

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

*Statement by H.E Ms. Soba Gendi, Deputy Permanent Representative of Egypt to the United Nations*

At the outset, I would like to express our appreciation to the sisterly country of Uganda for organizing this important debate on peacebuilding in post-conflict situations. I would also like to welcome the report (S/2010/386) of the Secretary-General on United Nations efforts in peacebuilding, including its important recommendations and proposals.

The United Nations has in recent years developed and improved its peacebuilding efforts in post-conflict situations through an integrated system established by the General Assembly for that purpose. In the meantime, the international community has come to realize the significance of the decision made at the 2005 World Summit to establish the Peacebuilding Commission, which, through its achievements over the five years of its operations, has contributed significantly to peacebuilding, along with the efforts of the Secretary-General to solicit international support.

In that connection, Egypt has supported United Nations peacebuilding efforts through the General Assembly, the Security Council, the Economic and Social Council and the Peacebuilding Commission. The activities of the Commission are becoming increasingly important as a result of the expertise it has acquired and the lessons it has learned over the years. It also has a vital role to play in coordinating international efforts to prevent post-conflict countries from relapsing into conflict.

Peacebuilding has become a multidimensional process, with varied priorities that complement each other in order to reinforce stability, peace, security and overall sustainable development. That requires achieving balanced, simultaneous progress on all tracks and priorities on a case-by-case basis. The maintenance of international peace and security requires dual emphasis on the military and social dimensions of security sector reform and on ensuring the success of disarmament and demobilization programmes for former combatants through the establishment of a development framework to deliver the basic security, social and economic requirements essential to the successful reintegration of ex-combatants into their communities. It also requires the presence of many factors for ensuring the sustainability of peace, including a comprehensive national dialogue, social justice, the impartiality and independence of the judiciary and the rule of law, along with the launching of a comprehensive process for economic and social development.

Recently, certain voices have increasingly advocated the need to start the processes of peacekeeping and peacebuilding simultaneously. Egypt believes that such views merit detailed and very careful consideration. We recognize the importance of strengthening, within a nationally owned framework, the national capacities of Governments in post-conflict countries, thereby laying the foundations for the launch of a peacebuilding process that empowers a national Government with the necessary prerequisites to assume its responsibilities in the security and defence sectors and launch an overall development process.

Similarly, due consideration must be given to the overlap between the peacebuilding process and the launch of a sustainable development framework in post-conflict countries. Merely talking about efforts to establish the foundations of good governance, the rule of law and the application of the principles of democracy and justice will not enable them to be realized in communities plagued with poverty, disease, hunger and an absence of decent standards of living, as targeted in internationally agreed development goals.

It is thus of the utmost importance to launch a peacebuilding process at the right time, to ensure the successful establishment, during the early stages of conflict resolution — which may coincide with peacekeeping operations — of the central political, economic and social pillars needed for comprehensive development strategies supported by timely, predictable and sustainable financial resources. It is also essential to fully cooperate with national stakeholders in creating an appropriate environment and incentives that will help start a comprehensive peacebuilding process within the country in question, and in this way creating the conditions necessary for a peacekeeping operation to draw down.

In this context, we look forward to the completion of the international civilian capacity review, which should take into account the need to provide the necessary funding for the recruitment of international civilian

officials without jeopardizing existing financial resources earmarked for peacebuilding operations. It should also take account of the specific needs and characteristics of the States and communities where such personnel will be deployed to back up efforts to build institutional and human resources capacity. The review should also take into account the need to further develop cooperation frameworks between United Nations entities, regional and subregional organizations and institutions in countries of the South that have accumulated needed peacebuilding expertise, either within the country concerned or within a specific region, in order to promote South-South and triangular cooperation in this area.

Furthermore, the success of any peacebuilding process also rests on its ability to ensure gender equality and the empowerment of women in the socio- economic and political spheres. It is important for the General Assembly and the Security Council to study and evaluate the Secretary-General's report (S/2010/466) on women's participation in peacebuilding, and the seven commitments underlying the proposed action plan. We should work to provide expertise to the countries of the South, with a view to maximizing the use of relevant human and institutional capacities to ensure that the action plan is implemented and fully promoted by the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women), recently established by the General Assembly.

In this respect, the capacity of the Peacebuilding Commission must be strengthened so that it can carry out its mission ably and effectively. We are confident that this can be achieved through consideration by the General Assembly, the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council of the means for implementing the recommendations and proposals contained in the report of the co-facilitators of the Commission review process, in coordination with top contributors of troops and financial resources.

Successful peacebuilding requires the speedy establishment of a monitoring and follow-up mechanism to ensure that national and international players meet their financial commitments, which is needed to realize peacebuilding priorities and to ensure consistent priorities among international funding mechanisms — first and foremost, ensuring that the work of the Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) is aligned with the national peacebuilding priorities of the countries involved. We also need innovative financial methods to strengthen the resources of these mechanisms, in particular the Peacebuilding Fund. In this regard, Egypt suggested during the sixty-fourth session of the General Assembly the holding of an annual donors conference for the Peacebuilding Fund, similar to the annual donors conference for the Central Emergency Response Fund. This is aimed at ensuring increased funding for future peacebuilding activities. We hope that this proposal will enjoy the full support of the general membership.