

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

*Statement by H.E. Mr. Moungara Moussoisi, Permanent Representative of Gabon to the United Nations*

At the outset, my delegation commends the initiative of Bosnia and Herzegovina to organize this debate on post-conflict peacebuilding, and more specifically on the reconstruction of institutional architecture in countries emerging from conflict. I would also like to express our gratitude to Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and Mr. José Luís Guterres, Deputy Prime Minister of Timor-Leste, for their valuable contributions to the present debate. Allow me finally to thank Ambassador Peter Wittig, Permanent Representative of Germany and Chairperson of the Peacebuilding Commission, for his enlightened leadership in that role.

Peacebuilding is one of the most difficult and complex tasks of the United Nations. Over the years, it has also become one of the most important, insofar as it prevents countries emerging from devastating conflicts from sinking back into violence.

Rebuilding institutional architecture is an extremely critical issue and calls for particular attention, as reflected in today's debate. My delegation would therefore like to focus on three issues we deem to be important: the assistance that the United Nations and the international community as a whole can provide to these countries; the question of national ownership; and aspects relating to partnerships.

Institution-building in post-crisis countries is an important pillar of peacebuilding. This is an issue that must be taken into account as soon as hostilities cease in order to establish viable and lasting peace. Indeed, a number of post-conflict countries lack effective institutions capable of preserving a painfully won peace. In other cases, the pre-existing institutions themselves are the cause of conflict.

The United Nations and the international community must ensure that peace so achieved is preserved. This approach allows for peacebuilding, to prevent any resurgence of conflict, and is fully consistent with my country's conception of conflict prevention.

International assistance, however, should not obscure the responsibility of the authorities and other national actors or their participation in the process aimed at rebuilding the institutions of their country. Assuming that responsibility would lead them to greater ownership of the institution-building process and the strengthening of national capacities.

With regard to issues related to the partnership among the various players in the reconstruction or strengthening of institutions, coherence and coordination among them is necessary to avoid overlapping tasks. In Sierra Leone, for example, the establishment of a single programme for change, bringing together the areas of security, development and policy, has considerably streamlined the work of the administration and has at the same time strengthened the coherence of its actions and the country's taking charge of the peace process.

Coherence must begin at the level of the United Nations, through the clear definition and distribution of tasks among the various bodies involved in efforts to rebuild institutions in post-conflict countries. We welcome the efforts undertaken by the Peacebuilding Commission in that regard. Next, coherence must extend to partnerships with regional and subregional organizations. They are sometimes better placed to resolve some issues and to consider, with the host country, the question of institution-building.

We also welcome the initiatives undertaken by the Peacebuilding Commission to strengthen relations between the United Nations and the World Bank, which have enabled the Bank to take better account of the priority needs of countries such as the Central African Republic during 2010. We encourage the Commission, in its coordinating role, to develop partnerships with all financial and donor institutions able to help the countries on its agenda. The Commission should also involve all actors, including women's organizations.

In their report on the review of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture (S/2010/393, annex), the co-facilitators recommended that special attention be devoted to the partnership between the Security Council and the Peacebuilding Commission. Gabon considers their recommendations a substantial contribution. The Council would stand to benefit from consulting with the Commission throughout all phases of peace

operations, from their preparation through their renewal and to their withdrawal.

As we have often underscored, Gabon believes that the issue of institution-building in countries emerging from armed conflict should be planned for, as circumstances require, when a peacekeeping operation is established. Furthermore, we should not lose sight of the fact that control of the political and security process is, in our view, a central element of the comprehensive peacebuilding strategy. To that end, we urge our financial partners to continue their efforts to finance reconstruction.

We welcome the fact all of those elements have been taken into account in the draft presidential statement that has been submitted to us, which we fully support.