

# Study Guide

**Committee: ECOSOC**

**Topic: Ways of improving Peacebuilding and Post Conflict**

**Recovery Practices**

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## Introduction

ECOSOC, United Nation Economic and Social Council, is responsible for concerns regarding economic, social, cultural, educational, health and environmental challenges. It has 14 specialized agencies (i.e. International Labor Organization, World Health Organization), 9 functional commissions, and 5 regional commissions. The council serves as the central forum for discussing international economic and social issues.

Millions of people are victims to conflicts and violence and their countries' political divisions are still hindering the country from peace and stability.

One of the most common types of violence is war. It usually destroys many homes and ends in brutal ways. War still continues to harm societies long after the conflict has ended. All delegates should work together peacefully to come up with effective ideas and methods on how to improve peacebuilding and post conflict recovery practices, creating a better world for our future generations.

## Background Information

“Post-conflict” refers to the situation in which a war or an organized violence has either decreased or has been formally terminated. Cooperation within the international community is extremely crucial in such situation, since it is essential to ensure political stability, security, justice, and social equality in a region that has just removed itself from war. However, governments in reality often receive little to no assistance in transition from war to peace. They either struggle with becoming legitimate or capable, or both, when attempting to rebuild state institutions and democratic processes. Thus, through acknowledging the risks in post-conflict areas and coping with cross-border effects originating from legacies of conflicts, international society has adopted peacebuilding as a primary approach to consolidate peace and to reinvigorate the development of the state. Through practices of peacebuilding and prevention of reoccurrence of violence, peacemaking and peacekeeping are ensured, providing post-conflict areas more than merely ceasefire agreement and making sure that further social, political, and economic development can be pursued with a democratic, legitimate government.

In 2002, ECOSOC established the ECOSOC Ad Hoc Advisory Groups on African Countries to address conflicts that emerged to erode the foundation of development. The Council retains its role in providing advice to countries that

need help on a long-term development strategy to promote socio economic recovery and stability through the groups.

### Case Studies

**South Sudan:** Since December 2013 – only two and a half years after it became an independent country – South Sudan has been mired in a deep political, military, and humanitarian crisis. Heavy fighting erupted on 15 December between members of armed forces in Juba, the capital. Tensions and power struggles within the leadership ranks of the leading political party of South Sudan – the SPLM (Sudan People’s Liberation Movement) – had preceded the fighting. The armed violence quickly spread to other states in South Sudan and has brought human rights violations, death, and destruction to Juba and to Jonglei, Upper Nile, and Unity States. Within a few weeks, several thousand South Sudanese were killed. As of mid-June 2014, about 1.5 million South Sudanese are displaced either within South Sudan or as refugees in neighbouring countries; 94,000 South Sudanese are sheltering in ‘Protection of Civilian’ locations protected by the United Nations Mission in the Republic of South Sudan (UNMISS); and UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs projects that around 3.8 million South Sudanese need assistance in 2014 – only half of whom are being reached.

**Haiti:** The earthquake that struck Haiti in January 2010 tipped the country into a state of socio-economic despair from which it will be difficult to escape without a fresh start, made not only by its own political and economic elites, but also by the international community. Making a fresh start will require an honest assessment of Haiti's predicament and a bold vision of its future prospects. By this, lessons can usefully be drawn from the experiences of countries emerging from a period of conflict. From this perspective, Haiti needs to move beyond the neoliberal consensus which has dominated policy since the overthrow of the Duvalier regime and adopt a more integrated policy approach to creating jobs, boosting economic security, diversifying economic activity and repairing a dangerously frayed social contract. Such an approach critically depends on establishing a developmental state with an inclusive national agenda that can move Haiti out of an initial and unavoidable state of aid dependence to effective mobilization of domestic resources. For the international community, the Marshall Plan offers useful lessons in forging a more effective development partnership to support such a state-building exercise and the efforts at recovery and rebuilding.

#### [Definition of Key Terms](#)

**The Marshall Plan:** a plan the U.S. used to rebuild Western Europe after WWII. The goals of the United States were to rebuild war-devastated regions, remove

trade barriers, modernize industry, make Europe prosperous again, and prevent the spread of communism.

**Peacebuilding:** an action to identify and support structures, which will tend to strengthen and solidify peace in order to avoid a relapse into conflict.

**Five Priorities of Peacebuilding:** supporting basic security and services, inclusive political reconciliation, restoring governance capability and economic revitalization.

**ECOSOC Ad Hoc Advisory Groups:** groups set up by the UN in various different war-torn regions/nations to help with defining long-term programmes of support for countries emerging from conflicts.

### Questions to Consider

- What strategies could the committee draw from the arguably successful Marshall Plan to apply to current post-conflict situations?
- Which specific improvements should be made on the current UN methods of peacebuilding?
- In what specific regions should the UN devote the most resources on?  
Make priorities, or equal support for all post-conflict regions?

### References

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