

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

Statement by H.E. Mr. Shanker Das Bairagi, Deputy Permanent Representative of Nepal to the United Nations

Let me congratulate you, Mr. President, on your assumption of the presidency of the Council for the month of October. I would also like to take this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation to you for organizing this timely meeting. I also thank the Secretary-General for presenting his comprehensive report on peacebuilding in the immediate aftermath of conflict (S/2010/386) and on women's participation in peacebuilding (S/2010/466).

Building peace is far more than just making and keeping the peace. It is a multifaceted and long-term task that requires national commitment, ownership and coordinated, coherent and integrated international support. Building national capacity to take charge of governance and development activities is fundamental to the peacebuilding task. Peacebuilding interposes itself between security and development, and it takes the two aspects together to ensure the sustainability of peace in countries emerging from conflict. It is therefore important that we look at both aspects clearly and coherently.

A one-size-fits-all approach does not work in peacebuilding. The international community has to look into the socio-cultural, economic and political aspects with deep insight in order to ensure the success of the mission. Continued political dialogues among stakeholders, disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, security sector reforms, legislative reform and institution-building for governance are part of the transformation process.

The working group on lessons learned of the Peacebuilding Commission has come out with a recommendation that the implementation of quick- impact projects is critically important. This is necessary to deliver something concrete for conflict- stricken people in the form of peace dividends. Unemployed youth in the immediate aftermath of conflict are a great source of trouble and violence. Youth employment, income-generating rural work and essential services must receive the highest priority. This will greatly contribute to creating an environment for sustained peace and economic growth.

The efforts of the national and international community in the early post-conflict period should ensure predictable support in the core areas of peacebuilding, namely, basic safety and security, support to the political process, the provision of basic services, restoring core government functions and economic revitalization. A fair balance between them is necessary to quickly stabilize the situation.

The United Nations is not a lone player in the field of peacebuilding. International financial institutions, particularly the World Bank, regional organizations and civil society organizations have important roles to play on their respective fields. To strengthen the coordination between the United Nations and the World Bank, my delegation supports the call for creating a mechanism for regular, headquarters-level consultations on crisis and post- crisis countries of common concern on the basis of the 2008 Partnership Framework Agreement.

Women should not be on the receiving end of the pains of conflict, with all the psycho-social trauma and stigmatization that entails. They are peacemakers and they are the very foundation of social cohesion and the long-term sustainability of peace. They are an inherent part of the reconstruction and rebuilding of any country. The adoption of resolutions 1325 (2000) and 1820 (2008) have not only drawn the attention of all Member States to act concertedly for protecting women and children from violence during conflicts, but also emphasized the role of women as peacemakers and peacebuilders.

The report of the Secretary-General rightly identified women's role as partners in shoring up the three pillars of lasting peace: economic recovery, social cohesion and political legitimacy. We support a greater role for women in peacebuilding, including the promotion of gender equality within the work of the United Nations. The legal provision for ensuring women's representation in political bodies, gender mainstreaming, empowerment, affirmative action and targeted programmes are some of the essential measures to bring women to the forefront of every walk of life.

The 2010 review process of the Peacebuilding Commission has provided an excellent opportunity to engage all Member States and other interested stakeholders in seriously taking stock of the achievements and constraints of the United Nations involvement in peacebuilding. The time has come to redouble our efforts to make the United Nations peacebuilding architecture more effective and efficient in order to meet the aspirations of conflict-stricken people for peace, stability and sustained economic growth. They need constant attention here and an enhanced level of support to stabilize the situation and make peace sustainable.

We believe that the Peacebuilding Commission needs to be fully consulted by the Security Council whenever the country in question is discussed here. As the Peacebuilding Commission's co-parents, we have also asked for stronger coordination with the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council. Similarly, we call for the integration of peacebuilding work in peacekeeping operations early on, so that early efforts at peacebuilding-related work will help stabilize the situation sooner rather than later.