

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

*Statement by H.E Mr. Jarmo Viinanen, Permanent Representative of Finland to the United Nations*

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the Nordic countries: Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden.

I would like to begin by thanking the Ugandan presidency and the Council for taking these issues into consideration together and for the briefings we have heard this morning. This gives the Council an excellent opportunity to discuss peacebuilding comprehensively.

In his report on peacebuilding in the immediate aftermath of conflict (S/2010/386), the Secretary-General outlines ambitious but vital goals for the United Nations in becoming more effective in its support for post-conflict countries. We welcome his progress report, and the steps taken so far in its implementation. We also congratulate the Secretary-General on having delivered a strategic action plan on the participation of women in peacebuilding. The Nordic countries fully support its clear recommendations and comprehensive approach, and stand ready to do their part in fulfilling these measures.

The Nordic countries believe that the following recommendations deserve particular attention: first, inclusive participation as a key to legitimate and sustainable peace; secondly, adequate and timely financing of the post-conflict needs of men and women alike; and thirdly, improving the response of the system as a whole in the immediate aftermath of a conflict.

As the Secretary-General notes in his report, rebuilding after a conflict offers an opportunity to create a virtuous cycle, starting from more inclusive peace processes. The report also draws an important link between women's participation and the wider question of gender equality. Women need to be included in all phases of peace processes and in post-conflict governance institutions. Outside actors cannot dictate the composition of the negotiating delegations, but there is a lot that can be done. Peace mediators and their supporting teams can ensure that sufficient gender expertise is provided to the parties; they can also organize parallel consultations with women's groups if they do not have a seat at the table.

Special measures might also be needed to support women's representation in the governance institutions that emerge after a conflict. The United Nations often acts as the adviser in crucial decisions, such as the composition of constituent assemblies or the choice of electoral system, including possibilities for quotas or preferential treatment. We believe that such measures can be effective and justified in ensuring more legitimate State institutions, thus leading to a more durable peace.

Timely, flexible and predictable funding is necessary to successful post-conflict State-building. Steps have been taken during the past 12 months to shape the Peacebuilding Fund based on the new terms of reference. Considerable work has also been undertaken in the context of the International Network on Conflict and Fragility of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development. The success of this challenging work, however, will largely depend on the cooperation of donors, partner countries, the United Nations and other international organizations and funds.

We congratulate the Secretary-General on committing the United Nations system to ensuring that at least 15 per cent of United Nations-managed funds in support of peacebuilding are dedicated to projects whose principal objective is to address women's specific needs, advance gender equality or empower women. As donors, we are happy that the Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) is already employing a gender marker and that Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery of the United Nations Development Programme is already exceeding the target of 15 per cent. However, in all United Nations post-conflict multi-donor trust funds, the proportion is far behind the target. We encourage the United Nations to work towards the target of 15 per cent.

A coherent early response requires clearly defined roles and strong partnerships from the United Nations and other international actors. A lot has been achieved in the field of leadership and accountability and in developing tools for integrated strategic frameworks. Nevertheless, further efforts are needed, especially regarding partnerships with international financial institutions.

The ongoing review of civilian capacities is a key component of reforming United Nations support to countries emerging from conflict. We are encouraged by the breadth and depth of the review, and look forward to the upcoming report. Its recommendations are needed to make sure that the international community can deploy the right type of support and expertise at the right time. The Nordic countries remain committed to making the review a success.

The Secretary-General's action plan on ensuring the participation of women in peacebuilding offers a good example of a system-wide strategy. We welcome the establishment of UN Women and congratulate Michelle Bachelet on her appointment as Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director. We pledge our full support to Ms. Bachelet and hope that UN Women will have a leading role in the area of women, peace and security. The full collaboration of all relevant United Nations actors — such as the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, the Department of Political Affairs and the Development Operations Coordination Office — will be fundamental to ensuring the implementation of a system-wide approach.

Finally, I would like to conclude by commending the excellent work of the three facilitators of this year's review of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture. The consultations showed that we may not have come as far as we had hoped. Nevertheless, the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC), the PBF and the Peacebuilding Support Office have to some extent helped to fill what the Secretary-General in 2005 called a "gaping hole" in the United Nations machinery. We welcome the facilitators' report (S/2010/393, annex) and look forward to seeing continued strong leadership from the Secretary-General in taking the peacebuilding reform processes forward.

Speaking here in the Security Council, the Nordic countries would like to highlight the report's observations that there is potential to create a new dynamic between a more forthcoming Security Council and a better performing PBC. In particular, we support the recommendations that the Council benefit from PBC advice at an early stage in the framing of peacekeeping mandates, when mandates are renewed, and as drawdown approaches.

We look forward to discussing the report in more detail at a future date and guarantee that the Nordic countries will remain committed partners in making the PBC and the United Nations peacebuilding architecture a success.