

Security Council Open Debate on Post-Conflict Peacebuilding: Institution Building
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Statement by H.E. Mr. Ertuğrul Apakan, Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations

I would like to thank and commend the presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina for organizing today's open debate on this important issue.

We currently have a sound conceptual framework and a better understanding of post-conflict peacebuilding, thanks to the considerable endeavours made within the United Nations system in recent years. We now need to focus more on translating this framework into concrete action, both in New York and in the field.

For its part, Turkey has been increasingly engaged in preventive diplomacy, peacemaking, peacekeeping and post-conflict peacebuilding efforts, which are closely interlinked. We believe it essential to use these tools within a coherent and strategic framework. Turkey placed particular emphasis on these issues during its Security Council membership. Now, together, with Finland and the Group of Friends, we are working on how to further the concept of mediation, both within the United Nations and beyond. In our view, peace mediation and facilitation efforts are the most cost-effective and efficient way of preventing and resolving conflicts.

The concept paper presented by Bosnia and Herzegovina (A/2011/16, annex) and the presidential statement just adopted (S/PRST/2011/2) contain pertinent points about a wide range of issues on the peacebuilding agenda. For this reason, and in order to adhere to the time limit for statements, I will touch upon only a few points that I deem particularly important.

First, peacebuilding is primarily a national responsibility. Hence, as has been stressed by many delegations, national ownership is of critical importance. The effective and sustainable realization of peacebuilding goals requires the active engagement of all local stakeholders, including civil society, professional associations and women's organizations. Therefore, one priority of peacekeeping operations should be to win the hearts and minds of the local people and to work together with them. This will not only inoculate the operation against criticism that it has been imposed on the national Government and population, but will also increase its success. National ownership and capacity-building are also essential elements of a successful exit strategy.

At the regional level, the support and cooperation of regional actors, particularly neighbouring countries, is another essential aspect of successful post-conflict peacebuilding and institution-building. Many conflicts have cross-border dimensions beyond domestic political circumstances. Accordingly, the scope of conflict analysis and response needs to be broadened, not only conceptually, but also geographically.

If our peacebuilding endeavours are to succeed, we should pursue an integrated and comprehensive approach. This approach should be based on coherence among political, security, development, human rights, humanitarian and rule of law objectives. We believe that it is necessary to take complementary actions in all those areas. It is also always important to bear in mind that every country is unique. Local conditions, needs, opportunities and limitations may differ considerably. This means that the prioritization of peacebuilding and capacity-building activities must be country-specific. Strategic planning for peacebuilding activities must therefore also be sufficiently flexible.

In view of resource constraints, the success of the overall effort depends on the ability to strategically coordinate the activities of different actors. In this regard, the United Nations has a unique role to play, as it can coordinate the work of various stakeholders to deliver as one on the ground. United Nations support to regional and subregional organizations should be increased in order to develop their capacities to better perform United Nations-mandated tasks in the future.

Before concluding, let me also underline the importance of mainstreaming women's participation at all stages of the peacebuilding effort. Turkey welcomes the increasing awareness within the United Nations system and among Member States of the importance of removing constraints on women's full participation in the peacebuilding process. We look forward to the further empowerment of women's role in peacekeeping, peacebuilding and mediation endeavours.