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Progress report on the implementation of the Sierra Leone Peacebuilding Cooperation Framework

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I. Introduction

1. The Peacebuilding Commission and the Government of Sierra Leone adopted the Peacebuilding Cooperation Framework (PBC/2/SLE/1) on 12 December 2007. The Framework is subject to a semi-annual review process based on a progress report and a formal meeting of the Commission with the participation of all relevant actors. The first review meeting of the Framework was conducted in June of 2008 and resulted in recommendations and conclusions which were distributed widely and submitted to the Security Council, the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly for their action.

2. As part of the follow-up to the implementation of the commitments contained in the Framework and the recommendations of the first review meeting, and in recognition that the Framework is a “living document”, the Government of Sierra Leone and the Commission have developed the present progress report. The report takes stock of the progress made and challenges encountered by all stakeholders in the implementation of the Framework and makes recommendations on the required next steps. This progress report should be read in conjunction with President Ernest Bai Koroma’s policy statement on the poverty reduction strategy paper 2009-2012 and is complemented by the paper “Supporting Sierra Leone: a joint vision of the United Nations family”.

II. Trend analysis and risk assessment on peacebuilding challenges and priorities

3. Sierra Leone remains peaceful and stable. Internal threats to peace and stability remain minimal and stem primarily from underdevelopment, youth unemployment and marginalization and the weakness of national and local dispute resolution mechanisms. The gap between the extremely high expectations of the population and the capacity of the Government to deliver basic social services also contributes to the fragility of the State. In the period under review, the increased use of West Africa for drug trafficking has emerged as the greatest external threat to Sierra Leone’s security and development.

4. The Government of Sierra Leone marked its first year in office in September of 2008 by clearly articulating key pillars of its reform agenda intended to put the country on track for growth and development and provide the much-delayed improvements in the daily lives of ordinary people. Furthermore, the Government’s reform agenda, or “agenda for change”, represents a concerted attempt to move away from a culture of stabilization, recovery and aid dependence to one of growth, development and prosperity.

5. The Government is strongly committed to changing the image of Sierra Leone, from a country associated with a decade of conflict and a brutal civil war to a democratic and business-friendly society. A welcome recent acknowledgement of this effort has come from the World Bank and the International Finance Corporation, which rated Sierra Leone as the easiest country in West Africa in which to start a business. In parallel, President Koroma has launched an attitudinal change campaign to foster civic responsibility among the population. The campaign motivates Sierra Leoneans to develop a sense of pride in their country, fully recognizing its natural

wealth and rich history and encouraging domestic and international investment in its future.

6. Having successfully laid the foundations for peace and stability in the country, the Government has articulated an agenda for change around three main themes:

- Infrastructure (with a focus on energy and transport development)
- Development of the productive sectors (with a focus on private sector growth and agriculture)
- Human development (with a focus on health and education)

7. Within these themes, particular focus will fall on the “tripod of development”, namely, energy, agriculture and infrastructure. There is recognition among the Government of Sierra Leone and its partners that the focus on growth and development will require continued investment in the maintenance of peace and an enabling environment for development that is underpinned by good governance and rule of law. The second-generation poverty reduction strategy paper, which is due to be finalized by the end of December 2008, outlines the Government’s priorities and the fundamental linkages between growth, development, good governance, rule of law and security. Once finalized, the poverty reduction strategy paper will serve as the primary national development framework and will be bolstered with a revitalized Government-led development assistance coordination mechanism.

8. The realization of the reform agenda, under the framework of the poverty reduction strategy, will require the Government to demonstrate results and to mobilize significant financial resources. The poverty reduction strategy is indicatively costed at \$2.1 billion, with \$1.2 billion representing the current funding gap. To reach this formidable sum there would need to be a substantial increase in internal revenue generation as well as broadening of the donor base, including through public/private partnerships. Resource mobilization efforts will require the development of sector-wide strategies, especially in the growth sectors, and an articulation of a national aid policy to ensure greater harmonization of donor funding with national priorities. At the same time, donors will continue to keep the modalities of their support under review, with direct budget support remaining contingent on positive governance trajectory and appropriate pro-poor policies.

9. Delivering on such an ambitious reform agenda and meeting the high expectations of the population would present a serious challenge to any Government, particularly to one with such limited infrastructure and human capacity. Sierra Leone’s severe internal capacity constraints are compounded by external factors associated with the global financial crisis and the emerging threat of drug trafficking. Having charted a clear path towards reform, the Government must now show the resolve to act and deliver on its promises. To do so it will need the sustained support of its national and international partners for its clearly prioritized objectives. It will also require every Sierra Leonean to have a stake in President Koroma’s belief that “if we continue to live in harmony with one another, work hard and honestly and always seek to resolve our differences by peaceful means, we shall certainly make Sierra Leone a better place for all of us”.

III. Review of commitments

A. Commitments of the Government of Sierra Leone

10. Over the last six months, the Government of Sierra Leone, with the support of the United Nations and other international partners, has made noticeable progress in implementing several commitments contained in the Peacebuilding Cooperation Framework. In particular, the Government has made progress in the areas of anti-corruption, conduct of local council elections, public sector reform and the creation of an enabling environment for private sector development. Concerted additional efforts are needed to meet the commitments on youth empowerment and employment, energy sector development, and capacity-building. These efforts must be reinforced through continued action to foster greater national unity, enhance inter-party dialogue and strengthen peaceful dispute resolution mechanisms. Annex I contains a detailed report on the implementation of the commitments of the Government and the necessary next steps.

Consolidation of democracy and good governance

11. The June 2008 review of the Peacebuilding Cooperation Framework congratulated the Government of Sierra Leone on initiating anti-corruption and good governance reforms, called on the international community to provide financial and technical support for the preparations of the local council elections and stressed the need for greater efforts for inter- and intra-party dialogue. The review also recommended the decentralization of the operations of the Anti-Corruption Commission, the adoption by the Parliament of the revised anti-corruption strategy and the review of the Core Minerals Policy.

12. In the period under review, a major political achievement has been the conduct of free and fair local council elections in July 2008. The outcomes of the elections demonstrated a trend similar to that of the national elections and a shift of political power from the Sierra Leone Peoples' Party to the All Peoples' Congress at the local level. The election also saw a slight increase in the number of women elected as local councillors, from 17 per cent to 19 per cent. With newly elected councillors in place, greater effort is needed to clarify their roles and responsibilities vis-à-vis the roles of traditional authorities, particularly on issues of revenue collection and law enforcement. The Government has also committed to design guidelines to make the election of paramount chiefs section chiefs, and town chiefs more democratic, while also bringing more accountability to the activities of traditional authorities.

13. As part of a larger campaign to promote widespread attitudinal change, President Koroma has also articulated a governance reform programme with a clear aim to break from past practices characterized by lack of transparency and accountability. He has led from the front by making a strong personal commitment and by publicly declaring his own assets. Other senior political figures have been encouraged to heed the President's example. The Government has also undertaken the first review of the performance contracts signed between the President and Cabinet ministers. The introduction of performance contracts is a major innovation and has been welcomed by national and international stakeholders as a step towards strengthening good governance. This bold and significant policy must now be consolidated with the establishment of appropriate follow-up mechanisms and increased transparency of the process.

