

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

Statement by H.E. Ms. Maria Ángela Holguín Cuéllar, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Colombia to the United Nations

At the outset, allow me to congratulate you, Mr. President, on your assumption of the presidency of the Security Council for the month of February, as well as to thank you for convening this thematic debate on the interdependence between security and development and for circulating the document that serves as the basis for the discussion of this matter (S/2011/50).

I also convey my thanks to Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon for being here today and for his statement, as well as to the Chairperson of the Peace Building Commission and Ms. Sarah Cliffe, representative from the World Bank, for their reports on their respective areas of responsibility.

We take note of the thematic continuation with regard to the recent debate on institution building (see S/PV.6472) held at the initiative of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Recent United Nations reports give accounts of the transformations that are being seen in the activities of peacekeeping operations on the ground. Police forces and civilian experts are participating ever more frequently and in greater numbers. This trend shows that activities of a strictly military nature are not enough in themselves to take on the task of achieving sustainable peace.

In making the Peacebuilding Commission operational, the Security Council recognized that development, peace and security were interrelated and mutually reinforcing. Likewise, it agreed on the need to take a coordinated, coherent and integrated approach to peacebuilding.

Today's debate on the interdependence between security and development in the context of the responsibilities and situations under the purview of the Security Council is important for establishing the need to consider ways to mainstream or give greater weight to the development dimension in peacekeeping operations.

We must not lose sight of the fact that peacebuilding, as a long-term objective, is a cross-cutting task that must start in the early phases of peacekeeping. This is supported by the need to provide long-term solutions, ensure the sustainability and strengthening of democratic institutions, promote the well-being of the population and prevent cycles of dependence that discourage development.

In that regard, when drafting mandates, the Council could place greater emphasis on the strengthening of coordination activities and structures that have a high impact on the development of national capacities. Such activities are not new in the context of peacekeeping operations. Activities aimed at the strengthening of security institutions, the judicial system and the rule of law, institutional provisions for the protection of civilians and those aimed at disarmament, demobilization and reintegration already play a substantive role in laying the foundations for development. For example, promoting working methods for local employment recovery or adopting business programmes that build on social organization, with an immediate emphasis on women and youth, can be seen as options that do not conflict with peacekeeping goals.

Adequate coordination on development activities among United Nations agencies present on the ground is essential. The Council could adjust peacekeeping operation mandates to address issues in this area and avoid valuable long-term development going to waste.

The Special Representative of the Secretary-General could, in each case, act as a coordinator between peacekeeping and peacebuilding tasks. As part of such a coordination effort, the President of the Security Council could establish a strategic dialogue on specific areas of concern with the Peacebuilding Commission, and through it with the World Bank and other actors.

It is clear that the Council is not the body to make decisions regarding development. Nevertheless, we must not ignore that its decisions have an impact on the long-term development of countries and that this is a fundamental component of any sustainable peace, which is the preeminent purpose set out in the Charter of

the United Nations: to protect future generations from the scourge of war.

The Council could therefore benefit, in its activities related to peacekeeping, from the practice and doctrine of the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly, as well as from the lessons learned from the work of the Peacebuilding Commission. The presence of seven members of the Commission in the Security Council could serve as a bridge for establishing greater communication and consultation on development best practices.

We understand that not all members of the Council have the same financial means. This should not become an obstacle to finding mechanisms that offer long-term solutions. After 65 years of existence, the United Nations must be able to provide for the configuration of comprehensive mechanisms to promote peacebuilding.

The United Nations of the twenty-first century will be relevant as long it responds to the development needs of great sections of the world population. In this regard, it is imperative that the activities of its main organs effect real change, make a meaningful contribution to the well-being of populations and have a genuine impact on situations that have been on their agendas for decades.