

ROLE OF PEACEBUILDING IN CONTEXT OF ECONOMIC SECURITY

Balázs Taksás

***Abstract:** Executing good, efficient and effective governance is not an easy task even in normal peace time when no special circumstances make the daily operation of the state more difficult. In a post-conflict situation it is even more challenging. Nowadays peacebuilding is gaining more and more importance. One of the reasons is that in the case of several conflicts the peacemaking and peace enforcement efforts have been successful but enduring peace and stability have not been achieved and thus the likelihood of another conflict breaking out has not been eliminated. The economics of peacebuilding summarizes the economic challenges of peacebuilding and the tasks involved in the post-conflict restoration of the economy. This first article underlines the importance of peacebuilding and presents the dimension of economic security. In time of peacebuilding – besides humanitarian, political, military law enforcement activities acts – we have to increase the security level of these dimensions. The normal functioning of the economy includes supply, financial, labour force market, technological, market access, economic policy and economic mobilization elements. For sustainable peace we have to act on these fields.*

Keywords: peacebuilding, economic security, economic recovery

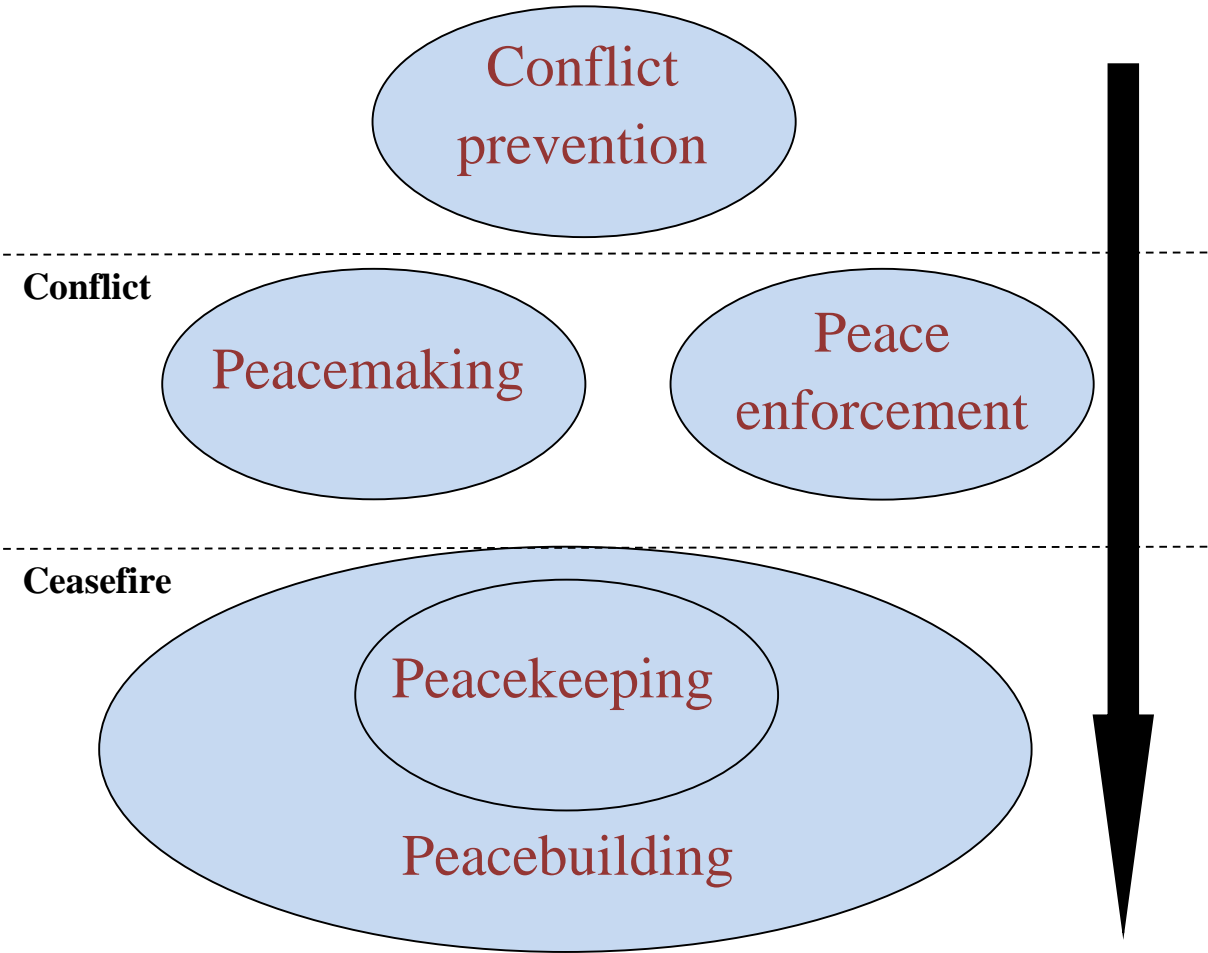
1. Introduction - the role of peacebuilding