14. To strengthen anti-corruption measures, the Parliament passed an Anti-Corruption Bill (2 September 2008) that gives broader powers to the Anti-Corruption Commission, including the power to independently prosecute cases. Under the leadership of the new Chairperson, the Commission has developed a revised workplan and has significantly strengthened its outreach beyond Freetown by opening provincial offices. In the period under review, the Commission also developed a comprehensive and professional report on the Government's handling of the energy contracts awarded to Income Electric, which now needs to be acted upon.

15. Recognizing the importance of better management and regulation of Sierra Leone's natural resources, the Government has launched the review of all mining contracts and licences. With the support of the World Bank, the Government is completing the preparation of a nationwide system that will improve licencing procedures. It has also established task forces to review mineral rights, investigate allegations of massive tax evasion at the National Revenue Authority and follow up on the disturbances in the Kono diamond area affecting one of the leading mining companies.

16. The Parliament has also begun to exercise its oversight responsibilities in the mining sector through its Mineral Resources Oversight Committee. In view of the fact that 80 per cent of parliamentarians are serving their first term, additional efforts are needed to bolster their capacity. An overall strategy for capacity-building and support for Parliament still needs to be developed. Current ad hoc international support for the Parliament needs to be better coordinated and resourced.

17. President Koroma has noted the utmost importance of national unity and greater inter- and intra-party dialogue. Progress in this area has been limited, with tensions between the ruling party and the opposition party on display in the context of the 2007 national and 2008 local council elections. National institutions such as the Political Party Registration Commission, the National Commission for Democracy and the National Electoral Commission must be strengthened to effectively support peaceful resolution of disputes and confidence-building measures. The media also play an important role in this respect and must adhere to the media code of conduct and not amplify extreme views in the political parties and among their supporters.

Justice and security sector reform

18. The June review of the Peacebuilding Cooperation Framework recommended the development of an action plan for the implementation of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's findings, called for the broadening of donor support for the Justice Sector Development Programme, and encouraged the Government to undertake broad consultations on the report of the Constitutional Review Commission. The review also called for ensuring sustainable funding for the National Human Rights Commission and noted drug trafficking as a growing security threat requiring an integrated response.

19. Sierra Leone's security sector institutions continue to perform well. Recognizing the important role and developing capabilities of the Sierra Leone Police, the Government plans to recruit and train an additional 1,000 police officers over the coming year. At the same time, and in accordance with its commitment in

the Framework, the Government further reduced the size of the armed forces from 10,500 to 9,800 and intends to reach the 8,500 target next year.

20. The fourth national security exercise was conducted from 17 to 21 November 2008. This was the first such exercise under the leadership of the new Government and provided an important opportunity to introduce the security system and the crisis response decision-making procedures to the new Administration. The review was deemed a success by all participants. A lessons-learned report will be developed by the Office of National Security to further strengthen the Government's capacity to respond to internal and external threats to peace and security.

21. As part of the implementation of the justice sector reform strategy, and in the context of the United Kingdom Department for International Development (DfID)-supported Justice Sector Development Programme, efforts are under way to strengthen justice sector institutions and ensure the population's access to justice. However, progress has been slow, especially in the follow-up to the work of the Legal Reform Commission and the Constitutional Review Commission. The Constitutional Review Commission submitted its report to the President in January 2008. Subsequently, the Cabinet established a sub-group to follow up on the process. Unfortunately, no progress has since been made. This is an issue of utmost importance that requires urgent action. Additional efforts are also needed to further improve the general perception of courts among the people in view of the rising concerns about corruption in this sector.

22. The National Human Rights Commission is now fully operational and has produced the first annual report on the state of human rights in Sierra Leone, undertaken a number of sensitization workshops on the Gender and Child Rights Acts, monitored the political campaigns during the local council elections and provided training for traditional leaders on human rights and human rights-based approaches to local governance. The Commission is currently finalizing a strategic plan to guide its future work. To date the work of the Commission has been supported by the Peacebuilding Fund. Future funding for the Commission will be provided by the Government and a United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)-managed basket fund, which has already received contributions from Irish Aid. However, the sustainability of funding for the work of the Commission remains a concern.

23. The National Human Rights Commission has been tasked with the follow-up to the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. An action plan for the Truth and Reconciliation Commission follow-up still needs to be developed, and a Government focal point on the issue must be identified in order to liaise with the National Human Rights Commission. Finally, the commitment of the Government to separate the positions of Attorney General and Justice Minister still needs to be acted upon.

Youth employment and empowerment

24. The June review meeting stressed the need to develop an overall strategy for youth employment generation and called for better coordination of activities in this sector. The meeting also recommended support for the creation of the National Youth Commission and the review of the National Youth Policy and expressed concern with the slow rate of implementation of the Peacebuilding Fund projects on youth employment.

25. In the last few months, the Government, with the support of its partners, has undertaken efforts to revitalize the National Steering Committee on Youth Employment and Empowerment and the Youth Basket Fund. Progress has also been made in the implementation of the Peacebuilding Fund project on youth employment. As part of this project, 15,000 youths are being engaged in the agricultural sector, and the National Commission for Social Action is undertaking a project to build the entrepreneurial skills of hundreds of young people. In an effort to strengthen educational opportunities for youth, the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports is also addressing the issue of ghost teachers and lectures to free up much-needed resources.

26. The Government also convened consultations with youth organizations on the creation of the National Youth Commission and is in the final stages of putting the modalities in place for its establishment. In this context, the Government needs to further clarify its institutional structures to manage youth affairs and encourage greater coordination among the various Government ministries concerned with youth employment and empowerment.

27. Despite these efforts, the overall situation of youth has not improved. Lack of progress in this area is particularly worrying in the light of the increased use of Sierra Leone as a transit point for drug trafficking. An indolent youth population with few opportunities for advancement and gainful employment is vulnerable to becoming foot soldiers and victims of a drug culture. A well-coordinated and resourced strategy is needed to prevent this extremely dangerous possibility.

28. In addition, the few violent incidents that occurred immediately before and after the elections were predominantly perpetrated by youths who had been mobilized by the youth wings of political parties. This is a worrying trend. Political co-optation of youth will represent a serious challenge to peace and security in the lead-up to the 2012 elections. The Government is well aware of this challenge. President Koroma has stated on a number of occasions that “youths are the pillars of Sierra Leone’s democracy and development and deserve full support”. Youth employment and empowerment will be a priority issue in the poverty reduction strategy paper.

Capacity-building

29. The June review meeting stressed the importance of capacity-building as a cross-cutting issue and highlighted difficulties in public sector reform. The review also recommended that the United Nations play a greater role in coordinating and supporting capacity-building efforts.

