance and transition

Political governance involves the devolution exercise of power from the national to the local level. It encompasses the promotion of good democratic governance and its core values, as called for in the preamble of the AU Constitutive Act. The core elements of good political governance include: political participation of Women, transparency, accountability, separation of powers, creation of a (public) civil service, the rule of law and independent civil oversight, as provided for in the Declaration on Political, Economic and Corporate Governance (2002). Political governance in postconflict situations needs to promote inclusive politics and pluralism in a manner that contributes positively to nation building. Therefore, the focus of activities in this indicative element is on transformation of leadership and society, through processes of developing a collective national vision that delivers cohesive and responsive systems of governance from the national to the grassroots levels.

Human Rights, Justice and Reconciliation

This indicative element should encompass the protection of human and peoples' rights and the respect for their dignity, as defined in the African Charter of Human and Peoples' Rights and other relevant international instruments; the achievement of justice, in terms of fair application of the law and its accessibility to all; and reconciliation, understood as the healing of divided societies at the individual, community and national levels. The pursuance of human rights, justice and reconciliation is critical because abuse of human and peoples' rights resulting from policies of marginalization, identity based discrimination, and perceptions of injustice can trigger or perpetuate conflicts.

Women and Gender

Most importantly the situation of conflict often impacts negatively on gender roles and relations. In many cases, conflict disrupts traditional gender roles, contributes to the breakup of families and the social fabric of the community, increases vulnerability, particularly for those men and women that are victims of war, leads to the perpetration of violence and abuse against children, including young boys, who are subject to forced recruitment into armies or militia forces, labour, trafficking and sexual violence. It also increases the number of women headed households, and leads to militarized societies. All of these circumstances require that PCRDR activities be gender sensitive and based on informed gender analysis as well as provide for the needs of vulnerable groups.

Furthermore, special attention should be focused on women who, in addition to suffering from existing underlying inequalities suffer disproportionately from the effects of violent conflict. Many are victims of gender based violence, which includes rape, forced pregnancies, abduction into sexual slavery, trafficking, etc. As armed combatants, women in fighting forces face a different set of challenges. Yet, despite their victimisation women sometimes seize new economic and political opportunities that emerge from the challenges of conflicts, breaking traditional gender stereotypes. Unfortunately, most reconstruction interventions have tended to ignore or marginalize women's issues. To address this gap, and accelerate the transformation of

society, PCRDRD measures mainstreams issues of women and gender through all the indicative elements, and addresses it as a stand alone element.

To develop this element, the following objectives must be pursued by countries emerging from conflict:

a) Policy development:

- i. Employ gender sensitive planning and budgeting to ensure that gender is mainstreamed;
- ii. Develop strategies to promote gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment in all aspects of life;
- iii. Create a legal framework that ensures full enjoyment of family rights and equitable access to, and control over resources, including land, property and inheritance, which are key, especially for widows and women returnees;
- iv. Make provision for the participation of women in conflict prevention, management and resolution;
- v. Promote and guarantee women's representation in peace negotiations and their implementation;
- vi. Build on the opportunity for reconstruction, address power relations in the private or domestic sphere, when dealing with questions of wealth sharing, to ensure that women participate in decision making processes and have equitable access to productive resources;
- vii. Foster and support civil society organizations, especially women's organizations, to champion the rights of vulnerable groups, particularly women and girls; and
- viii. Ensure that health policies and institutions address the reproductive health needs of women and girls, including those with disabilities, in post conflict reconstruction situations.

b) Institution and capacity building:

- i. Create a gender focal point to ensure that gender is mainstreamed through all PCRDRD activities;
- ii. Focus on gender training and sensitization, especially for forces engaged in peace support operations in post conflict reconstruction situations;
- iii. Transform public institutions to make them more responsive to women's needs;
- iv. Create a focal point to address the needs of people with disabilities, particularly victims of war; and
- v. Promote the empowerment of vulnerable groups in the form of ensuring access to education and training for women and girls.

