

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

*Statement by H.E. Mrs. Morgan Sotomayor, Permanent Representative of Mexico to the United Nations*

My delegation would first like to commend the Government of Bosnia and Herzegovina for its initiative in convening this debate. Mexico agrees with the importance that Bosnia and Herzegovina places on the need to include institution-building as a principal element in peacebuilding strategies.

We also recognize the fact that when conflicts are resolved through a peace agreement or ceasefire between the parties, there is a greatly increased risk that those conflicts could break out anew in the post-conflict phase. However, such occasions also provide opportunities to build the basic capacities needed to ensure that peacebuilding efforts take hold. Success is most likely if the political will and readiness to forge consensus on the part of national actors, however minimal, are seized in a timely and rapid way under the favourable political conditions that generally emerge in the phase immediately following the signing of a peace agreement or ceasefire.

When there is no civil authority, the top priority for the population is the reestablishment of a feeling of security. Once progress is made in the area of security, a variety of measures need to be implemented, such as the restoration of Government institutions that are seen as representing the whole population and having sufficient legitimacy to introduce reforms to transform systems and structures from the past that may have contributed to the socio-economic inequality that led to violence.

During our recent membership of the Security Council, Mexico noted that, in general, in countries emerging from protracted conflict, attention is focused on humanitarian assistance and recovery as immediate priorities. In that regard, support for institution-building is left to a later stage, which undermines the capacity of the State to put in place conditions for stability, national reconciliation, respect for human rights and the promotion of long-term development.

My delegation would like to recall that, during one of our terms as President of the Council, we convened a debate on the strengthening of the rule of law in the context of the maintenance of international peace and security. On that occasion, the importance of post-conflict capacity-building was recognized, in particular building civil society capacity as a key element for strengthening the rule of law and laying the foundations of lasting peace.

Mexico believes that one essential task of the Council is to set mandates for peacekeeping operations that strengthen the rule of law within countries in or emerging from conflict. My country therefore appreciates and welcomes the fact that the Security Council is increasingly incorporating this concept into its decisions.

In that context, we reiterate that the immediate priority in post-conflict situations must be supporting the country to restore its institutions, including in the initial phase, with the establishment of internationally supported transition institutions, but also with the decisive involvement of local capacities to ensure national ownership and subsequent self-sustaining development.

In these efforts, as recognized in the report (S/2010/393, annex) of the 2010 review of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC), co-facilitated by Mexico, the Peacebuilding Commission must play a more relevant role in providing advice and in drafting and implementing peacebuilding strategies. It must also strengthen its coordinating role and its strategic relationships with other United Nations bodies, regional organizations and international financial institutions.

It is important for the PBC to ensure that international assistance is in keeping with national priorities and assists in building institutional capacities in crucial peacebuilding areas. Mexico reiterates the importance of establishing greater international civil capacities in a fast, effective, coherent and coordinated way in countries emerging from conflict. In particular, we should take advantage of the capacities of the southern hemisphere and the potential of women, taking account of their crucial role in peacebuilding processes. In that regard, we hope that the next report of the Secretary-General on post-conflict peacebuilding will include recommendations for strengthening the capacity of the international community and the United Nations to

support national institutions.