

**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. Mohammed Loulichki, Permanent Representative of Morocco to the United Nations

The ongoing and concrete commitment of your country, Madame President, to peacebuilding and development underlies the wise choice by your presidency of the topic of today's debate. It is a welcome coincidence that this debate complements that convened by the presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina last month, which we welcome. It allows us to undertake in-depth consideration and to act together to develop a truly integrated approach of the Security Council in addressing conflicts.

The persistence of conflicts, their human and financial costs, and the imperatives of stability in the post-conflict phase require early interaction between the peacekeeping and peacebuilding phases. The establishment of lasting peace demands judicious management of the critical transition between peacekeeping and peacebuilding. That transitional phase must be addressed through an approach that allies security imperatives with development activities to stabilize a State emerging from conflict. This critical phase must be approached with a keen awareness of the high risk of relapse into conflict.

Interlinkages between security and development are complex, and the transition to peacebuilding must be managed cautiously in an international environment characterized by the growing collusion among transnational criminal gangs, non-State actors and shadowy terror networks working together to weaken States, as they do in the Sahel-Sahara region.

The United Nations post-conflict presence must help to develop national strategies targeting such key priorities as the promotion of women's rights, youth employment, the protection of vulnerable social groups, the establishment of the rule of law and the strengthening of State institutions. It is vital in that vast undertaking that the United Nations efforts be effectively coordinated so as to mesh the establishment of peace, peacekeeping, peacebuilding and development in a coherent manner. The Peacebuilding Commission has a key role to play in that context.

It is essential that the international community strengthen the capacities of the host State to reduce poverty, economic recovery and provide basic services. Practice has amply demonstrated the critical importance of national ownership of peacebuilding. The leadership role of the host State faces challenges, but it is essential in that it allows for a better articulation of a national recovery strategy that combines all dimensions of peace, security and development. In that regard, it is important to promote the necessary synergy and coordination among national and international structures and to mobilize sustained resources.

The United Nations must strengthen its capacities to define integrated strategies from the outset and to coordinate the activities of the various stakeholders on the ground responsible both for security and for development. This will contribute to making the international community's actions more coherent and coordinated. Moreover, the international economic assistance provided by bilateral donors and international financial institutions must target projects that take account of a given country's economic, social and even cultural realities, its particular capacities and the prospects it offers to foreign investors. In that respect, our active policy is to support peacebuilding in many African countries, targeting multiplier sectors that contribute to human development, such as education, safe drinking water and electrification in rural areas.

Above and beyond the efforts of the United Nations and the international community to establish, maintain and build peace, their role in the peaceful settlement of disputes and conflict prevention remains critical and must be developed, strengthened and adequately endowed with financial and human resources in the interests of peace and international security.