

Security Council Open Debate on Peacebuilding in the Aftermath of Conflict
Wednesday, October 13, 2010

Statement by H.E Mr. John McNee, Permanent Representative of Canada to the United Nations

The reports before us demonstrate that the United Nations is prepared to move forward with the concrete implementation of an effective peacebuilding agenda. The ultimate test will be whether the United Nations system deploys resources and technical expertise in a timely and targeted manner. In that light, I would like to make a few brief comments about each report in turn.

First, Canada supports the seven-point action plan contained in the Secretary-General's report on women's participation in peacebuilding (S/2010/466). At a time when the United Nations is reviewing its efforts to implement resolution 1325 (2000), on women and peace and security, the action plan's pragmatic, coordinated and sustained approach to addressing women's and girls' post-conflict needs and the constraints on women's participation in peacebuilding is most welcome. It encourages troop- and police- contributing countries to address the participation of women in peace operations and in training for those operations. It also provides concrete targets for enhancing women's participation in all aspects of the peacebuilding continuum and the availability of relevant expertise.

Canada also agrees that monitoring of the action plan can be facilitated by the global indicators on resolution 1325 (2000), which we call on the Security Council to endorse on 26 October. In that spirit, Canada was pleased to announce earlier this month the launch of its new Action Plan for the Implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolutions on Women, Peace and Security. Canada's Plan is intended to guide the Government in its implementation of those resolutions and to improve Canada's capacity to safeguard and support affected populations in fragile States and conflict-affected situations.

Canada is also pleased to note the progress made since the publication of the Secretary-General's report on peacebuilding in the immediate aftermath of conflict (S/2010/386). Advances in supporting senior leaders in the field and in existing planning and assessment processes are particularly welcome. Canada also concurs that capacity remains a critical issue and looks forward to the important recommendations emerging from the review of international civilian capacities, which we have been pleased to support financially.

Yet enduring challenges also remain. Despite much discussion, roles and responsibilities in critical sectors such as the rule of law, security sector reform and disarmament, demobilization and reintegration still require clarification. The relationship between the United Nations and the World Bank should also be deepened if broader progress is to be made.

Member States still need to consider modalities for delivering rapid, responsive and risk-permissive post-conflict financing. In order to meet that objective, the United Nations and Member States must invest in monitoring and measuring the outcomes of our peacebuilding initiatives. In that way we can better determine the areas where our efforts most effectively advance the interests of sustainable peace.

Finally, I would also like to raise an issue related to this debate. Canada welcomes the co-facilitators' report on the 2010 review of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture (S/2010/393, annex). The review proved very useful, for it reaffirmed the importance of the Peacebuilding Commission. It also brought out the need to see that its action produces more tangible results the countries on its agenda.

While full implementation of the recommendations is a longer-term task, Canada agrees with the report's assessment that the Commission needs to maintain a flexible approach and align closely with national priorities. Likewise, there is also a need to reduce administrative burdens. The outcome of that thinking will largely be put into practice in country- specific configurations.

In that regard, Canada is of the view that a closer relationship between the Security Council and the Peacebuilding Commission is advisable. Such a relationship would better define what the Council expects on specific peacebuilding issues and clarify what the Commission can contribute.

Capacity-building as a key concept is only in its infancy. Peacebuilding is a work in progress, and that evolution has significant implications for peacekeeping, peacemaking and early recovery. It also affects how the United Nations system organizes itself to deliver results in the field that benefit all those affected by a conflict and to ensure the sustainability of efforts to prevent relapse into violence.

Finally, the reports considered today give us a look at the state of affairs and at the work remains to be done. As always, Canada stands ready to play its part.