These days the area of peacebuilding receives particular attention. The main reasons for this, unfortunately, are the lack of success and the shortage of real achievements. Looking at the most recent developments in Iraq and Libya only, we can easily see that the current disastrous situation in these two countries is clearly the consequence of the unsuccessful peacebuilding process. The situation in these countries at the moment is no better, if not worse, than it was at the time of the outbreak of the conflict, and the international community is faced with the same challenge as it was in 2003 or 2011: another international intervention is becoming (was becoming) increasingly inevitable in the interest of normalizing the situation. This is no less than admitting that the situation has not improved at all, the process of peacebuilding has been a failure, or it has not even started. The future success of peacebuilding in Mali, the Central African Republic and Ivory Coast is not guaranteed either. Moreover, there are those conflicts (Somalia, South-Sudan, Yemen and Syria) where, as a result of the renewed or protracted conflicts, peace should be achieved. However, even in the case of the latter conflicts, while achieving a ceasefire and stability through peace-making and peace enforcement is the first step, it is worth thinking about and starting planning the ways and methods of putting an end to these conflicts and eradicating the underlying causes once and for all. A strategy should also be worked out to start these countries on the road to sustainable development. Obviously, there are positive examples of successful peacebuilding, such as Rwanda and perhaps Vietnam, Cambodia, Ethiopia or Cyprus(?) and if we go further back in history Western Europe and Japan, but unfortunately this number is rather small.

Peacebuilding is an important activity because through peacebuilding the roots of the conflict can be removed. Peacemaking, peace enforcement and peacekeeping can only slow the momentum of the conflict, but cannot eradicate the causes. As long as the peacekeeping force is available and there are constraints, there is peace but once this force has withdrawn and the constraints no longer exist, the conflict soon breaks out again and even escalates. The conflict has never really stopped, it has just abated due to the bigger force, and its underlying causes have never been removed. The root causes of the conflict can only be removed through peacebuilding, and thus the danger of the renewal of the conflict can be reduced. Peacebuilding is the only way of starting the country and society on the road of gradual sustainable development.

2. The content of peacebuilding

It follows from what has been said before that peacebuilding is the most complex and most difficult part of peace operations. But what exactly does peacebuilding mean? If we want to show the place of peacebuilding among other peace operations, we can use the following figure:



*Figure 1: Peace operations
(made by the author)*

The term "Peacebuilding" first emerged in the 1970s and was defined by Johan Galtung as „the creation of peacebuilding structures to promote sustainable peace by addressing

the “root causes” of violent conflict and supporting indigenous capacities for peace management and conflict resolution.” [1]

UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali's 1992 report „An Agenda for Peace”, which is regarded as one of the basic works on the concept of peacebuilding defines peacebuilding as “action to identify and support structures which tend to strengthen and solidify peace in order to avoid a relapse into conflict.” [1]

From then on the definition of peacebuilding has appeared in almost every UN document dealing with the methods of peace operations. In 2001, for instance, the UN Security Council Presidential Statement said: “The Security Council recognizes that peacebuilding is aimed at preventing the outbreak, the recurrence or the continuation of armed conflict and therefore encompasses a wide range of political, development, humanitarian and human rights programmes and mechanisms. This requires short and long-term actions tailored to address the particular needs of societies sliding into conflict or emerging from it. These actions should focus on fostering sustainable development, the eradication of poverty and inequalities, transparent and accountable governance, the promotion of democracy, respect for human rights and the rule of law and the promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence.” [1] While in 2006 the following definition appears: “All activities necessary to assist a conflict-torn society to reach a point where violence is no longer a ready recourse, the risks of relapse into conflict are reduced, and the country can move onto a more development-oriented footing. Important parts of such an overall peacebuilding strategy include the provision of transitional security through peacekeeping and other efforts to maintain public order, support to a political process, life-saving humanitarian assistance, efforts to create a framework for economic recovery, and institutional development.” [1]

