

**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. Mr. Salam, Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations

I would like to thank the delegation of Brazil for organizing this important debate, the first of its kind in the Security Council. Today represents a valuable opportunity to discuss the question of interdependence between security and development. Therefore, allow me to thank Their Excellencies the Ministers from Germany, Colombia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Portugal, India and Gabon for joining us, and as well to thank Ambassador Gasana and Ms. Cliffe for their valuable contributions.

The United Nations, the Bretton Woods institutions, the African Union, the European Union and the Organization of the Islamic Conference have all acknowledged that in an increasingly interconnected world, there is no security without development and no development without security.

Despite that broad conceptual acknowledgment, the political debate continues, first, on the nature of the security-development nexus; secondly, on the types of policies that should be pursued to achieve durable peace, security and sustainable development, including to address the root causes and drivers of conflicts; and thirdly, on the way forward for the Security Council to prevent the eruption or protraction of, or relapse into, violence, given the changing nature of conflicts and the security-development nexus, as well expressed in the concept note prepared by the Mission of Brazil (S/2011/50, annex).

Since the end of the cold war, conflicts have been affecting more civilians, as they have become increasingly entangled with the collapse of State structures, ethnic rivalries, human rights violations and acts of terrorism. Therefore, since 1990 the Council has authorized the deployment of 49 peacekeeping missions, compared with only 18 between 1945 and 1989.

These missions have faced many challenges on the ground, including the severe developmental consequences of armed conflict, particularly among vulnerable populations, whereby societies experiencing civil war and large-scale, violent crime generally achieve lower development outcomes, as expressed in the Concept Note for the World Development Report 2011. The Note also sheds light on some of the root causes of conflict, many of which have developmental dimensions. Indeed, environments with high risks of violence are typically characterized by corruption, inequalities, conflict over natural resources, poverty, high unemployment, weak socio-economic institutions and governance, and vulnerability to shocks. Furthermore, climate change and its environmental consequences are likely to increase the risk of war and conflict, due to the stress they exert on already scarce resources.

Given the interdependence between security and development, peacebuilding has emerged as an important tool for bridging the gap between them. In this context, the Security Council noted as early as 2001 “the need for enhancing peace-building activities by formulating a strategy based on the interdependence between sustainable peace, security and development in all its dimensions” (S/PRST/2001/5, seventh para.).

For example, in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, peacekeeping mandates have increasingly incorporated peacebuilding tasks. The seminar on United Nations peacekeeping held in Rio de Janeiro in June 2010 recognized that peacebuilding and peacekeeping efforts should be implemented in parallel and that peacebuilding should include socio-economic activities, such as youth employment generation, the development of infrastructure and the provision of basic services, which can reduce the risk of relapse into conflict and help maintain stability.

For all the reasons mentioned thus far, one cannot deny the need to promote sustainable development to achieve sustainable peace. Development is a key component in conflict prevention, post-conflict recovery and peacebuilding. Peace cannot be sustained without job creation, equitable ownership of assets, empowerment of women and adequate allocation of resources. Moreover, peace cannot be sustained without enabling a country’s leadership, through appropriate resources, technical capacity and the support of the international community, to unlock those dividends. In that context, we note the example of Burundi. As the Secretary-General clearly stated in his latest report, “Peace, justice and the rule of law cannot be sustained without

development.” (S/2010/608, para. 71).

Let me also mention that the Taif Accord of 1989 — which helped put an end to 15 years of war and violence in my country, Lebanon — illustrates how development can play an important role in post-conflict recovery and peacebuilding. Indeed, one of the foundations of that Accord is the principle of balanced development. Furthermore, key agreed-upon reform included the need to draw a comprehensive and balanced development plan to foster socio-economic development. The Accord also provided for the creation of a socio-economic council for development to enable greater participation of the various socio-economic actors. Another key reform is the commitment to provide education for all, including mandatory primary education and restructuring of the public education system to meet the country’s developmental needs and foster social cohesion.

Experience in Haiti and with other peacekeeping missions has led some troop-contributing countries to the conclusion that mandates need to be adjusted to better reflect the development mission. Once more, the seminar held in Rio supported that conclusion and acknowledged that peacekeepers ought to be involved in socio-economic development activities. Therefore, when socio-economic issues are identified as drivers of conflicts, or as threats to the consolidation of peace, it becomes of the utmost importance for the Council to address those issues. That will indeed require greater cooperation with other United Nations bodies and organs, the international financial institutions and regional and subregional organizations, based on the principle of comparative advantage.