30. Key Government institutions still lack the capacity to effectively lead the national development process and continue to require extensive technical and financial support from international partners. The Government’s inability to provide basic social services to the population represents a critical peacebuilding challenge that must be addressed in order to preserve State legitimacy and sustain security and stability.

31. The Government has acknowledged that for too long the civil service has been operating below the level required, owing largely to reluctance at the highest levels to implement the necessary reforms. President Koroma has stated that this attitude must change and has committed personal political leadership to implement the

recommendations contained in the management and functional reviews of the ministries. As a result, in the last six months, noticeable progress has been achieved in the area of public sector reform. The Government and its development partners have agreed on a strategy for civil service reform, which will be implemented through the Public Sector Reform Unit. In addition, the newly created Human Resource Management Office will introduce modern management practices.

32. To bolster national capacity to address environmental degradation issues and land tenure disputes, the Parliament passed the bill establishing the Sierra Leone Environmental Protection Agency. The Government also created a Land Management Information System to provide effective and efficient management of land, minimize confrontations over land ownership and ensure proper registration of land titles.

Energy sector development

33. The June 2008 review recognized that addressing the energy crisis was the Government's top priority. It called for support for the Government's emergency energy plan and stressed the importance of the completion of the Bumbuna hydroelectric plant by the end of 2008. The review also noted the need to reform and right-size the National Power Authority and called on the Government to develop a medium-term strategy for energy sector development.

34. Increased electricity for Freetown and the western area, under the emergency energy plan, continues to be a noticeable achievement of the Government. In addition, the development of the energy sector as a whole remains a major priority for the Government. However, owing to the fluctuation in the fuel costs and lack of capacity in both the Ministry of Energy and Power and the National Power Authority, there has been limited progress in this sector.

35. The Bumbuna hydroelectric plant, originally envisaged to be operational by November 2008, will be delayed until late 2009. Delays are related to the need to complete transmission lines and to wait for another rainy season cycle to pass. The window between now and late 2009 requires a continued interim solution to ensure an unbroken supply of energy to Freetown and the western area. The continuance of the emergency energy plan for another year will require considerable resources; they must be mobilized, given the Government's election commitment to provide predictable electricity to Freetown.

36. In order to consolidate gains made in this sector, there is a pressing requirement for an energy strategy and a right-sizing of the National Power Authority. The creation of a sector strategy with an investment plan and the strengthening of governance are crucial steps towards the establishment of an energy sector trust fund managed by the World Bank, which will assist in broadening the donor base for this priority area.

Subregional dimension of peacebuilding

37. Sierra Leone's stability and prosperity remain strongly tied to developments in the Mano River subregion. As evidenced by the holding of regular Mano River Union presidential and ministerial summits, the leaders of the subregion are demonstrating a greater appreciation for the strong linkages among their countries and an increased commitment to a subregional approach for addressing issues of

peace, security and development. The reinvigoration of the Mano River Union as a political platform for subregional cooperation is a promising initiative requiring additional technical and financial support. Such support is particularly needed for the strengthening of the Mano River Union secretariat to ensure better follow-up and implementation for the agreements reached. The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) secretariat has been approached to provide assistance to and share experiences with the Mano River Union secretariat.

38. A major challenge requiring subregional and international response is the growing threat of illegal drug trafficking through West Africa. In this context, the Government of Sierra Leone welcomed and participated in the ministerial conference on the theme “Drug trafficking as a security threat to West Africa” organized by ECOWAS at the end of October 2008. The Government of Sierra Leone intends to fully support the implementation of the regional action plan developed at the conference.

B. Commitments of the Peacebuilding Commission

39. Individually and collectively, Peacebuilding Commission members have supported the Government of Sierra Leone by increasing international attention, mobilizing resources and providing technical support consistent with the priority areas of the Framework. Twenty-four members of the Sierra Leone configuration are active in Sierra Leone either bilaterally or multilaterally, which represents an increase of three members since June 2008.

40. New partners, such as Brazil, Canada and Denmark, are supporting projects in the priority areas of the Framework. Several configuration members, such as Japan, Egypt, the Netherlands and Norway have recently increased their support for the country. For example, the Netherlands will increase its engagement in Sierra Leone by supporting projects dealing with the threats of illicit drug trafficking and building the capacity of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in its role as the facilitator of the Peacebuilding Commission process within the Government.

41. A Peacebuilding Support Office mapping and analysis of programmes in the priority areas of the Framework, conducted with the support of all members of the Sierra Leone configuration, indicates that efforts must be redoubled in the implementation of commitments related to youth empowerment, regional cooperation and capacity-building. Annex II summarizes progress made under each of the commitment areas and outlines the necessary next steps.

42. Following the June 2008 review meeting, the Sierra Leone configuration agreed on a six-month workplan for resource mobilization, outreach and advocacy. In response to the recommendations of the Government of Sierra Leone and international partners, the Sierra Leone configuration agreed to streamline its meeting schedule and to focus efforts on informal advocacy opportunities and broadening the donor base.

43. The Chair of the Sierra Leone configuration took an active role in advising the Security Council on the establishment of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Sierra Leone (UNIPSIL) to continue to support the peace consolidation efforts of the Government. UNIPSIL represents a promising step

forward in the United Nations efforts to provide integrated, sustained and more effective support to national efforts for peace consolidation.

44. The Sierra Leone configuration also provided advocacy support to the Government of Sierra Leone in the context of the high-level meetings of the General Assembly in New York and assisted in organizing bilateral meetings with potential non-traditional partners. As a follow-up to the high-level stakeholders consultation on the implementation of the Framework held on 19 May 2008, the configuration will support the organization of a Consultative Group meeting to mobilize resources for the poverty reduction strategy paper for the period 2009-2012.

45. In addition to advocacy and resource mobilization, the Sierra Leone configuration also focused on mobilizing support for the local council elections and closely monitored subregional developments, in particular the ECOWAS ministerial conference on illicit drug trafficking. On 21 November, the Guinea-Bissau and Sierra Leone configurations held a joint high-level briefing on the threats of illicit drug trafficking to West Africa. The briefing was provided by the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and highlighted the interest of Member States such as Brazil, Luxembourg, the Netherlands and Portugal in providing additional support in this area.

C. Roles and responsibilities of international partners

46. The international community in Sierra Leone has provided significant support to the Government of Sierra Leone in the implementation of the Peacebuilding Cooperation Framework. Sierra Leone continues to receive significant international financial support of over \$300 million per year from both traditional development partners and emerging donors. In the period under review, Sierra Leone's development partners have focused on the finalization of the second-generation poverty reduction strategy and have engaged in the development of a national aid policy in line with the Paris Declaration, through their participation in the Donor Harmonization Task Force. The international partners have also enthusiastically welcomed the Government's agenda for change as articulated by President Koroma and have expressed hope for its implementation at all levels.

