

**Security Council Open Debate on Post-Conflict Peacebuilding: Institution Building**  
**21st January 2011, Security Council Chamber (GA-TSC-01)**

*Statement by Mr. Charles Themba Ntwaagae, Permanent Representative of Botswana to the United Nations*

Botswana attaches great importance to the promotion of institutionbuilding, which is one of the main ingredients of the concept of post-conflict peacebuilding. In this connection, Sir, I wish to express my delegation's appreciation for your initiative to hold this open debate on the subject.

We welcome the participation earlier in the day of the Secretary-General, Mr. Ban-Ki moon, in these deliberations, as well as the presence of the Deputy Prime Minister of Timor-Leste. Their personal involvement in this debate demonstrates the high importance of the subject matter. I extend the same appreciation to the Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission, the Permanent Representative of Germany, for his continue high level of interest and effective stewardship of the Commission.

Botswana believes that peace, security and stability are prerequisites for attaining higher levels of development and quality of life. The promotion of positive values and practices such as tolerance, consultation, democracy, effective governance and the rule of law are of vital importance to the rebuilding of institutions that can drive major reconstruction in countries emerging from conflict. Botswana therefore wishes to emphasize the importance of supporting institutional development as a crucial step towards the prevention of conflict and laying the foundation for sustainable socio-economic development, peace and security. Botswana also believes that investing in reconstruction and rehabilitation of physical infrastructure, as well as in social and economic programmes, is a vital part of post-conflict reconstruction.

My delegation would like to underscore the importance of ensuring that assistance given to countries emerging from conflict is always accompanied by the establishment of legitimate State machinery in order to safeguard the interests and welfare of citizens. This is the surest way of consolidating the gains of peace, which could also go a long way towards enabling the effective delivery of basic services for human development, trade, investment and security. The rebuilding of credible judicial and law enforcement systems is also of vital importance so that the country is properly anchored in the rule of law, which is a necessary ingredient in the promotion of durable peace and the prevention of relapse into conflict.

Botswana also believes that post-conflict peacebuilding can succeed if we put a high premium on national ownership not only of the actual reconstruction activities, but also in determining the development priorities for which international assistance is being provided, as well as control of resource allocation.

Botswana maintains that it is important for the international community to strike when the iron is still hot in promoting post-conflict institution-building. Short-term humanitarian relief should therefore be accompanied by efforts to build facilities for schools, water reticulation, primary health care and related services, as well as the revitalization of key economic sectors.

In conclusion, my delegation wishes to reiterate Botswana's commitment to continuing to provide assistance and develop partnerships, within the limits of its capability, for the consolidation of peace and security, particularly on the African continent. Regional economic and social integration in Africa cannot succeed as long as pockets of instability and lawlessness disrupt the establishment of stable and effective administrations.

We support the promotion of cooperation at the bilateral, regional and international levels and among the various United Nations entities, as well as the role played by international financial institutions. We also urge the United Nations, through the advice of the Peacebuilding Commission, to continue to promote post-conflict institution building as a thematic and programme area.