

**Security Council Open Debate on the Maintenance of International Peace and Security:  
Interdependence Between Security and Development**  
**11<sup>th</sup> February 2011, Security Council Chamber (GA-TSC-01)**

*Statement by H.E. Mr. Gary Quinlan, Permanent Representative of Australia to the United Nations*

I would like to thank Brazil for convening this important debate, which of course goes to the heart of the United Nations role and responsibilities to help foster conditions for peace, stability, prosperity and economic opportunity for all Member States and their peoples.

All speakers today have reaffirmed that peace, security and development are inextricably linked and require a comprehensive approach. The Security Council has an organic and decisive role to play in that. We see constantly how the lack of development opportunities is one of the fundamental underlying causes of conflict. We have all heard the statistics and are familiar with them — no low-income, fragile or conflict-affected country has yet achieved a single Millennium Development Goal. This fact should be compelling. Lack of development is itself an important contributor to conflict.

When the Council seeks to fulfill its responsibilities under the Charter it must be fully apprised of the root causes of the conflicts before it. The Council must continually seek fresh approaches to interact and work within the United Nations system, including with the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) and institutional financial bodies, in order to fulfill its own responsibilities. This is needed not only during the post-conflict peacebuilding phase, but also as part of the Council's preventive diplomacy tool kit and in its mandate formulation.

Inclusive economic development can help to prevent conflict and its recurrence, as has been stated. Australia has learned from its own work on peace and security issues, particularly in our own region, the importance of taking this comprehensive, whole-of-Government approach that combines development assistance with defence, law enforcement and diplomatic resources.

The Council is obviously not the place to take on the core business of development, and no one is arguing that it should. Various actors must play to their mandates, strengths and comparative advantages. The General Assembly, United Nations committees, United Nations agencies, Member States and others must all do a better job in meeting development goals.

The Council should continue to mandate peacekeeping operations, support peacebuilding activities from the earliest stages of planning and implementation, and give this due attention in the renewal of mission mandates. It should continue to mandate integrated missions to ensure coherent approaches. It should encourage coordination and coherence within mission structures and between missions and other actors. We also need better definition of roles and responsibilities within the United Nations system in key peacebuilding sectors. To properly consider development issues, the Council needs access, as we know, to contextual socio-economic information, and we welcome the Council's request that the Secretary-General include this information in reporting to it.

As mentioned by the Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission, the Permanent Representative of Rwanda, the Commission is a unique organ within the United Nations that brings together security and development actors. It has a key role to play in coordination and in sharing lessons and best practice. We welcome the Council's intention to make greater use of the advisory role of the PBC. We hope that can be strengthened, and we certainly welcome steps to include the participation of PBC country-specific configuration chairs in Council briefings and informal interactive dialogues. This is a relationship that we all need to work at. Australia also encourages greater coordination between the Council and the World Bank, as we have seen today. And we support the comments made by the representative of South Africa on the important role of regional institutions.

Whether we are helping with the immediate task of restoring the rule of law, facilitating basic service delivery or helping build stable institutions for governance and economic growth, obviously we must do so with a view to promoting local leadership and ownership and inclusiveness, particularly of women and youth. We will not have security unless we give balance to promoting development in urban and rural settings alike. As others

have said, it is important to identify from the beginning those activities that are most relevant to securing long-term stability and security, and we agree strongly with comments made by others about the importance of security sector reform and the rule of law.

Briefly, I will mention youth unemployment and the management of natural resources. As we all know and see today, youth unemployment can potentially be one of the most destabilizing elements in any society. We must handle this not only through supply-side activities — training and skills development — but through generating demand. That is easy to say. United Nations agencies and the banks need to give continuing priority to finding creative and effective ways to draw young people into productive society.

We will also not have security unless we ensure sound management of natural resources. As has been pointed out, in so many countries resource wealth has not translated into stability, and resources have had a particular role in fuelling a large number of conflicts. The so-called paradox of plenty is something with which we are all familiar, but little has been done in a coordinated way to see what it means and what can be done about it. This is something that the United Nations has yet to grapple with effectively.

The Intergovernmental Forum on Mining, Minerals, Metals and Sustainable Development, chaired by Malawi, has done good work, including on guidelines, and we welcome the fact that sustainable mining is one of the themes to be addressed at this year's session of the Commission on Sustainable Development.

In the meantime, much can also be achieved at the national level, and the onus does not rest solely with the host country. In many cases, it cannot easily do so. It is a growing priority in Australia's own development assistance to work with countries on natural resource management, including now in Africa. I will stop here without going into detail, but my written statement will say more about that.

In concluding, I would like to reiterate the Secretary-General's own call for stronger coherence by the United Nations across the security/development spectrum and stronger coordination with other actors. It is imperative, as we know, that we turn this enhanced coherence and coordination into a reality in the interests of the huge vulnerable communities of the world — most compellingly, the 1.5 billion people who live in countries affected by recurrent cycles of violence and are living with that violence today.