47. In addition to the significant direct budget support provided to the Government of Sierra Leone by the four major partners, namely, the United Kingdom-DfID, the European Union, the African Development Bank (AfDB) and the World Bank, a number of donors have continued to support the country in funding the various priority areas. The United States of America and Germany have continued to support interventions in the area of private sector development, youth employment and empowerment. In the justice and security sectors, DfID and the International Military and Advisory Training Team (IMATT) continue to play a lead role, providing significant support, including in the implementation of the justice sector and security sector reform strategies.

48. Funding for the local council elections was provided through the generous support of a number of donors, especially the European Union, Ireland, Japan, Norway and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, to the UNDP-managed elections basket fund, while other partners, such as the United States, also funded special election-related activities, such as support for women's participation. Responding to an urgent request from the Government of

Sierra Leone, the European Union, DfID, AfDB, the World Bank and Italy have provided significant support for the completion of the Bumbuna hydroelectric plant and the implementation of the emergency energy plan. Other countries, such as Japan and China, are also supporting the energy sector. New partners, such as Brazil, Egypt, India and several Middle Eastern States, are also providing increased technical assistance and support to the Government in the areas of agriculture development, health and education.

D. Roles and responsibilities of the United Nations

49. In the past six months, the United Nations system in Sierra Leone has undergone a significant transition process, moving further from peacekeeping to longer-term peace consolidation and development. UNIPSIL was launched on 1 October 2008. As the first Security Council integrated mission mandated to support peacebuilding, UNIPSIL in many respects is groundbreaking; it requires consistent leadership, new structures and a more innovative approach to mission support.

50. UNIPSIL, with a total staff of 70, will be a much smaller mission than the United Nations Integrated Office in Sierra Leone, which had a total staff of 350. However, in order to deliver on its peacebuilding mandate and to support the Government in meeting its ambitious reform agenda, the majority of UNIPSIL staff will be substantive, representing a significant shift from the previous mission's ratio of substantive to support staff. Many of the new posts call for highly specialized expertise in areas such as constitutional review, parliamentary support and youth empowerment. It will be of utmost importance to ensure timely recruitment and deployment of these staff, as well as confirmation of the Executive Representative of the Secretary-General to head the new mission.

51. In accordance with the Security Council mandate, the core activities of UNIPSIL will be organized in four sections: (a) political facilitation and peace consolidation, including the continuation of multi-party talks and other conflict-prevention activities; (b) promotion of rule of law and human rights issues, including support for the constitutional review process and assistance to the National Human Rights Commission and other human rights organizations; (c) support for democratic institutions, including through assistance to the Anti-Corruption Commission, the media, the Parliament and the decentralization of Government institutions; and (d) support for the internal security and the police, concentrating on maintaining general police standards and supporting the Government in its fight against illicit drug trafficking and international crime.

52. In order to integrate the political mandate given to UNIPSIL with the development mandates of the United Nations agencies, programmes and funds, UNIPSIL, together with the United Nations country team, has developed a joint strategy, set out in "Sierra Leone: a joint vision of the United Nations family". In addition to UNIPSIL, a total of 14 United Nations agencies, programmes and funds working in Sierra Leone have signed on to this joint strategy, while the World Bank, AfDB and the International Monetary Fund are associated with it. The joint vision has been endorsed by the President of Sierra Leone and welcomed by all international development partners. In developing this vision, UNIPSIL and the

United Nations country team have gone a long way towards complying with the Security Council's request to create a fully integrated peacebuilding mission.

53. The main objective of the joint vision is to support the President's agenda for change and to rally United Nations programmes and operations behind five common priority areas: (a) the consolidation of peace and prosperity; (b) the integration of rural areas into the national economy; (c) economic and social integration of youth; (d) equitable and affordable access to health care; and (e) accessible and credible public services. The joint vision defines a number of criteria for future United Nations activities in Sierra Leone, including cross-cutting issues and areas of comparative advantage. In order to increase aid efficiency, the United Nations country team further agreed on a number of common services, most importantly a joint multi-donor trust fund in support of the joint vision and a network of eight joint regional and subregional field offices throughout the country.

54. The objectives of the joint vision are in line with the Peacebuilding Cooperation Framework, in particular its commitments on the consolidation of democracy and good governance, justice and security sector reform, capacity-building and youth empowerment. Annex III provides additional details on the implementation of the United Nations commitments contained in the Framework.

IV. Overall assessment of progress to date and emerging issues

55. Some progress has been made in the implementation of the Peacebuilding Cooperation Framework since the first review meeting, held in June 2008. Significantly, the Government has formulated an ambitious agenda for change, which fully captures all commitments contained in the Framework. Steadfast political leadership and continued international support will be required to deliver on this reform agenda and to meet the high expectations of the population.

56. Although peaceful and stable, the country continues to face difficult socio-economic challenges, and the legacies of the decade-long civil war remain largely unaddressed. As the preparations for and the results of the local council elections have demonstrated, Sierra Leone remains divided along ethnic and geographic lines, requiring intensified efforts for national reconciliation and unity. There is an urgent need for strengthened dialogue and confidence-building among major political parties. Government appointments also need to be merit-based and representative of the overall country and avoid the perceptions of regional or ethnic disparities. Additional efforts are also needed to strengthen national and local dispute resolution mechanisms. The Parliament has an important role to play in this regard and needs to be supported in a comprehensive and integrated manner.

57. The Government of Sierra Leone firmly believes that partnership with the private sector and outreach to the diaspora community will provide key opportunities to improve the dire socio-economic conditions of the country and deliver the much-delayed peace dividends for the population. Consequently, it has prioritized the creation of an enabling environment for private sector development. Progress in this area has been encouraging. Notably, the Government has completed a financial sector strategy, prepared a private sector development strategy and established the Sierra Leone Investment and Export Promotion Agency.

58. A major challenge for the Government's first year in office has been the global rise in food and oil prices. To address this challenge, the Government has embarked on a concerted effort to improve domestic production of rice. These efforts were assisted by both traditional donors and new partners such as Egypt, India and the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya.

59. The Government, with the support of IMATT and the United Nations, continued to strengthen its strategies and capacities for response to the threats of regional drug trafficking. A Joint Task Force on the Interdiction of Illicit Drugs has been established and is operational. The Parliament also passed a National Drug Control Act, which, inter alia, established the National Drug Enforcement Agency. While recognizing the importance of the issue, some international and national partners have expressed concern about the proliferation of new national institutions against the backdrop of limited domestic resources and stretched donor support. They have further stressed the need for strengthening and building the capacity of existing institutions and mechanisms. This analysis may also explain the reduced enthusiasm among some international partners for the establishment of a national youth commission.

60. Another growing challenge is poaching and illegal activities in Sierra Leone's territorial waters, which not only represent a security threat but also significantly limit the generation of revenue and jeopardize the sustainability of the country's marine resources. The Government is committed to addressing this issue and needs international support to improve its surveillance capacity to deter illegal fishing, piracy activities and illicit drug trafficking.

