

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

Statement by Ms. Sanja Štiglic, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Slovenia to the United Nations

First of all, I would like to thank Bosnia and Herzegovina for organizing this open debate on post-conflict peacebuilding, with a special focus on institution-building, which is a prevalent challenge in a number of societies that have just emerged from conflict. This debate, under Bosnia and Herzegovina's first-ever presidency of the Security Council, has special significance. Bosnia and Herzegovina is a country with extensive first-hand experience of the subject before the Council. In the 15 years since Dayton, Bosnia and Herzegovina has undergone a difficult process of peacebuilding, transition and recovery, and it continues along the path to ensuring further progress in institution-building, integration into Euro-Atlantic structures and overall prosperity.

I would like to thank the Secretary-General for his statement and the Deputy Prime Minister of Timor-Leste, His Excellency Mr. José Luis Guterres, for sharing his insights into Timor-Leste's experiences in institution-building. My thanks also go to Ambassador Wittig, outgoing Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC), for his contribution to the Commission's role in promoting and supporting an integrated and coherent approach to peacebuilding, including women's participation.

Slovenia fully aligns itself with the statement delivered by the representative of the European Union.

I would like to stress the importance of the Secretary-General's 2009 report on peacebuilding in the immediate aftermath of conflict (S/2009/304), as well as to welcome the continuous attention paid to the issue of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture.

It is widely recognized that in the aftermath of large-scale violence, the needs of the people tend to be far greater than the capacity of national or international actors to meet them. Given that imbalance, national and international efforts in the early post-conflict period should focus primarily on meeting the most urgent and important peacebuilding objectives, such as establishing security, building confidence and trust in the political process, delivering initial peace dividends and expanding core national capacity.

We believe in the importance of providing support for basic safety and security, including the protection of civilians; disarmament, demobilization and reintegration; strengthening the rule of law; demining and supporting security-sector reform. Peacekeepers should be able to contribute in the early stages of peacebuilding, where they are best positioned to do so.

A secure environment is crucial to the implementation of peacebuilding tasks, whether by national or international actors. Societies emerging from war face a high risk of relapse into conflict. It is therefore essential that international efforts facilitate and support their transition from short-term stabilization to long-term security. Capacity development is at the heart of peacebuilding. It is crucial to help create national structures to manage tensions and mediate between various societal interests, with a view to preventing a return to violence. Capacity development is also the main approach to stronger and more resilient State-society relations based on trust and inclusiveness, as it leads to the reactivation of core State functions and helps the State to re-establish legitimate governance throughout the country.

It is imperative that national ownership — which must often be strengthened through a step-by-step process — focus on capacity-building of core Government functions and on national actors. In that context, the international community and regional and subregional organizations should partner with postconflict societies to assist with institutional capacitybuilding, promoting the rule of law and strengthening civilian institutions, including ministries, the parliament and the judiciary.

International assistance must be allocated to support State institutions with a view to establishing a basis for competent and legitimate governance. In the process, dependence on international assistance must be gradually but steadfastly reduced, and self-reliance promoted.

Peacebuilding requires coherent, comprehensive and consistent efforts by many different actors working together. It demands the integration of political, security, humanitarian and development considerations. Security and development partnerships must be strengthened to include global, international, regional and local actors as well as civil society.

We recognize the important role of the PBC as an intergovernmental body tasked with developing peacebuilding strategies and providing enhanced coordination for countries that have transitioned from war to peace. We support

strengthened institutional arrangements among various United Nations actors, along with closer cooperation between the Security Council and the PBC. In that respect we welcome the statement made by the representative of Belgium on behalf of Brazil, Canada, Jordan and Switzerland in their capacities as Chairs of the PBC's country-specific configurations.

It is crucial that we prevent the persistent violence, intimidation and discrimination against women and encourage their participation and full involvement in post-conflict activities, especially as women can be important drivers of recovery and development in peacebuilding processes. Slovenia welcome the 2010 report of the Secretary-General on women's participation in peacebuilding (S/2010/466), including the seven-point action plan.

The establishment of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality should further contribute to the effective implementation of resolutions 1325 (2000) and 1820 (2008). Last year, Slovenia adopted its national action plan for the implementation of both resolutions. One of the main objectives of the action plan is to increase the involvement of women in peacebuilding and peacekeeping missions.

While the past 20 years have witnessed a decline in the number of international armed conflicts, there has been an emergence of internal conflicts, mostly in low-income countries, due to horizontal inequalities along ethnic, religious and regional lines associated with civil wars. It is thus clear that numerous peacebuilding challenges still lie ahead and that we must turn to lessons learned and best practices when tackling those challenges in the future. When embarking upon sustainable post-conflict reconstruction, we should ensure and commit to long-term institution-building, as that will ultimately strengthen the processes and conduct necessary to peacefully manage conflicts at all levels.