

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

Statement by Mr. Garen Nazarian, Permanent Representative of Armenia to the United Nations

I would like to express our appreciation for the organization of this open debate, as well as to thank you personally, Madame President, for the opportunity to share our views on this important subject.

The frequency with which the Security Council addresses post-conflict peacebuilding signals, first, the importance that the international community attaches to the issue as a preventive tool against the recurrence of conflict through the establishment of sustained security and stability, which are prerequisites for the maintenance of peace and development; and, secondly, an acknowledgement of the Council's responsibility to fulfil the commitments undertaken to support countries that have emerged from conflict.

We share the views expressed by many speakers calling for more systematic attention to post-conflict peacebuilding. We believe that this should continue to be frequently reflected in the deliberations of the Security Council.

Time and again we have seen how conflicts re-emerge in the absence of functioning institutions that reflect a common understanding within a society. Although lessons have been learned and various approaches have been refined as the international community has tackled such conflicts, the tendency continues to be for a top-down approach that at times ignores the specific context, roots and causes of a given conflict.

Institution-building, especially in post-conflict countries, must be done at all levels of society, with particular attention paid to the uniqueness of each case, in order to reach consensus and create a governing framework. It is important that the programmes adopted be country-specific, needs-based and target-oriented to ensure continued adherence by the affected population. This would safeguard success and assist the population in building upon existing national capacities in a more consolidated and effective manner.

In that context, effective institution-building during the different phases of the process requires coordination among the Peacebuilding Commission and all relevant actors, including international financial institutions, United Nations entities, regional organizations and civil society, including women, local experts and other stakeholders.

With respect to the relationship between the Peacebuilding Commission and the Security Council, we believe that, given limited resources, they should work closely together and use each other's knowledge and expertise of a specific country's conflict to clearly identify priorities in order to most effectively use such resources towards peacebuilding efforts. For that cooperation to be workable, both bodies must try to be as flexible as possible to address conflicts in a timely and efficient manner, as each conflict will pose unique problems and require specific solutions.

Armenia remains committed to post-conflict peace initiatives and believes that the Council should further advance development initiatives by supporting peacebuilding mechanisms that help countries emerging from conflicts in their recovery, reintegration and reconstruction efforts, which are aimed at creating foundations for sustainable peace and development.

The successful implementation of this agenda requires a basic level of political will and determination on the part of all players as preconditions for peacebuilding. With those political conditions in place, the ability of the United Nations or any other intergovernmental or regional actor will be enhanced and supported.

Armenia therefore welcomes the Bosnian initiative to hold this open debate. This is an opportunity to recap and reflect on our past experiences in dealing with the issue of post-conflict peacebuilding and to highlight priorities for united, practical actions.