61. President Koroma's administration has prioritized the strengthening of the country's diplomatic ties with both traditional and non-traditional partners and is interested in establishing closer diplomatic relations with Brazil and India. In a speech marking his Government's first year in office, President Koroma called on Sierra Leone's international partners to introduce aid efficiency and cost-effectiveness measures so that a larger share of the allocated resources can benefit the population for which it is intended. The President also stressed the need to streamline assistance, which has been fragmented and project-based, calling for big thinking and out-of-the-box approaches to address the country's challenges.

62. Donors have expressed some frustration with the fact that the Government has not developed clear sector-wide strategies and sequenced priorities. They have also called for the revitalization of the donor coordination mechanism, the finalization of a national aid policy and greater ownership of the development agenda by the Government. The existing Development Partnership Committee has not met since spring 2007. The Government of Sierra Leone needs to finalize and communicate its decisions on the aid coordination structure as soon as possible. The international partners, on the other hand, need to further harmonize their engagement frameworks and channel their support, to the extent possible, through budget support and sector-wide multi-donor funding mechanisms. Current multi-donor funding mechanisms need to be reviewed and enhanced to allow for greater participation of donors. Revitalization of donor coordination is critical in preparation for the next Consultative Group meeting to mobilize resources for the poverty reduction strategy paper and its effective implementation.

Annex I

Implementation of the commitments of the Government of Sierra Leone

Youth employment and empowerment

| Commitments | June review recommendations | Progress and next steps |
|--|--|---|
| 1. Develop and implement targeted programmes for youth employment and empowerment, including through literacy, vocational training programmes, and civic education programmes | <p><i>Support for youth in agriculture.</i> This will include continued support for individual/youth groups with skills or currently engaged in agricultural production and processing</p> <p><i>Youth agricultural farm scheme.</i> This scheme will provide support for production centres for young people to receive training for a specific period while contributing to the production process</p> | Some progress has been made, especially in employing youth in the agricultural sector. However, an overall strategy for youth employment still needs to be developed. This is a priority issue in the 2009-2012 poverty reduction strategy paper |
| 2. Promote efforts to strengthen youth organizations and increase the participation of youth in decision-making, paying particular attention to the needs of young women and girls | By December 2008 establish a national youth commission and fully revitalize the youth employment scheme secretariat | The Government of Sierra Leone conducted nationwide consultations with youth groups on the establishment and the tasks of the national youth commission and is in the final stages of setting up the commission. In the next six months, the Government will need to clarify the roles and responsibilities of the various national institutions dealing with youth affairs |
| 3. Revise and implement the national youth policy | By December 2008 finalize the review of the national youth policy and start implementation after endorsement by the Parliament and Cabinet | The national youth policy has not yet been reviewed |
| 4. Review and revise the youth employment scheme in order to benefit from the most effective programmes for youth employment generation and empowerment | Support the development of a youth livelihood scheme for former mining regions, which would combine a short-term public works scheme with the development of longer-term livelihoods for youth through the development of agricultural cooperatives | The youth employment scheme has been reactivated and efforts are under way in this area |

| <i>Commitments</i> | <i>June review recommendations</i> | <i>Progress and next steps</i> |
|--|--|---|
| 5. Support the participation of young men and women as candidates and voters in the 2008 local council elections | Encourage political parties to increase the participation of women as candidates for the next elections, support efforts for the development of special measures to increase the participation of women and youth in decision-making | As a result of concerted efforts to increase the participation of women as voters and candidates in the local council elections, the final results showed a small increase, from 17 per cent to 19 per cent, in the number of women elected |

Justice and security sector reform

| <i>Commitments</i> | <i>June review recommendations</i> | <i>Progress and next steps</i> |
|---|---|--|
| 1. Develop a plan for, and embark on, timely implementation of the recommendations contained in the report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission | Develop an action plan for the implementation of the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. Set up a follow-up committee within the National Human Rights Commission | The National Human Rights Commission is following up on the Truth and Reconciliation Commission recommendations. However, progress has been slow to date |
| 2. Ensure inclusive, participatory and transparent legislative and constitutional reform processes, including through support for the efforts of the Law Reform Commission and the Constitutional Review Commission | Conduct national consultations with all relevant stakeholders on the report of the Constitutional Review Commission | No progress has been made yet. This is a key priority which must be followed up on in the next six months |
| 3. Provide additional support to the family support units of the police to adequately address sexual and gender-based violence and other crimes against women and children | Develop training modules and conduct training workshops for Sierra Leone Police trainers to ensure that all officers are trained on the new policies | Training of trainers has been completed. Training of all Sierra Leone Police officers will commence in January 2009 |
| 4. Ensure timely and full implementation of the laws on the registration of customary marriages and divorce, domestic violence and the devolution of estates | Ensure that common messages and training materials are developed on the bills and provided to the law enforcement agencies and women's rights groups | Some progress has been made in awareness-raising and sensitization but additional efforts are needed |

| <i>Commitments</i> | <i>June review recommendations</i> | <i>Progress and next steps</i> |
|---|---|---|
| 5. Provide additional support for the work of the Human Rights Commission | Explore opportunities for sustainable funding support for the work of the Human Rights Commission | UNDP has established a basket fund to support the work of the Human Rights Commission. Contributions have been received from Irish Aid. The Government of Sierra Leone has also increased its contributions for the Commission. Funding beyond 2009 is still an issue |
| 6. Implement the Republic of Sierra Leone Armed Forces Core Review Programme, including on the size and the terms and conditions of service, to ensure that the armed forces are affordable and effective | Provide support for job placement for armed forces personnel leaving the service as a result of the reduction in the size of the armed forces | The Government of Sierra Leone announced a further reduction in the size of the armed forces. Progress is under way to ensure adequate job placement for the former personnel |

Good governance

| <i>Commitments</i> | <i>June review recommendations</i> | <i>Progress and next steps</i> |
|---|--|---|
| 1. Ensure adequate preparations for the local council elections in 2008 through increased political dialogue, support for the National Electoral Commission and the Political Parties Registration Commission | Full support provided through an elections basket fund | Successfully completed for the 2008 election. Support is already being planned for the 2012 elections |
| 2. Consolidate democratic governance by strengthening governance institutions, especially local governance institutions | Further steps to be taken following the upcoming local council elections | Efforts are under way |
| 3. Ensure and support greater participation of women in national decision-making and political processes, especially in the 2008 local elections | Multi-stakeholder consultations under way with the support of UNIOSIL and other partners, including USAID, NDI, and civil society to increase women's participation in the political/electoral processes and decision-making | Local council elections saw a small increase in the number of women elected; need to increase capacity-building support for them as well as the female parliamentarians |
| 4. Review the Local Governance Act of 2004 and clarify the roles and responsibilities of local councils and traditional authorities | Nationwide sensitization regarding the findings of the review | No progress yet |

