

United Nations  Nations Unies

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9 July 2013

Dear Mr Forbes,

I am writing in response to your letter of 1 July 2013 in which you invited us to respond to the UK's Multilateral Aid Review (MAR).

The Peacebuilding Fund has reviewed the findings of the most recent MAR update. The MAR notes the progress that PBSO has made in managing the Peacebuilding Fund. I am pleased to further inform you that many of the steps indicated in the assessment are already being put into place. The new application guidelines are being actively used, and in partnership with a South African NGO have organized a regional workshop to roll them out. We are working with our country level partners – especially the Joint Steering Committees – to increase their capacity to develop sound strategies, identify activities with higher value for money and monitor and report on results. PBSO has strengthened further its own Monitoring and Evaluation capacity, and this year is organizing the first-ever global, independent review of the Peacebuilding Fund. This will feed into the development of the next Business Plan, expected for 2014 – 2016.

Concerning overhead rates, as discussed in the section devoted to cost and value consciousness, PBSO notes that the Fund is entirely self-financing, and does not benefit from core contributions to cover basic institutional and managerial costs. Other agencies that charge a fee of 7 percent, however, may be receiving other core funding which covers some of those costs.

The Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO) remains grateful for the support of the British people to contribute to peacebuilding efforts in post-conflict and post-crisis countries around the world. We aim for continuous improvement of the quality of our services, including in the areas identified by the MAR.

Yours Sincerely,

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