

Security Council Open Debate on Post-Conflict Peacebuilding: Institution Building
21st January 2011, Security Council Chamber (GA-TSC-01)

Statement by Mr. Yuriy Vitrenko, Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations

I thank you, Mr. President, for holding this important debate and wish you every success in fulfilling the highly responsible duties of Security Council President.

Our appreciation also goes to Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and the Deputy Prime Minister of Timor-Leste, His Excellency Mr. José Luís Guterres, for their insights into today's topic. Ukraine's long record of participation in United Nations peacekeeping and peacebuilding efforts in Timor-Leste and almost 20 other States, including most of the Group of Seven Plus countries, makes this debate quite relevant for my country.

Ukraine aligns itself with the statement of the European Union. As a member of the Organizational Committee of the Peacebuilding Commission, my delegation supports the statement delivered by the Commission's Chair, Mr. Peter Wittig, the Permanent Representative of Germany. I would also like to make a few brief points in my national capacity.

First, we fully agree with the philosophy of the concept paper (S/2011/16, annex) before us that national ownership is an indispensable condition for the establishment of effective core State capacities, leading to the creation of a stable and viable State. My delegation also recognizes that the purpose of institution-building is to reduce the dependence of post-conflict Governments on the international community and to promote self-reliance. Yet the fact that the majority of post-conflict countries relapse into violence within 10 years leaves no doubt about the need for extreme prudence in planning the transition of responsibilities from the international community to national authorities, especially in the security sector.

Secondly, consensus between domestic and international stakeholders on a broad peacebuilding agenda is a sine qua non for the success of the institution-building and peacebuilding endeavour as a whole. If there is a lack of understanding on either side, there will be no chemistry between them and, ultimately, no tangible progress in securing lasting peace.

Thirdly, given the crucial significance of postconflict institution-building to the success of the overall peacebuilding efforts, my delegation shares the belief in the necessity of integrating the institutionbuilding perspective, tailored to each country and situation, into the mandates of respective United Nations missions from their early stages.

Fourthly, we believe in the transformative power of the relevant regional and subregional organizations in connection with peacebuilding. Nowhere are the benefits of this soft power more evident than in Europe, with the European Union as a case in point. There is a great deal of transformative potential with other European bodies, such as the Council of Europe and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). That is why we see merit in exploring the idea of putting together the best practices and lessons learned of these organizations and sharing them, wherever appropriate, with interested partners in other regions. As a prospective Chair of both the Council of Europe and the OSCE, in May to November 2011 and in 2013, respectively, Ukraine is ready to do its share.

Fifthly, the Peacebuilding Commission is ideally placed to bring together external State and non-State actors with the aim of securing the creation of credible, legitimate, accountable and resilient institutions in countries emerging from conflict. In view of this, the Peacebuilding Commission should play a leading role in enabling the United Nations system to establish an integrated approach to institution-building. If the Commission is to be fully up to this task, greater synergy between the Security Council, General Assembly, Economic and Social Council and Peacebuilding Commission is needed.

Having a long, solid record of contributing to peacebuilding through active military and police engagement in missions under the auspices of the United Nations, Ukraine could be instrumental in assisting the advancement of the institution-building agenda. My country has capacity and is open to considering providing civilian expertise, particularly in the areas of justice, security sector reform and governance, and the training of domestic professionals from fragile States with the aim of further boosting their local civil service capacities.

The concept paper rightly notes the supporting — yet in some cases instrumental — role of humanitarian relief and rehabilitation assistance, especially in the immediate aftermath of conflict or humanitarian disaster. In this respect, Ukraine is proud of its contribution to the Central Emergency Response Fund in response to the United Nations appeal for Haiti.

Today's debate will be taken into account by my delegation in the context of Ukraine's current membership in the Peacebuilding Commission, the Economic and Social Council, UN-Women and other relevant organs. It will also serve as a valuable reference in the case of Ukraine's election to the Security Council for the term of 2016-2017.