| <i>Commitments</i> | <i>June review recommendations</i> | <i>Progress and next steps</i> |
|--|---|---|
| 5. Develop and support programmes for civic education and participation and greater information-sharing between the Government and the people | Develop a comprehensive ICT strategy that will ensure constant information-sharing and dialogue between the Government and the people | No progress yet on the ICT strategy. The Government of Sierra Leone, with the support of the United Nations, is developing an independent broadcasting cooperation |
| 6. Review the Anti-Corruption Strategy (2000) and develop a holistic strategy which gives the Anti-Corruption Commission independent powers to prosecute and takes into account the need for capacity-building efforts | Decentralize the operations of the Anti-Corruption Commission. Decentralized operations manual, a case profiling/management framework, re-institute the in-house case review committee and stakeholder workshop on decentralization plan; improve the image of the Commission | Much progress has been achieved in the last 6 months. The Anti-Corruption Commission's operations are being decentralized. New legislation was passed. The Commission has a new strategy and is improving its performance |
| 7. Separate the positions of Attorney General and Minister of Justice | Timetable and process need to be agreed upon | No progress yet |
| 8. Review the Core Minerals Policy and related regulations to improve the governance and management of natural resources, including on current contracts and revenue collection, to prevent smuggling and illicit trade, and to ensure participation at the local and community levels | The new mining and mineral acts to be endorsed by Parliament | The mining act has been endorsed |

Capability-building

| <i>Commitments</i> | <i>June review recommendations</i> | <i>Progress and next steps</i> |
|--|---|--------------------------------|
| 1. Review civil service reform proposals and undertake a comprehensive reform of the service, including the Senior Executive Service, ensuring greater participation of and enhanced career opportunities for women and young people | A governance and civil service reform programme will be implemented in order to revitalize the civil service through various activities, including implementation of the findings from the management and functional reviews to rationalize structures, functions, procedures and staffing in ministries, departments and agencies. New regulations and rules and a civil service code, together with a comprehensive pay and grading reform, | Progress ongoing |

| <i>Commitments</i> | <i>June review recommendations</i> | <i>Progress and next steps</i> |
|--|---|--|
| | and a public sector reform strategy will be introduced | |
| 2. Accelerate the capacity-building of local councils so that they can take responsibility for the functions devolved from line ministries | Continue training and empowering the local councils | Progress ongoing |
| 3. Facilitate and support capacity-building initiatives for the private sector and civil society, especially women's and youth organizations, which contribute to peace consolidation, reconciliation and community-based socio-economic recovery and reconstruction | Convene an investment forum in the fall of 2008 with the active participation of the private sector in Sierra Leone and in the diaspora community | The date for the investment forum has been postponed |
| 4. Develop a strategy for holistic support for the Sierra Leone Parliament | Develop a comprehensive capacity-building programme for support for Parliament | No progress yet |

Energy

| <i>Commitments</i> | <i>June review recommendations</i> | <i>Progress and next steps</i> |
|--|--|--|
| 1. Develop and implement an emergency plan for improving electricity provision and distribution in the western area and Freetown | Ensure the sustainability of this plan and fast-track the completion of the Bumbuna electric project | Progress is ongoing, although the completion of the Bumbuna hydroelectric plant has been delayed until June 2009 |
| 2. Elaborate a short-to-medium-term comprehensive energy sector-wide strategy | In preparation for the Consultative Group meeting, develop a comprehensive energy sector strategy | No progress yet. This is a key priority for the next six months |

Subregional

| <i>Commitments</i> | <i>June review recommendations</i> | <i>Progress and next steps</i> |
|--|---|--|
| 1. Fully participate in and support initiatives of the Mano River Union and other organizations for subregional peace consolidation, with a special focus on initiatives aimed at building confidence and cooperation among border communities and generating youth employment | Follow up on the decisions of the presidential summit, especially as they pertain to addressing the effects of the global food crisis | Sierra Leone has been an active participant in all Mano River Union ministerial and presidential meetings. It will host the next presidential summit |
| 2. Support the capacity-building of the Mano River Union secretariat | Follow-up action required | The ECOWAS secretariat has been approached to provide technical support and exchange experiences with the Mano River Union secretariat |

Peacebuilding Commission

| <i>Commitments</i> | <i>June review recommendations</i> | <i>Progress and next steps</i> |
|--|--|---|
| 1. Utilize existing coordination mechanisms to support implementation of the present Framework and raise awareness of the work of the Peacebuilding Commission | Finalize and communicate decisions about the aid coordination structure and convene regular meetings with all of the international partners | No progress yet. This is a critical priority in advance of the Consultative Group meeting |
| 2. Encourage and facilitate documentation and sharing of the lessons learned from Sierra Leone's experience in restoring and building peace with other post-conflict countries | The Government of Sierra Leone has provided regular lessons from Sierra Leone's experience of restoring and building peace in Peacebuilding Commission meetings, as well as meetings of other international bodies | Progress is ongoing |

Annex II

Implementation of the commitments of the Peacebuilding Commission

General commitments

| <i>Commitments</i> | <i>June review recommendations</i> | <i>Progress and next steps</i> |
|---|--|---|
| 1. Maintain its engagement with Sierra Leone for a period of three years and jointly review continued engagement after 2010 | Develop a workplan for July-December 2008 | A July-December 2008 workplan was developed and implemented. A workplan for the next six months will be developed by early January 2009 |
| 2. Support the efforts of the Government and the people of Sierra Leone for peace consolidation consistent with the present Framework | Support and participate in the next Consultative Group meeting, in the fall of 2008. Continue advocacy, outreach and resource mobilization efforts by the Chair and other members of the configuration | The Consultative Group meeting, originally scheduled for the fall of 2008, has been postponed until sometime in mid-2009. The Chair of the Sierra Leone configuration will support advocacy efforts in preparation for this meeting once the date is set |
| 3. Support the implementation of the present Framework within the context of the governing bodies of international institutions | Meet with the chairs of the relevant Executive Boards between July-December 2008 | The Chair of the Sierra Leone configuration has conducted advocacy meetings with UNDP and other key United Nations actors. In the spring of 2009, the Chair will continue these advocacy efforts and will meet with the Chairs of the relevant executive boards |
| 4. Advocate for a sustained partnership and an enhanced dialogue between the Government of Sierra Leone and its international partners, including through efforts to increase the number of international partners supporting peace consolidation efforts in Sierra Leone | By December 2008 encourage two new partners to support Sierra Leone | Brazil, Denmark and the Netherlands have provided support for Sierra Leone in the last six months. Additional members will be encouraged to support Sierra Leone in the context of the Consultative Group preparations and follow-up |
| 5. Support the development of a Sierra Leone national aid policy to ensure effective and timely implementation of aid effectiveness policies and good practices, such as the Paris Declaration | Urge the Government of Sierra Leone to develop an aid policy and further strengthen the aid coordination architecture. Advocate with international partners on support for the national aid policy | The Government of Sierra Leone is still in the process of revitalizing its aid coordination structure and developing an aid policy. The Peacebuilding Commission will continue its advocacy and advisory role in this respect |