Benchmarks and standards:

- a. Existence of a gender sensitive legal framework;
- b. Effective implementation of constitutional provisions and laws that promote and protect the rights of women and girls;
- c. Full and meaningful participation of women in all aspects of public life, particularly in the political and economic spheres;
- d. Full enjoyment of rights by people with disabilities;
- e. Security and justice systems that are responsive to gender based violence and the specific needs of women and girls;
- f. Increased number of women in decision making positions in public institutions and the private sector; and
- g. Ratification of, accession to, domestication and implementation of, the relevant AU instruments protecting the rights of women and girls, including the Solemn Declaration on

Gender Equality in Africa, the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa, the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, and other relevant international instruments such as the Convention to End all forms of Discrimination Against Women, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and the UN General Assembly Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security, amongst others.

RESOURCE MOBILISATION, ACTORS AND PROCESSES

Securing adequate resources and sustained support, creating mechanisms for the transparent allocation and accountable management of resources, and establishing processes and mechanisms for the implementation and monitoring of PCRDR are important preconditions for the realisation of the goals of consolidating peace and longterm sustainable development.

The planning for resource mobilisation to engage in PCRDR should commence even before hostilities have ceased or peace agreement signed. Besides providing an opportunity to kick start stabilisation activities as opportunities arise, this early action could create an incentive for, and encourage, the parties to reach an agreement and cease hostilities.

Resource Mobilisation

The magnitude and complexity of challenges of PCRDR, weak capacity and shortage of resources limit the ability of local and national authorities and other actors to respond to the full spectrum of needs. This necessitates the mobilisation of financial, material, human and technical resources at the national, regional, continental and international levels. In order to effectively meet this challenge, countries emerging from conflict need to have a comprehensive resource mobilisation strategy.

At the regional level, actors should support PCRDR in line with the designated role of the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) as the building blocs for Africa's Peace and Security, and development agenda, and the regional character and impact of most conflicts:

- i. Provide technical support to post conflict countries, including training and expertise;
- ii. Encourage the sharing of best practices and lessons learned by other countries in the region which have experienced conflict;
- iii. Encourage the involvement of regional financial mechanisms, including development banks, in PCRDR processes; and
- iv. Offer solidarity and partnership in the consolidation of peace in the region.

At continental level, the African Union, in pursuit of its strategic leadership, should create and/or improve existing mechanisms that:

- i. Address issues relating to the quantity and quality of assistance, including aid, to ensure that support is determined by, and used in line with, the needs assessment of a country emerging from conflict;
- ii. Ensure that aid to countries emerging from conflict is provided under the most favourable terms;
- iii. Support negotiations with donors to simplify procedures and requirements for accessing funds, improve coordination, harmonization and predictability of support, for PCRDR [such as the Donor Coordination Review Forum, Donor Assistance Groups (DAG)];

- iv. Encourage donors to promptly translate their commitments and pledges into concrete support and fast track the disbursement of resources to cover immediate humanitarian and recovery needs during the transition period;
- v. Support affected countries to monitor the translation of donor pledges into concrete support;
- vi. Provide technical support to post conflict countries in developing their national PCRD plans and resource mobilisation strategies;

At the international level, actors need to:

- i. Recognize and provide support to cater for the special needs of countries emerging from conflict, such as the lack of resources to finance the basic functioning of the state, including salaries and pensions for the civil service and security sector, as well as outstanding unpaid salaries and pensions, which have a critical impact on the stabilization of the immediate post conflict period situation;
- ii. Improve coordination, harmonization and flexibility of support to post conflict countries, in line with the priorities determined in the national needs assessment;
- iii. Ensure that all support to post conflict countries builds capacity and utilizes local actors at all levels; and
- iv. Support PCRD through investment, improved resource flows including official development assistance, debt relief, particularly by conferring the status of heavily indebted poor country (HIPC) on countries emerging from conflict, as well as improving trade conditions.