

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

Statement by H.E. Mr Tsuneo Nishida, Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations

I would like to thank the Secretary-General and Mr. Wittig, Chairperson of the Peacebuilding Commission and the Permanent Representative of Germany, for their respective briefings on peacebuilding in the immediate aftermath of conflict and on women's participation in peacebuilding. Japan also appreciates the President's initiative to convene this very important debate on post-conflict peacebuilding following the ministerial-level discussion in April and the Security Council summit held last month (see S/PV.6389).

Japan welcomes the report of the Secretary-General (S/2010/386) on the implementation of the agenda outlined in his 2009 report (S/2009/304). His observations are all certainly relevant. We look forward to further progress on all priority items set forth.

Among other things, Japan would like to highlight the following three points, with a view to filling in gaps in the process of transition from peacekeeping to peacebuilding.

First, in the light of the utmost importance of national capacity development, more robust action is needed in mainstreaming it as a system-wide priority and in integrating short-term interventions into longer-term strategies for peacebuilding. As shown in dire cases such as Timor-Leste and Liberia, exit strategies rely on national security capabilities.

Secondly, Japan stresses the need for the United Nations system as a whole to clarify the division of roles for engaging in post-conflict peacebuilding. In that regard, Japan calls upon the Secretariat to complete the reviews in the remaining sectors of the six key peacebuilding sectors, in particular the areas of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration and security sector reform, as early as possible. Based on the outcome of the reviews, we should embark upon establishing a better coordinated system to increase the effectiveness of United Nations support on the ground.

Thirdly, since its establishment in 2005, the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) has made steady progress, but we believe the Commission should further develop its functions. First and foremost, it is essential that the PBC identify peacebuilding priorities in a timely manner through consultation with post-conflict countries and facilitate the necessary support from the international community, as appropriate. Japan is ready to take an active part in the discussion of the PBC review, taking into account the report submitted by the three co-facilitators, from Mexico, Ireland and South Africa (S/2010/393, annex).

Finally, with regard to the transition process, I would like to stress the importance of strengthening the PBC's advisory function vis-à-vis the Security Council. In a recent note by the Council President on working methods (S/2010/507), the Council expressed its intention to invite, as appropriate, the Chairs of the country-specific configurations of the PBC to participate in formal meetings of the Council at which the situation concerning the country in question is considered, or on a case-by-case basis, for an exchange of views in an informal dialogue. Japan hopes that deepened substantive discussions between the two organs will lead to a better United Nations impact on the ground. In that regard, Japan proposes to explore the possibility of holding such an informal dialogue before the end of this year in an appropriate manner.

Japan welcomes the Secretary-General's report on women's participation in peacebuilding (S/2010/466). We expect that the Secretary-General will steadfastly implement the action plan for gender-responsive peacebuilding to which he committed in the report, as part of his comprehensive agenda to improve United Nations peacebuilding efforts. The Security Council will commemorate the tenth anniversary of its landmark resolution 1325 (2000) later this month. In that connection, the Council should conduct a substantive review of the implementation of the action plan and its peacebuilding agenda in order to further mainstream the issue of women and peace and security in the Council's overall agenda over the next decade.

Japan very much expects that the newly established United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) will play an important role through the implementation of both policies and programmes. The agenda regarding women and peace and security, including women's

participation in peacebuilding, should be addressed by coordinating the relevant United Nations activities effectively and efficiently. Japan will actively contribute to the activities of UN Women while continuing to support the enhancement of women's participation in peacebuilding, including, inter alia, through the economic empowerment of women in post-conflict situations from the perspective of human security.