| <i>Commitments</i> | <i>June review recommendations</i> | <i>Progress and next steps</i> |
|--|---|--|
| 6. Galvanize attention and sustained levels of financial resources and technical assistance to support the implementation of the present Framework. This may include the development of multi-donor sector-wide funding mechanisms, such as multi-donor trust funds | By December 2008 support the full operationalization of the youth basket fund and the capacity-building fund | The youth basket fund is now operational. The capacity-building basket fund has been set up by UNDP. In the next six months the United Nations and other actors will review and strengthen the working methods of the various basket funds and multi-donor trust funds. The Peacebuilding Commission will support this process and advocate for contributions in support of the United Nations joint vision for Sierra Leone |
| 7. Encourage effective coordination of United Nations and other actors on peace consolidation issues consistent with the present Framework | Support greater coordination of the United Nations by encouraging joint programming and promoting linkages between UNDAF and the Peacebuilding Cooperation Framework and other national planning documents | With the establishment of UNIPSIL and the development of the United Nations joint vision, the overall coordination of the United Nations system in Sierra Leone will improve greatly. The Peacebuilding Commission will support the continued strengthening of the United Nations capacity and coordination role in Sierra Leone |
| 8. Support the efforts of the Government and the people of Sierra Leone, taking into account existing instruments, such as the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative and the Kimberley Process, by advocating for appropriate action in the engagement of the relevant stakeholders, in ensuring national ownership for effective, transparent and sustainable exploitation and management of Sierra Leone's natural resources | 3 members of the configuration (European Commission, DfID and the United States) are actively supporting the Government of Sierra Leone in the area. Engage in advocacy efforts in support of the Government | Progress is ongoing. The Government of Sierra Leone is reviewing all mining contracts. Improving governance of the mining sector is a key priority issue in the 2009-2012 poverty reduction strategy paper |
| 9. Integrate a subregional dimension in its engagement with Sierra Leone, notably through enhanced partnerships with the countries in the subregion and support for the Mano River Union and its secretariat | By December 2008, the Chair of the configuration is to meet with ECOWAS and the Special Representative of the European Union Presidency for the Mano River Union to discuss collaboration in the context of the Framework | The Chair has not yet met with the ECOWAS and MRU chairs. The meetings are scheduled for spring of 2009 |

| <i>Commitments</i> | <i>June review recommendations</i> | <i>Progress and next steps</i> |
|--|---|---|
| 10. Support national research and learning institutions to conduct research and collect and share, at the national, regional and international levels, lessons learned and best experiences related to peacebuilding | By December 2008, identify additional institutions and partners for support and encourage partnerships and exchanges between learning institutions in Sierra Leone and members of the configuration | No progress yet |
| 11. Encourage tangible contributions to support Sierra Leone in its peacebuilding efforts and implementation of the present Framework through individual and collective actions by all relevant stakeholders | 21 members of the configuration (United Kingdom, United States, European Commission, Norway, Germany, France, Netherlands, Egypt, India, OIC, World Bank, IMF, United Nations, Japan, Sweden, Ireland, AfDB, ECOWAS, China, Nigeria, Pakistan) have been active in Sierra Leone. By December identify two additional partners | 24 members of the configuration (United Kingdom, United States, European Commission, Norway, Germany, France, Netherlands, Egypt, India, OIC, World Bank, IMF, United Nations, Japan, Sweden, Ireland, AfDB, ECOWAS, China, Nigeria, Pakistan, Brazil, Denmark, Canada) have been active in Sierra Leone, which represents an increase of 3 since the June 2008 meeting |

Youth employment

| <i>Commitments</i> | <i>June review recommendations</i> | <i>Progress and next steps</i> |
|---|---|--|
| 1. Support capacity-building of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports to ensure mainstreaming of youth concerns | 3 members of the configuration (Irish Aid, UNDP, Sweden) are active in this area Support the establishment of the national youth commission and the revision of the national youth policy | The national youth commission has not yet been established. Several configuration members (Irish Aid, UNDP, Sweden and Germany) are involved in support of youth employment and empowerment initiatives |
| 2. Support the Government's efforts for the generation of youth employment | 8 members of the configuration (Irish Aid, Japan, United States, World Bank, GTZ, UNDP, European Commission, UNIOSIL) are active in this area. Encourage donor interest in the youth basket fund and highlight and promote effective programmes for employment generation and empowerment | Members of the configuration continue to be active in this area. However, a more coordinated and well-structured approach is needed. The President of Sierra Leone has called for out-of-the-box thinking on youth employment. The issue is also a priority in the poverty reduction strategy paper, especially as part of agricultural sector development |

| <i>Commitments</i> | <i>June review recommendations</i> | <i>Progress and next steps</i> |
|--|--|--|
| 3. Support the scaling up of existing vocational, literacy training and civic education programmes | <p>Several members of the Peacebuilding Commission (Ireland, United Kingdom, Sweden, United Nations) are supporting projects in this area</p> <p>By December 2008 develop a list of effective vocational training and civic education programmes</p> | Progress has been slow and a list of effective projects has not yet been developed |

Justice and security sector reform

| <i>Commitments</i> | <i>June review recommendations</i> | <i>Progress and next steps</i> |
|---|---|---|
| 1. Support the implementation of the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in addressing the root causes of conflict | The Peacebuilding Commission has encouraged the Government of Sierra Leone to develop an action plan for the implementation of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission recommendations. Ireland, the United Kingdom, the European Commission and the United Nations are the most active members of the configuration in this area | The National Human Rights Commission has been designated as the follow-up body for the Truth and Reconciliation Commission recommendations. The Peacebuilding Commission will advocate for the appointment of a Government of Sierra Leone focal point to liaise with the National Human Rights Commission on the follow-up |
| 2. Support the work of the Special Court for Sierra Leone | 10 members of the configuration (Netherlands, France, Sweden, Czech Republic, Ireland, Germany, European Commission, Luxembourg, Norway, United States) have provided regular support to the Special Court. Continue support for the Special Court activities | Members of the configuration continue to provide substantive financial support to the Special Court |
| 3. Support capacity-building initiatives for the armed forces and the police, in particular to enhance Sierra Leone's participation in United Nations peacekeeping operations | Broaden donor support for the police and the armed forces | The Sierra Leone Police require additional support, especially as they try to address the growing threats of illicit drug trafficking. A project in support of Sierra Leone Police capacity-building has been submitted for Peacebuilding Commission consideration |

| <i>Commitments</i> | <i>June review recommendations</i> | <i>Progress and next steps</i> |
|---|--|---|
| 4. Broaden donor support for the Justice Sector Development Programme | By December 2008, identify additional partners to fill the \$3 million gap in the justice sector investment plan | The justice sector investment plan is fully funded. In addition, UNDP is developing a \$10 million project in support of the justice and security sectors |
| 5. Support additional management training and capacity-building for mid-level management of the Sierra Leone Police | Seek technical assistance and broadening of the donor base | Efforts are ongoing |
| 6. Provide technical assistance in support of Sierra Leone courts and in support of the capacity-building of traditional courts | Seek support from the Commonwealth and other members of the configuration in this area | Efforts are ongoing |

