

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

Statement by Mr. Jorge Argüello, Permanent Representative of Argentina to the United Nations

I know that I am the last speaker this afternoon, so I will be brief. In any event, I should like to begin by saying that Argentina always welcomes the opportunity to participate in the open debates of the Security Council.

The United Nations, and the Security Council in particular, have a key responsibility in the maintenance of international peace and security. They have a central role to play in post-conflict situations, building lasting peace, and establishing a sound foundation for sustainable development.

One major challenge faced today by the international community, and the United Nations in particular, is supporting countries recovering from conflict and seeking to build peace. As the Secretary-General underscores in his report, an effective response by the Organization requires a comprehensive and coordinated strategy that is based on the identification of priorities by local authorities and establishes clear objectives and timelines. That task requires the development of assistance activities in the humanitarian field, politics, security, the restoration of the rule of law, the promotion of development, and the protection and promotion of human rights. The task ahead is therefore enormous.

In considering the matter at hand, I should like to focus on three central aspects.

First, we believe that peacebuilding is primarily a national task and responsibility. Clearly, faced with diminished or destroyed local capacities in the wake of a conflict, we need to rely on the support of the international community. International, regional, subregional and non-governmental organizations have a central role to play in developing institutions, but always based on guidance and priorities established by local authorities. We underscore the importance of the participation and responsibility of authorities in the country emerging from conflict in the design phase of a comprehensive peacebuilding strategy and in identifying priorities and resources to be used in that strategy. These authorities will be involved throughout the entire rebuilding process, ensuring a consensual response in addressing the true causes of conflict more effectively and legitimately. In that regard, I would like to underscore the point made by the Deputy Prime Minister Guterres to the effect that a nation cannot be built on the basis of another nation, since there is no common model that can be applied to all.

Secondly, I wish to note the statement in the concept paper prepared by the delegation of Bosnia and Herzegovina for this debate that “it is... too late to start developing institutional capacities when peacebuilding efforts are already at the exit strategy phase” (*S/2011/16, annex, p. 2*). On the contrary, it is immediately following a conflict that there are the greatest challenges to and the greatest opportunities for starting institution-building.

As I have said on many occasions in this Council on behalf of my delegation, in particular in reference to the situation of Haiti, we must promote peacebuilding so that the presence of the United Nations and the international community will not be necessary. The fact that local authorities have the institutional capacity to shoulder their responsibilities will be the gauge of the success of the Organization’s work.

Finally, I wish to stress the important role played by regional and subregional organizations in conflict prevention, management and resolution, in line with the provisions of Chapter VIII of the United Nations Charter and the need to strengthen the capacities of regional systems to support countries in post-conflict recovery and reconstruction.

In addition, I underscore the key role of the Organization in post-conflict peacebuilding and its privileged position in coordinating the international community’s various initiatives, ensuring that all efforts contribute to the goal of institution-building and are in line with national priorities.