

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

Statement by H.E. Mr. Lotfi Bouchaara, Permanent Representative of Morocco to the United Nations

My delegation congratulates you, Madame, on your country's leadership and proactive work since assuming the presidency this month. There is no doubt that today's debate will complement those we have already held on the important issue of peacebuilding and the ways and means of guaranteeing the building or rebuilding of State institutions in order to maintain peace in the post-conflict context.

While we associate ourselves with the statement made by the representative of Bangladesh on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement, my delegation should like to focus on the following points.

Since 1992, the total number of armed conflicts has been reduced by 40 per cent. According to the World Bank, the financial costs of ongoing conflicts throughout the world, and in particular in Africa, are estimated at some \$54 billion. These figures underscore the magnitude of the work that remains to be done and the critical value of strengthening the institutional capacities of States in the post-conflict context. The emergence of lasting peace often involves the management of the critical phase of transition between peacekeeping and peacebuilding. In that transition phase, rebuilding and strengthening the institutional capacities of States emerging from conflict is of particular importance, given the numerous dangers of backsliding.

In that respect, coordination between local and international stakeholders is critical to stabilizing the host country. It has been noted, however, that one of the main challenges to peacebuilding is ensuring the consistency and coordination of the work of international actors. Too often, the United Nations and its international partners act without sufficiently involving the authorities of the host country. A space must be created in which the host country can take ownership of the project in order to lay the foundations of lasting peace.

These observations encourage us to focus our collective thinking on the best way to take the existing institutional capacities of the host country into consideration and to strengthen them. We must not misidentify our objectives. Peacebuilding missions must support and not compete with national institutional capacities. Thus, a United Nations post-conflict presence must ensure that national strategies are formulated with the host country with a focus on priorities that include the strengthening of the institutional capacities of the host, the restoration of the rule of law, and reform of the security and judicial sectors.

In the framework of such a vast undertaking, it is critical that United Nations efforts be effectively coordinated in order consistently to address the establishment of peace, peacekeeping, peacebuilding and development so that swift and effective action can be taken immediately after a conflict. The Peacebuilding Commission plays a key role in that respect.

During the transition between peacekeeping and peacebuilding, the United Nations has a key role to play in assisting national authorities from the very outset in drafting a strategy to establish and strengthen State institutional capacities. It goes without saying that international partners must align their financial, technical and political support with that strategy. The Kingdom of Morocco stresses the importance for national authorities to take ownership of peacebuilding and to shoulder as soon as possible the responsibility for rebuilding State institutions, restoring the rule of law, revitalizing the economy and reforming the security sector and the judiciary so as to ensure that basic services are provided to meet the basic needs of the people.

In that regard, an integrated approach to peacebuilding must be developed by creating synergies and necessary coordination between national and international structures. Numerous lessons can be drawn from the work of the various country configurations of the Peacebuilding Commission, in particular those linked to the implementation of institutional capacity-building programmes. It should be underscored that the establishment or re-establishment of State institutions goes hand-in-hand with economic revitalization. Socio-economic activities have a quick impact and help to strengthen State institutional capacities in the post-conflict period. Emphasis should therefore be placed on such catalytic areas as youth employment, infrastructure development and the provision of such basic services in the areas of sanitation, drinking water and health.

We cannot emphasize enough that the peacebuilding phase is crucial to stabilizing a country. Statistics indicate that 40 to 50 per cent of all conflicts are the result of relapse. That points to the great importance of peacebuilding, which is above all a collective undertaking. The challenges it presents cannot be overcome without the active involvement of the international community in strengthening State institutional capacity. That illustrates the crucial need for arriving at a partnership approach to peacebuilding between the host country, the United Nations and donors. In that regard, we welcome the increased coordination and coherence between the Peacebuilding Support Office and the World Bank in the area of peacebuilding, whose goal must of course be to establish that same spirit of partnership.

Given that peacebuilding is above all more of a civilian than a military endeavour, it is essential to ensure necessary civilian capacities in critical areas of host country institutional recovery, especially in the areas of training, public administration and judicial and good-governance capacity-building.

In conclusion, peacebuilding cannot be effective without establishing robust institutional capacities based on the rule of law and good governance. The best way to ensure that a State can move towards peace is to develop its institutional architecture by consolidating the rule of law and guaranteeing more effective and inclusive public administration on behalf of the population concerned.