

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

Statement by H.E Mr. Gonzalo Gutiérrez, Permanent Representative of Peru to the United Nations

I wish to thank you, Sir, for convening this debate and for the opportunity it provides to continue to contribute to the objective of achieving an Organization that is better prepared to meet its primary responsibility of maintaining international peace. My delegation endorses what was said by Mr. Peter Wittig, Permanent Representative of Germany and Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC), of which Peru is honoured to be a member. Likewise, my delegation endorses the statement to be made by Mr. Abulkalam Abdul Momen, Permanent Representative of Bangladesh, on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

Allow me to focus now on a few points. The Secretary-General's plan of action and his subsequent reports give us a clear guide as to where we should direct our efforts in order to achieve sustainable peace in a more prompt and efficient manner. We are aware that we must enhance our efforts and use our available resources more efficiently, which calls for better planning and response capacity.

Therefore, in each case we must ascertain priorities and needs for peacebuilding in the five priority areas set out by the Secretary-General, and act upon them in parallel. Those areas are basic safety and security, including justice and respect for the rule of law; confidence in the political process so as to restore essential governmental functions and institutions; support for the provision of basic services; support for the functioning of public administration; and support for economic revitalization. That analysis must be undertaken with the direct and early involvement of national actors along with the Peacebuilding Commission. As the Secretary-General has stated in his reports, peacebuilding is first and foremost a national responsibility and a process of national empowerment, and the response of the international community must be channelled through a strategic, coordinated and integrated approach, on the basis of national priorities.

That highlights two factors: the development or strengthening of national capacity and the preventive dimension. It is essential that from the initial deployment of a United Nations mission in a post- conflict situation, national capacity be developed or strengthened. In this regard, it is important to remember that strengthening or developing national capacity — as is true of international civilian capacity — should follow the need-driven approach, as was pointed out by Mr. Jean-Marie Guéhenno, Chair of the Secretary-General's Senior Advisory Group for the Review of International Civilian Capacities, when it met last week with the PBC.

As the co-facilitators noted in their report on the review of the PBC (S/2010/393, annex), the national empowerment process is closely linked to the horizontal and multidisciplinary reinforcement of the national capacity for full involvement in peacebuilding efforts.

The empowerment of women and the gender perspective are a key element in generating capacity and in the peacebuilding process, as the report of the Secretary-General notes. It is no coincidence that, as the Secretary-General points out, women's post- conflict needs resemble the five recurring priorities that we have just mentioned. An analysis of women's

needs and the strengthening of their overall participation in peacebuilding processes will also facilitate clearer awareness of the causes of the conflict, which is significant in planning the response strategy, mobilizing resources and identifying measures to enhance the confidence of the local people to the peace process and their commitment to it.

Hence, national capacity is important not only in order to ensure the transition towards peace, but also as a measure to prevent the recurrence of conflict. In that context, particular attention should also be paid to creating jobs and training the unemployed or under-employed young people, who constitute a high risk factor for disrupting the peace process.

We must also mention the links that exist between the Millennium Development Goals and peacebuilding processes, particularly with regard to the role of women in peace processes and in priority areas. That is because, as previously stated in this Chamber, progress in implementing the Development Goals clearly contributes to, and lays the basis for, lasting and comprehensive peace, as well as avoiding resumption of conflict.

In any peacebuilding process, I would like to reiterate the fundamental role of the PBC in drafting comprehensive regional strategies, including prevention strategies. The PBC must retain its role as an advisory and catalyzing body within the system, a body that ensures the coherence, flexibility and effectiveness of the work of the United Nations in peacebuilding processes and in the implementation of the Secretary-General's plan of action.

Finally, I would like to state that my country very strongly supports the draft presidential statement that you, Sir, intend to issue on this subject as a statement of the Security Council.