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. Sylvie Lucas, Permanent Representative of Luxembourg to the United Nations

Allow me to congratulate you, Madame, on your initiative in organizing this open debate, which usefully complements previous debates on the conditions necessary to a sustainable end to conflicts and the genuine rebuilding of the countries on the Council's agenda.

Luxembourg fully aligns itself with the statement made on behalf of the European Union.

"There will be no development without security and no security without development. And both development and security also depend on respect for human rights and the rule of law." (A/59/2005, annex, para. 2)

That principle, enunciated in the 2005 report "In larger freedom", is the cornerstone of Luxembourg's commitment to an effective multilateral system with the United Nations at its heart, and it is with that fundamental interdependence in mind that Luxembourg supports the processes of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration and security sector reform, as well as early recovery, socio-economic development and the establishment of the rule of law.

Since 2000, Luxembourg has been among the countries that respect the goal of allocating 0.7 per cent of their gross national income to official development assistance (ODA), as noted by the representative of Cuba. Our ODA has exceeded 1 per cent since 2009. Our engagement is committed to the eradication of poverty and the realization of the Millennium Development Goals, including as a long-term investment for peace and security and with a view to preventing the outbreak of new conflict.

Luxembourg's development cooperation also implements programmes that bring a security perspective directly to the development approach. For example in northern Mali, in the region of Kidal, we support a sustainable development programme aimed at reducing the local population's poverty by improving access to basic social services and job opportunities, and at reinforcing the leadership of the Mali administration in the development of the region. In parallel, and in partnership with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crimes, Luxembourg supports the Government of Mali's efforts to fight illicit trafficking and organized crime in that region, which is heavily affected by the presence of Al-Qaida in the Islamic Maghreb.

As you indicated in your concept note (S/2011/50), Madame President, the Security Council should not take on the responsibilities of other principal organs and agencies. But if the Council wants to define sustainable strategies to end conflict, it is vital that it consider the analyses and efforts of development organs and actors and strive to coordinate well with those actors. The establishment of sustainable security and stability requires a tangible development perspective.

Peacebuilding is the key stage between the establishment of security and the socio-economic relaunching of a country. Peacekeepers themselves are early peacebuilders. Their presence should create a security environment conducive to the deployment of reconstruction and development activities. We encourage the Council to enhance its relationship with the Peacebuilding Commission so that it can systematically seek the Commission's advice when it is about to renew the mandate of a peacekeeping operation, including with respect to countries that are not on the agenda of the Commission. In that regard, we welcome the recent interactive dialogues with the Chairs of the Liberia and Burundi configurations and the active engagement of the Chair of the Commission's Organizational Committee and the Chairs of the five country-specific configurations in today's debate.

Convinced of the fundamental importance of an integrated approach, Luxembourg has been actively engaged in post-conflict peacebuilding since the inception of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture.

The adoption of any type of security approach to a conflict must be preceded by a thorough analysis of its root causes. In that way, efforts can be made in close coordination with all stakeholders, including women, to enable a country to emerge from crisis and foster its development. In that context, we must not fail to include the

management of a country's natural resources or issues related to land rights. In that regard, the Council should draw on all expertise available within the United Nations system. It is essential that the Council receive reports of the Secretary-General that take into account the points of view and analyses of all relevant departments on a given conflict or theme.

Among the principal organs of the United Nations, the Economic and Social Council is ideally positioned to provide a socio-economic development perspective to the Security Council's discussions preceding the definition of a peacekeeping mandate. Closer cooperation between the Economic and Social Council and the Peacebuilding Commission can in turn reinforce the coherent action of the United Nations system so as to foster the sustainable development of countries emerging from conflict. That is why Luxembourg, during its Presidency of the Economic and Social Council in 2009, took the initiative of convening the first joint meeting between the Council and the Peacebuilding Commission, held on the topic of food and economic crises in countries emerging from conflict.

Allow me to conclude with a few comments on climate security. In our view, the adverse impacts of climate change have clear repercussions on the security and development of many States, in particular small island developing States. At the very least, we should think of climate change as a threat multiplier, as the Secretary-General notes in his report on climate change and its possible security implications (A/64/350), pursuant to General Assembly resolution 63/281 of 2009. We therefore encourage the Security Council to further pursue the discussions it began in 2007 on this important issue.