The UN's basic document on peacebuilding (UN Peacebuilding: an Orientation) makes it clear that peacebuilding is basically a national responsibility. „Peacebuilding is primarily a national challenge and responsibility. It is the citizens of the countries where peacebuilding is underway, with support from their governments, who assume the responsibility for laying the foundations of lasting peace. National ownership is essential to success. National capacity development must be central to all international peacebuilding efforts from the very start, as part of the entry strategy, not the exit. Indeed, a core objective for peacebuilding is to reach as soon as possible the point when external assistance is no longer required, by ensuring that all initiatives support the development of national peacebuilding capacities. This is a challenge, especially in the early days when peace is fragile and national capacity is often displaced and severely limited. Nevertheless, peacebuilding must focus proactively on (re)building national capacity, otherwise peace will not be sustainable. To support this effort, a collective assessment of existing capacities should be conducted early on.”

The responsibility of „good governance” already appears in the initial phase of peacebuilding. This responsibility is enormous, since in such a fragile state mistakes can have serious consequences, i.e. relapse into conflict. Creating good governance is not an easy task even in peace time, let alone in the immediate aftermath of a conflict, when both governments and all other social and economic players are faced with the challenge of a considerable shortage of resources and trust.

This paper is concerned with the economic area of peacebuilding. Obviously, the different areas cannot be separated since they are closely linked to each other. The restoration of the economy is impossible without guaranteeing peace, ensuring the rule of law, solving the refugee issue and improving the human rights situation. This is an extremely complex system, and it would be an enormous task to deal with all these issues comprehensively,

“Unfortunately, the complexity and enormity of the socio-political and institutional challenges facing post-conflict societies are often not fully taken into account when setting the reconstruction priorities, and when deciding on the logic and sequence of post-conflict operations”. [2] However, it is noteworthy that the economic tasks of peacebuilding cannot be standardized due to the fact that they are heavily dependent on the nature of the conflict, the economic structure of the country and its role in the global economy and the region. Forasmuch peacebuilding goes on in „postwar” situation; the economic handling of the situation requires both peace and war economic tools and methods. (War economic elements mainly appear in the reconstruction period which „refers to the repairing of physical and social infrastructure.” [3] Many experts say that peacebuilding starts after reconstruction [3], this is why in this article I focus on peace elements – certainly not leaving out the reconstruction ones.) However „peacebuilding focuses on long-term support of viable political, socioeconomic, and cultural institutions [...]”. [3]

3. The system of economic security

The economic tasks of peacebuilding basically mean the revitalization, sustainment and development of the economic system. In a national economy the functioning of the production and service processes can be described by the following chart:

