

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

Statement by H.E. Mr. Vitaly Churkin, Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations

We are grateful to the Ugandan delegation for organizing this Council meeting on the topic of post-conflict peacebuilding. The complex nature of the tasks that face States going through the “hot” phase of a crisis requires a balanced strategy for carrying them out, one based on the interconnectedness of security, social and economic development and human rights- related issues. A holistic approach is needed, based on united, objective and predictable logistical and financial sources, effectively pooled stabilizing action, close coordination, taking regional contexts into consideration and the maximum possible use of the potential of regional organizations.

That is how we view the Secretary-General’s report on peacebuilding in the immediate aftermath of conflict (S/2010/386). Many of its ideas and proposals are rational, in our view.

It is clear that peacebuilding activity must be based on the principle of national responsibility for approaches to implementing it. The success of peacebuilding efforts in the Middle East, Afghanistan, Africa, Haiti and Timor-Leste results from taking into account the interests and priorities of the host countries. Any assistance from the international community, regardless of the form it takes, should be at the consent of national Governments, with respect for the principles of sovereignty and territorial integrity.

It is important to be mindful of the specifics that apply to each individual State. A key component of successful post-conflict peacebuilding is strengthening national and social potentials.

Undoubtedly, the United Nations has a special role in coordinating international post-conflict rehabilitation efforts. We understand well that such action implies a great many difficulties and requires coordinated efforts on the part of the United Nations Secretariat, programmes and funds, from Member States, regional organizations and international financial institutions. Such difficulties include, as the report discusses, fragmented and insufficient coordination, irrational division of labour among peacebuilding stakeholders and shortcomings in financing mechanisms.

That is why we support the Secretary-General’s efforts to bolster, in accordance with the existing mandate, the coordinating role of the United Nations in key peacebuilding areas. They include combating organized crime and drug trafficking, incorporating post-conflict needs-assessment practices, international civil capacity reviews and the creation and training of United Nations teams of experts, while observing the most equitable possible geographical representation.

Many early peacebuilding tasks now fall to United Nations peacekeeping operations. While carrying out their main mission — the advancement of the peace process — United Nations peacekeepers play a critical role in establishing conditions conducive to the provision of larger-scale peacebuilding assistance. We should bear in mind, however, that peacebuilding is a lengthy and multifaceted process, far exceeding the time taken by peacekeeping operations.

We attach great importance to the Peacebuilding Fund as an emergency financing mechanism that promotes the involvement of long-term reconstruction and development mechanisms. We support our position with an annual contribution to the Fund of \$2 million.

We continue to study the Secretary-General’s report on women and peacebuilding (S/2010/466). A number of its ideas and proposals are of clear interest and can be put into practice. Excessive haste, however, is not a good idea here. As the report indicates, the implementation of its proposals will require a review of a whole range of procedures as well as changes to programme planning. We stand ready to continue to work on the Secretary-General’s proposals.

We endorse the adoption of the presidential statement prepared by the Ugandan delegation.