

Security Council Open Debate on Post-Conflict Peacebuilding: Institution Building
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Statement by H.E. Mr. Kim Bonghyun, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations

At the outset, I would like express my appreciation to you, Madame President, for organizing this meaningful open debate on post-conflict peacebuilding and institution- building.

The scourge of armed conflict causes massive loss of life and unquantifiable societal loss. At the same time, it also severely destroys the key institutions of the nation and, eventually, the Government cannot function properly in support of the daily life of the people. Sixty years ago, the Republic of Korea suffered a devastating and sustained conflict. Therefore, we recognize that fact all too well.

After the cessation of conflict, the building of institutions should commence at the earliest possible juncture. Indeed, post-conflict institution-building should be part of a holistic peacebuilding approach. Working side by side with humanitarian relief and long-term development assistance are important features. The window of opportunity in post-conflict situations is short-lived. Therefore, it must be seized upon to prevent a relapse into violence, which happens mostly within the first decade following a conflict.

To harness the synergy and increase the possibility of success on the ground, peacekeeping, peacebuilding and sustainable development should be pursued in parallel. In addition, both entry and exit strategies need to be planned from the initial stages, as well.

Peacebuilding operations should be executed in a way to further strengthen and respect national ownership and the priorities of the recipient countries. The ultimate goal of peacebuilding is to stabilize the post-conflict situation and to establish a basis for long- term sustainable development. Institution-building is inherent in that formula for success. To that end, international organizations, financial institutions and civil society also have an integral role to play.

In that regard, partnership among all stakeholders should be strengthened, with the Peacebuilding Commission playing the role of facilitator. Within the United Nations system, relations among the Commission, the Security Council and the General Assembly need to be further defined in a more strategic and coordinated manner. Outside the United Nations system, we need to make further efforts to establish constructive relations with the Bretton Woods institutions, including the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, as well as regional and non-governmental organizations. Considering the increasing role of the private sector in the peacebuilding arena, we also need to continuously engage civil society and other players in the private sector.

Institution-building must ensure that the basic capacity of a nation is restored at the earliest possible time in order to stabilize the fragile post-conflict situation. The rule of law, effective governance and security-sector reform are the areas that require the highest priority. Our efforts in any new peacebuilding area of responsibility need to be focused on restoring those basic functions of a country for both short-term and longer-term sustainable success.

Once again, closer linkage and coordination between the Security Council and the Peacebuilding Commission is crucial in carrying out peacebuilding mandates and helping countries to meet multifaceted post-conflict demands in the field. The challenges identified during the first few years of the Commission's operation only reinforce the importance and critical value of this linkage. Consolidating and bolstering this relationship will help rebuild lasting institutions in post-conflict areas.

An essential goal of peacebuilding is to present a blueprint of political and socio-economic development for the recipient country, with due consideration to both its potentials and limits. In this process, the building of sustainable institutions is the fundamental groundwork for a country to effectively recover from conflict. In conjunction with effective institution- building, we believe that particular emphasis should be placed in the areas of vocational training and education for youth in order to ensure a more prosperous future for all.

In bringing my remarks to a close, I would like to highlight that just half century ago, the Republic of Korea was a country striving to recover from a devastating war. With the timely and efficient assistance of the

international community and the United Nations, we were able to attain stability and development in a relatively short period. From our own experience, we understand and value the importance of institution-building activities.

Against that backdrop, Korea has been contributing to the Peacebuilding Fund on a regular basis and has been a member of the Organizational Committee of the Peacebuilding Commission during the past few years. We hope that Korea's peacebuilding activities within the United Nations will offer a valuable opportunity for us to utilize our past experiences. We want to help facilitate the efforts of post-conflict countries to rebuild and develop their institutions and societies and, in turn, the dreams of future generations.