

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

Statement by H.E. Mr. Emmanuel Isoze-Ngondet, Permanent Representative of Gabon to the United Nations

I wish to start by extending to you, Mr. President, the most heartfelt congratulations of my delegation upon Uganda's assumption of the presidency of the Security Council. We all know Uganda's consistent interest in the issues of international peace and security. The choice of subject for today's debate on peacebuilding, Sir, clearly shows your country's commitment.

I should also like to welcome the presence of the Secretary-General at this debate and to convey to him my gratitude for his two reports — on peacebuilding in the immediate aftermath of conflict (S/2010/386) and women's participation in peacebuilding (S/2010/466).

I would also like to convey my gratitude to Ambassador Peter Wittig, Chairperson of the Peacebuilding Commission, for all the information he provided to us. I pay tribute to the outstanding work which he has carried out at the head of the Commission.

Our debate takes place at a time when we are assessing peacebuilding experiences in Burundi, Guinea-Bissau, the Central African Republic and Sierra Leone, within the framework of the Peacebuilding Commission. This exercise affords us an opportunity to re-examine the missions entrusted to this body and to rethink our overall peacebuilding strategy on the basis of a cohesive, coordinated and integrated approach which gives pride of place to mechanisms of national and regional ownership in the reconstruction process. That is the thrust of the new United Nations peacebuilding agenda for action proposed to us by the Secretary-General in the report submitted for our consideration, and my country fully backs it.

This new agenda, in our view, meets the need, on the one hand, to tailor peacekeeping operations to needs on the ground and, on the other, to take into account all aspects of post-conflict peacebuilding. Here, my country welcomes the efforts undertaken to those ends in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Chad, Timor-Leste and Afghanistan, to limit myself to these few examples. The same applies to post-disaster Haiti, following the horrible disaster that struck that country at the beginning of this year.

The comprehensive and integrated approach with a view to lasting peace does not end at guaranteeing political and security stability. It must also be supported by measures aimed at laying the foundations for sustainable development and lasting democracy, while strengthening, in particular, the political, judicial and institutional architecture as well as the economic and social fabric in a post-conflict country.

A number of examples illustrate the effectiveness of this approach. It is true of the elections held in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Liberia and, recently, Burundi. It is also true of the strengthening of judicial and police institutions in Liberia and Sierra Leone, as well as the creation of development poles in the Central African Republic.

The statements we have just heard illustrate the extent to which peacebuilding is a complex and multifaceted endeavour. It demands the constant effort of the international community in collaboration with national authorities and, of course, an intensive mobilization of significant human and financial resources. To this end, the Peacebuilding Commission will have to continue to bolster its action on the ground and strengthen its partnerships with international financial institutions and regional organizations. The contribution of bilateral and multilateral donors is vital in this regard.

Accordingly, we can only encourage the stepped-up action by the European Union and the World Bank in favour of peacebuilding undertaken by our Organization. We call for greater cooperation with the African Union and the various regional economic communities in Africa.

The Council will agree that there can be no lasting peace in post-conflict countries unless women are effectively involved in the stabilization and development processes of these countries. This is addressed in resolution 1325 (2000), whose tenth anniversary we mark this month. To date, the success of this resolution is reflected in the

increased participation of women in peace processes. Today, one notes the increased number of women heading peace missions and civilian components of peacekeeping operations. We are gratified by the fact that the Secretary-General's action plan for gender-responsible peacebuilding is part and parcel of the Council's approach aimed at bolstering the involvement of women in post-conflict peace and reconstruction efforts.

This plan provides Member States with a solid and credible foundation for meeting their commitments on implementing relevant Security Council resolutions.

This is the right time and place to pay tribute to the role played by civil society organizations in making States more aware of the importance of involving women in peacebuilding activities.

I cherish the hope that the setting up this year of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, better known as "UN Women", headed by Ms. Michelle Bachelet, will, amongst its other missions, back this very important development. I wish to reaffirm Gabon's readiness to work side by side with UN Women in developing this approach.

I should like to conclude by voicing my delegation's backing for the presidential statement which we will adopt following this debate.