

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

Statement by H.E. Ambassador Baso Sangqu, Permanent Representative of South Africa to the United Nations

Mr. President,

Allow me to join others in congratulating you on assuming the Presidency of the Security Council this month. We thank you for organizing this important debate and also thank the Secretary-General for his Reports on Peacebuilding in the immediate aftermath of conflict (A/64/866-S/2010/386) and Women's participation in Peacebuilding (S/2010/466).

We also thank the Secretary-General, Mr. Ban Ki-Moon and the Chair of the Organisational Committee of the Peacebuilding Commission, Ambassador Wittig for their briefings.

This debate comes at a critical time for peacebuilding as evidenced by the centre stage that peacebuilding has taken in the international discourse including the review of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC).

Mr. President,

Despite the multiplicity of peacebuilding efforts by the UN and other role players, it would seem that – as revealed by the Secretary-General in his report – we are making good progress. But there is still a lot of work that needs to be done. Countries emerging from conflict face a multitude of challenges and need international assistance. However, these countries should be given space to identify priorities that could anchor peace and show dividends. In short, national ownership should remain the foundation upon which all peacebuilding endeavours are predicated.

Mr. President,

The Secretary-General's report reveals that some ground has been covered in the areas of leadership and accountability as they relate to post-conflict peacebuilding. We are pleased to note progress in the efforts to bridge leadership gaps in field missions, especially in Haiti, Somalia, Chad, Cote d'Ivoire and Afghanistan.

Mr. President,

Development cannot take place without peace and vice versa. These two are mutually reinforcing and should be pursued simultaneously. In this relation, we believe that integrated strategic frameworks should be holistic and coherent, and most importantly be organic to the context in which they are to be applied.

South Africa strongly supports the call for greater collaboration, coordination and interaction between various role-players such as the International Financial Institutions, the private sector, local communities, regional organisations, the UN, Donors and National authorities in addressing national priorities in post-conflict situations. In this regard, the development of civilian capacities should play a major role in supporting and developing critical areas for post-conflict peace consolidation such as strengthening the Rule of Law and Security Sector Reform. We call on the donor community to align their funding and programmes with the economic and social recovery programmes of the national governments so as to ensure sustainability, greater coordination and effectiveness.

Mr. President,

We continue to underscore the importance of building local capacities and provide training in order to enhance the already existing capacities at national levels, as these are in the majority of instances ready, available and willing to participate actively in the reconstruction of their countries.

In this respect, timely and predictable financing remains crucial in realising the objectives of peacebuilding. This will indeed require resources beyond the funding capacity of the Peacebuilding Fund. The UN must therefore look at innovative ways of funding peacebuilding programmes and activities. We should continue to explore

assessed contributions as a means of kick-starting peacebuilding activities as missions transition from peacekeeping to peacebuilding. Additionally, in light of the ongoing debate on the nexus between peacekeeping and peacebuilding, South Africa reiterates the view that peacebuilding elements should be integrated into peacekeeping mandates. We welcome the Council's expressed willingness as stated in the draft PRST, "to make greater use of the Peacebuilding Commission's advisory role". The PBC review has generated serious political momentum which must be maintained and sustained.

Mr. President,

We welcome the progress made by the PBC in strengthening its partnerships with the regional organisations in particular the efforts to institutionalise its relationship with the African Union. The UN will stand to benefit from closer interaction with regional organisations such as the African Union with regard to preventative, peacemaking and peacebuilding activities. In fact, it is an established view that countries that are closer to the countries emerging from conflict have better knowledge of the situation in these countries.

Mr. President,

My delegation has noted the report of the Secretary-General on Women's participation in Peacebuilding. Women can play an important role as agents of change and South Africa has always viewed the participation of women in post-conflict situations as critical to the attainment of peace. To this end, the adoption of Resolution 1325 in 2000, whose tenth anniversary we are about to commemorate later this month, was a response to the need to fully involve women in promoting peace and playing a pivotal role in post-conflict reconstruction and development of their countries. We remain convinced that women should be provided with the necessary support to be able to play an effective and visible role in providing leadership for peacebuilding and full participation in the development processes of their countries.

In conclusion, Mr. President, we welcome the adoption of the draft PRST on post-conflict peacebuilding and further emphasise that South Africa remains committed to the UN's efforts towards sustainable peace. South Africa will continue to work in unison with the international community in its quest to prevent conflict where it has not yet occurred, find lasting solutions where conflict still persists and consolidate peace where open conflict has ceased.

I thank you.