Good governance

| <i>Commitments</i> | <i>June review recommendations</i> | <i>Progress and next steps</i> |
|---|---|--|
| 1. Support Sierra Leone's efforts to promote accountable democratic governance and rule of law | Support strengthening of the local council institutions following the local council elections | Efforts are ongoing |
| 2. Support the work of the Human Rights Commission, the National Electoral Commission, the Political Parties Registration Commission, the National Commission for Democracy and other national institutions | Provide continued support to the efforts of the Political Parties Registration Commission, especially at the district level following the July 2008 elections | The Political Parties Registration Commission has been fully funded until the end of 2008. Additional funding and support will be needed in 2009 |

Capacity-building

| <i>Commitments</i> | <i>June review recommendations</i> | <i>Progress and next steps</i> |
|---|--|--|
| 1. Support the Government's programmes to address the immediate socio-economic needs of the population in accordance with the Sierra Leone poverty reduction strategy paper and the Millennium Development Goals, and the development of basic services and infrastructure, including water, electricity and roads, as essential conditions for peacebuilding | Advocate in support of Sierra Leone at the 22 September meeting on the Millennium Development Goals in New York | The Chair of the Sierra Leone configuration increased attention for Sierra Leone at the 22 September meeting on the Millennium Development Goals |
| 2. Support capacity-building of the Sierra Leone Parliament | Encourage the development of an overall support strategy for the Parliament. Encourage support for the Parliamentary Service Commission | No progress yet |
| 3. Support capacity-building for civil service reform, including the Senior Executive Service | Encourage contributions to the Capacity-Building Trust Fund. Seek greater clarity from the Government of Sierra Leone on the plans to restructure and strengthen the civil service | The Government and international partners have agreed on a strategy to reform the civil service. The Capacity-Building Trust Fund is now operational |
| 4. Support capacity-building to enhance the Government's efforts in the management of natural resources, in particular the Ministries of Marine and Mineral Resources | Encourage additional technical assistance and South-South cooperation in strengthening the capacity of relevant Government departments to develop a comprehensive national framework and regulations on the extractive industry and trade negotiations | Efforts are under way |
| 5. Support capacity-building initiatives for the private sector and civil society, especially women's and youth organizations, which contribute to peace consolidation, reconciliation and community-based socio-economic recovery and reconstruction | Support the work of the Sierra Leone Business Forum and the preparations for the investment forum planned for the fall of 2008 | The investment forum originally planned for the fall of 2008 has not yet taken place. It is likely to take place after the finalization of the 2009-2012 poverty reduction strategy paper and the Consultative Group meeting |
| 6. Support the efforts of the Government of Sierra Leone in the area of gender mainstreaming | Advocate for greater participation of women in decision-making and the creation of structures for gender mainstreaming in the Government | Efforts are under way. The National Human Rights Commission is promoting follow-up to the 3 gender bills and overall gender mainstreaming in the Government |

Energy

| <i>Commitments</i> | <i>June review recommendations</i> | <i>Progress and next steps</i> |
|--|--|--|
| 1. Marshal support for the implementation of the short-term emergency plan of the Government of Sierra Leone for electricity generation and distribution, including the restructuring of the National Power Authority and other public institutions in that sector | Monitor the progress of the emergency energy plan and the completion of the Bumbuna hydroelectric plant | The Bumbuna hydroelectric plant originally scheduled to be completed by December 2008, has experienced delays and will be completed in June 2009. The emergency energy plan will be extended until the end of 2009 |
| 2. Marshal support for the enhancement and rehabilitation of electricity generation capacity, distribution networks and transmission lines | Advocate for the regular coordination meeting of energy partners created in May 2008 and led by the Government and for an overall energy sector strategy | Efforts are under way |

Subregional

| <i>Commitments</i> | <i>June review recommendations</i> | <i>Progress and next steps</i> |
|---|--|---|
| 1. Provide additional technical and financial support for the revitalization of the Mano River Union, especially in fostering cross-border confidence-building and addressing common peacebuilding challenges, including at the community level | Encourage follow-up action to the commitments made at the 14 May presidential summit of the Mano River Union. Support the Government efforts in addressing the Yenga border issue with Guinea. Monitor developments in the subregion | Efforts are ongoing. Sierra Leone will host the next presidential summit of the Mano River Union. The United Nations in Sierra Leone and the Peacebuilding Commission will support these efforts |
| 2. Provide assistance to the Mano River Union and ECOWAS in addressing cross-border issues, such as the illicit trade in small arms. | Encourage continued support for these efforts | The ECOWAS secretariat has been approached to provide support to the Mano River Union secretariat. Members of the Sierra Leone configuration continue to advocate for cross-border programmes. Japan has taken a lead role in this area |

Annex III

Implementation of the commitments of the United Nations

General commitments

| <i>Commitments</i> | <i>June review recommendations</i> | <i>Progress and next steps</i> |
|---|---|---|
| 1. Support the implementation of the present Framework and the work of the Peacebuilding Commission | United Nations support to be reviewed in the light of the recommendations of the biannual review meeting and establishment of UNIPSIL | The United Nations in Sierra Leone has provided some support to the Government of Sierra Leone in the implementation of the Framework. In the context of the United Nations joint vision, more coordinated and effective support will be provided in 2009 |
| 2. Take into account the priorities of the present Framework in reviewing the United Nations Development Assistance Framework and related United Nations programmes and activities in the country | The mandate of the post-UNIOSIL United Nations presence is to include key priority areas of the Peacebuilding Cooperation Framework, such as youth employment and empowerment | The mandate for UNIPSIL includes support for the work of the Peacebuilding Commission and the implementation of the Framework. The challenge has been timely recruitment of UNIPSIL staff to implement this mandate |
| 3. Enhance coordination within the United Nations system on peacebuilding priority issues | A more focused and integrated approach is to be developed with the establishment of UNIPSIL | The United Nations joint vision for Sierra Leone is an important innovation. Its implementation will be critical to the implementation of the Peacebuilding Cooperation Framework and the President's agenda for change |
| 4. Ensure coordination among all actors and programmes in peacebuilding to ensure coherence and avoid duplication of efforts | A more systematic and regular coordination mechanism is to be developed | The Government is still finalizing its donor coordination mechanisms. The United Nations will continue to co-chair the Development Partnership Committee and Consultative Group meetings |
| 5. Develop and implement a peacebuilding-sensitive approach to United Nations activities and programming | Ensure that all United Nations interventions are reviewed to ensure a conflict-sensitive programming approach | The United Nations joint vision for Sierra Leone and its various annexes will ensure greater conflict sensitivity in overall United Nations programmes and work in Sierra Leone |

| <i>Commitments</i> | <i>June review recommendations</i> | <i>Progress and next steps</i> |
|---|---|--------------------------------|
| 6. Provide continued support to initiatives and programmes promoting greater subregional cooperation and development, including through the programmes undertaken by the Economic Commission for Africa | More coordinated and enhanced support for capacity-building of the Mano River Union | Efforts are under way |