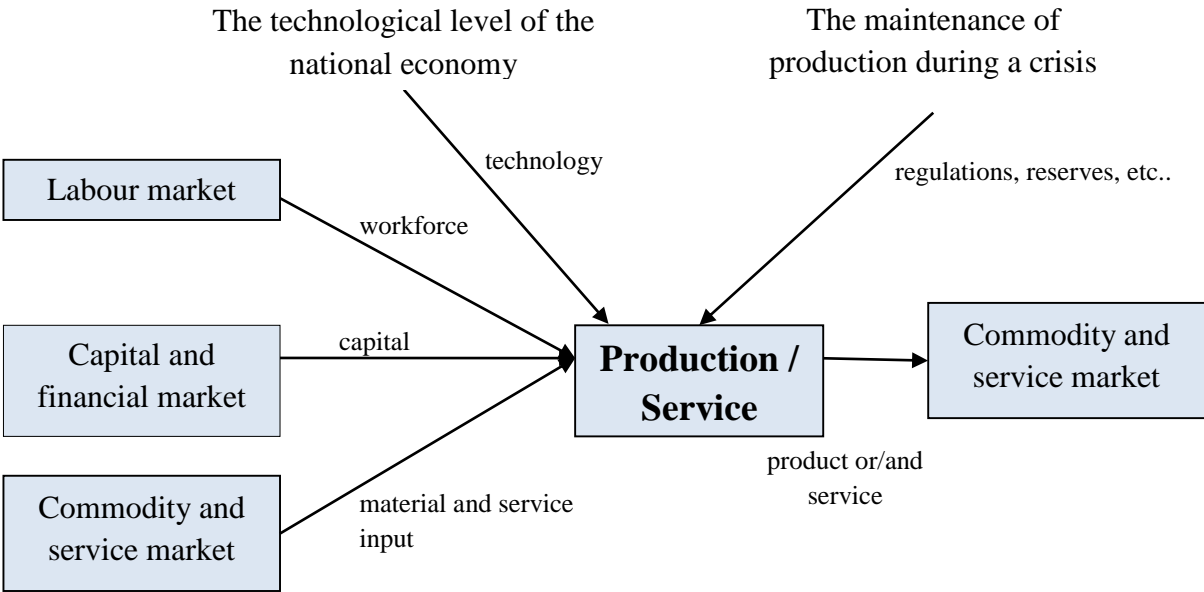
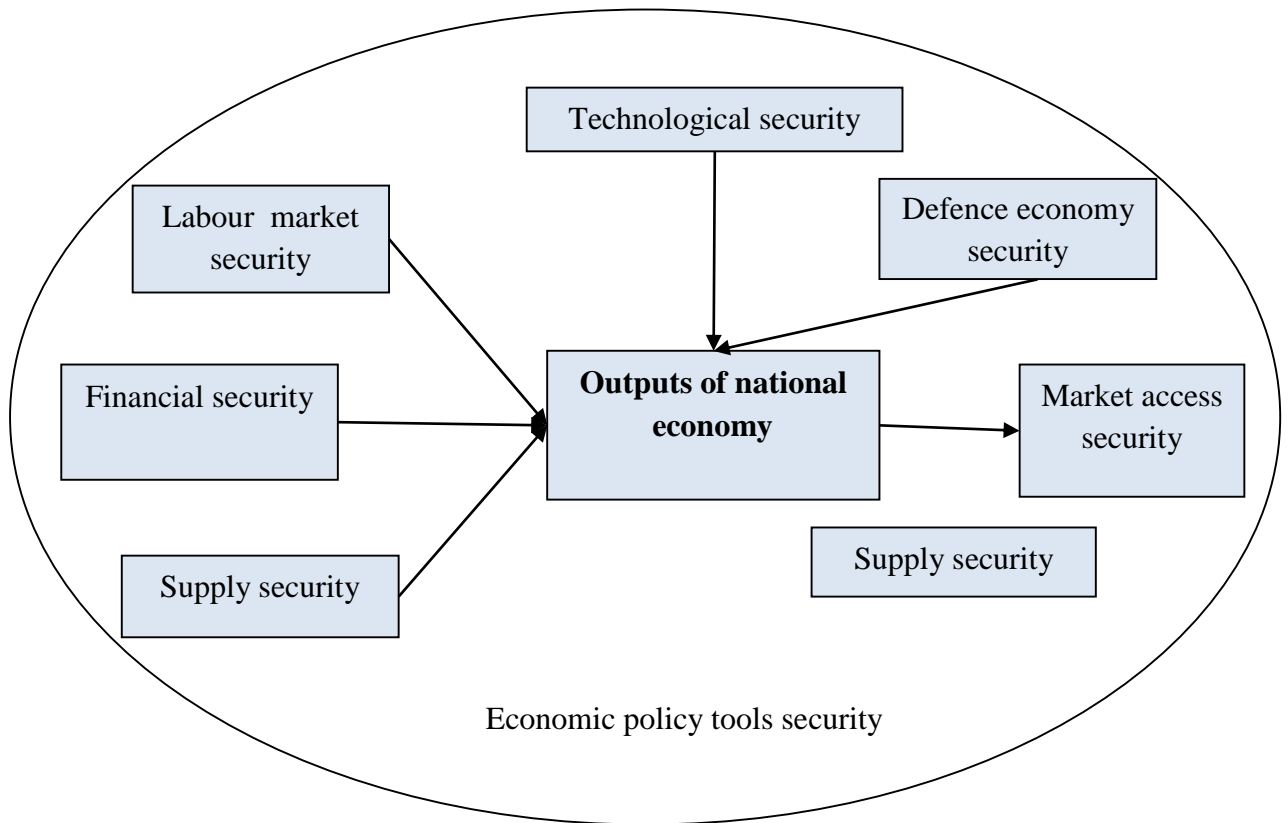


Figure 2: The national economy’s production process (made by the author)

It can be seen that in order to maintain the production/service process technology, capital, workforce, material and service input as well as a market are needed. Moreover, it is also necessary that the means (reserves, capacities, legal regulations) which make it possible to maintain production/service during the crisis period (natural or industrial disaster, economic embargo, civil war, war) should be available. Consequently, the following sub-systems of the economic dimension of security can be identified [4]:



*Figure 3: The sub-systems of economic security
(made by the author)*

When defining the sub-systems, supply security means the security of supply chain operation, i.e. access to the material inputs and services required (including energy and communication) for the operation of the production and service processes. In addition, it means the delivery to the users (the public, producers, governmental bodies, allied forces, foreign customers) of produced goods and other assets (e.g. money) necessary for the operation of the economy, with no more than the normal level of risk, at the appropriate time and in the appropriate manner. [5]

The existence of financial security means that the national economy is able to obtain savings from capital and money markets, sufficient for financing a possible budget deficit and national debt and for maintaining the production and service processes of the national economy.

The existence and reproduction of an appropriately qualified labour force with which the output levels of the national economy can be sustained and enhanced can be regarded as part of labour market security.

Technological security is determined by the existence of a technological level required for the sustainment and stable growth of the national economy output.

The level of defence economy security (it can also be called defence resource availability) is determined by the ability of the national economy to switch over to functioning during a crisis period. [6]

The level of market access security depends on the ability of the companies of the national economy to sell their products and services on the domestic market or the world market. [5]

The level of economic policy tools security depends on how much the economic policy of a certain country is able to influence the security level of the other sub-systems of economic security with various fiscal, monetary, and other tools (for example, communication, diplomacy, etc.).

Naturally, the individual sub-systems are in a close relationship with each other. A change – either positive or negative – that occurs in any of the sub-systems of economic security will have an effect on all the other sub-systems. A negative change in the security level caused by a change in one of the sub-systems can lead to an increased security risk in other sub-systems. In the same way, an increase in the security level of any of the sub-systems can have a positive effect on the security level of other sub-systems. This is shown in Figure 4.

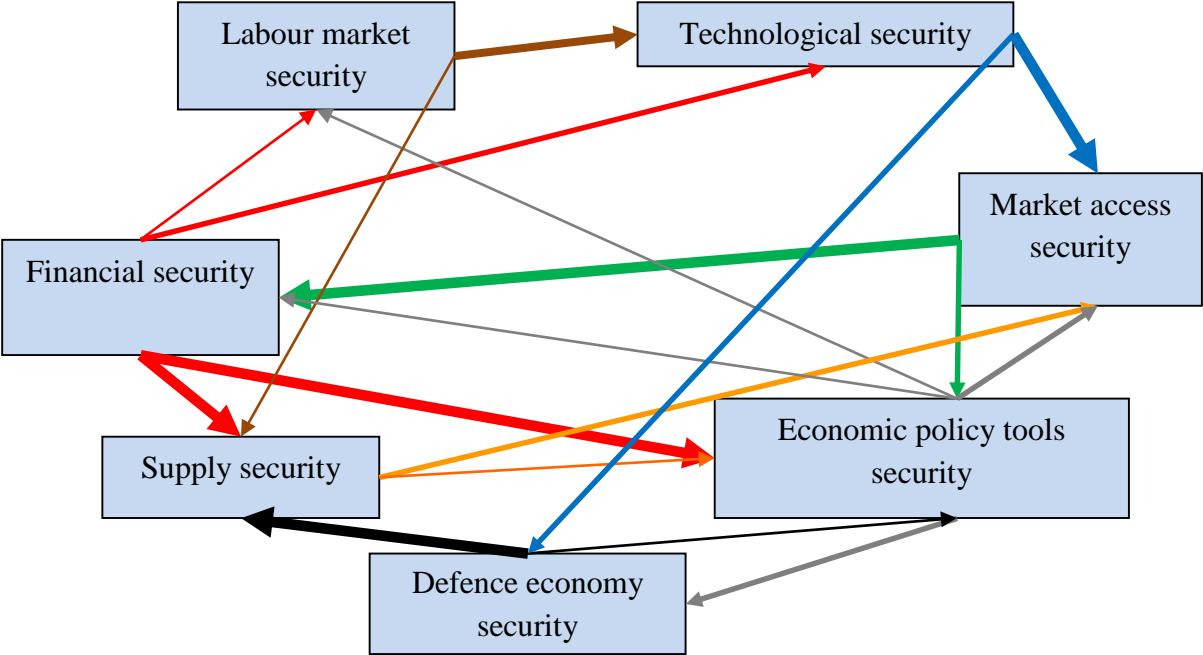


Figure 4: The interrelationships between the sub-systems of economic security (made by the author)

Developing all the sub-systems of economic security at the same time is an almost insurmountable challenge even for the most developed countries, let alone for a country trying to get out of a conflict. Therefore, during the process of peacebuilding besides revealing the relationships between economic tasks, it is also essential to prioritize the tasks.

4. Conclusions – the economic tasks of peacebuilding

If we want to simplify the issue, we can divide the tasks into short-term, medium term and long-term tasks. In the short term the economy has to be started, and in connection with this, production and services have to be restored, the tasks of providing for the population have to be organized and the necessary financial resources and labour force have to be ensured. In the medium term the task is to maintain the functioning of the economy and ensuring its capability to function. In the interest of this, adequate economic policy leeway and a crisis response capability need to be created, and the sources of

capital need to be consolidated. In the long term the task is to achieve economic development, which will lead to the improvement of competitiveness.

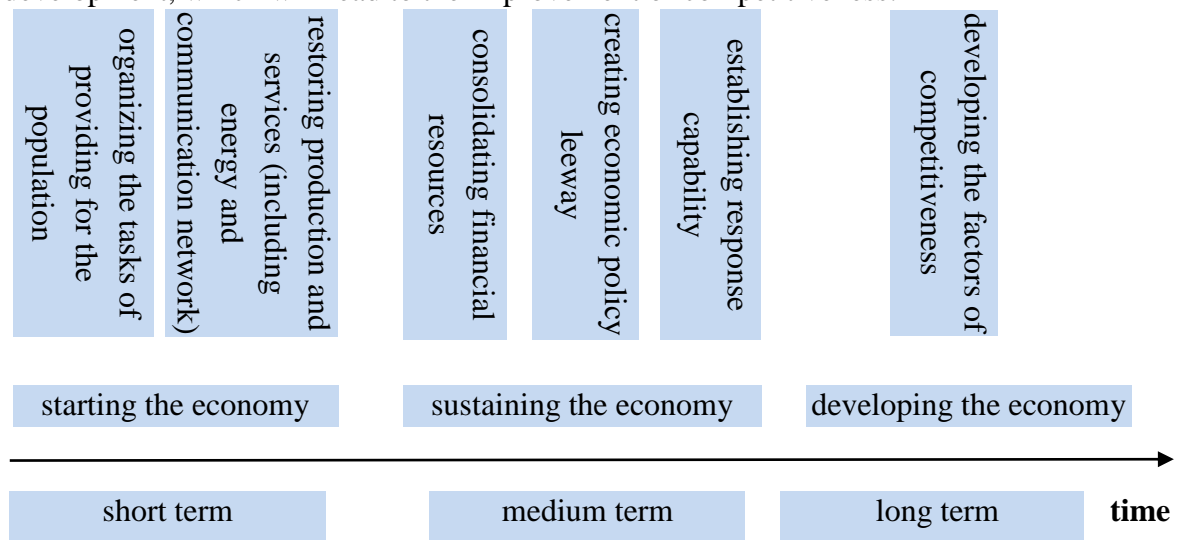


Figure 5: The economic tasks of peacebuilding (made by the author)

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