

Maintenance of International Peace and Security – the Interdependence between Security and Development
11th February 2011, Security Council Chamber (GA-TSC-01)

Statement by Mrs. Rosemary A. DiCarlo, Permanent Representative of the United States to the United Nations

We would like to express appreciation to you, Mr. President, for organizing today's meeting on this important issue. We'd also like to thank the Secretary-General, Ambassador Gasana, and Ms. Cliffe for their thoughtful remarks.

Mr. President,

The links between security and development are complex but compelling.

Stalled development and violent conflict deal a double blow to far too many people and countries. Conflict and violence impoverish, and severely undermine development gains through displacement, disease, and desperation. While recent years have seen an unparalleled drop in global poverty, countries devastated by conflict and violence have been left out of this trend. The statistics are stark as we understand from the World Bank's and other recent studies: a person from a country in conflict – compared to one from any other developing country -- is more than twice as likely to be undernourished, over three times as likely to be unable to send her children to school, twice as likely to see her children die before the age of 5, and twice as likely to lack access to clean water. And no low-income conflict-affected country is on track to meet a single Millennium Development Goal.

Poverty and lack of economic opportunities also contribute to violence. As President Obama said at the Millennium Development Summit last September, "When millions of fathers cannot provide for their families, it feeds the despair that can fuel instability and violent extremism."

We have heard today that combating both poverty and conflict requires us to prioritize core state capacities, especially the rule of law, justice, and security, and to create jobs and immediate economic opportunities. We have also heard the need to bring women into decision-making on key political, security, and economic issues.

The United States could not agree more. We see these issues at play in almost every conflict situation before this Council. In the DRC, one of MONUSCO's chief priorities is to help strengthen the justice sector through training Congolese police officers and supporting magistrates and courts. In Liberia, we strongly supported the government's attention to rural electrification as a key confidence-building measure and also welcomed the Peacebuilding Commission's support to Monrovia's initial efforts to improve the access of rural communities to trained police and magistrates. In Afghanistan, we have urged international efforts to focus on reviving the country's once-vibrant agricultural sector in order to create sustained economic alternatives to narcotics production. In Haiti, MINUSTAH has done important work to build community confidence and strengthen the rule of law with the Haitian National Police. Consistently, we have urged attention to building core national capacities because we see that, until the basic infrastructure of peace is in place, countries will be blocked from progress.

Mr. President,

Twenty years ago, we were just beginning to understand the links between security and development. A little over ten years ago, we began systematically incorporating peacebuilding elements into peacekeeping mandates. Five years ago, we created the Peacebuilding Commission to promote coherence and coordination between security and development actors. And, in the last two years, we have held eight separate thematic sessions on peacebuilding and related issues. And yet, we're still not where we need to be. Ninety percent of today's conflicts arise in countries where we have been unsuccessful in consolidating peace after prior wars.

There are no easy answers here, and we should not overestimate the international community's role in rectifying deep-seated problems that may have been festering for decades. Peace is ultimately in a country's own hands. But, we must do more. A few areas are particularly ripe for fresh thinking.

First, while national actors bear primary responsibility for rebuilding their country, they often seek timely assistance from genuine international experts. We have been encouraged by early briefings about the forthcoming International Review of Civilian Capacity which emphasizes more diverse and flexible arrangements for international civilian support to crucial state-building tasks. We look forward to considering the report's recommendations as we review peacekeeping operations.

Second, we see scope for new ways for UN peace operations to have a positive impact on daily life within their host communities. For example, using spare engineering capacity to fix a road or clear debris, or increasing local

procurement to help revitalize the local economy. We need to be open to such ideas, while also not insisting that peacekeepers undertake key development tasks that others may be more qualified or mandated to do.

Third, the United Nations on its own does not have the resources or capacity to help fully rebuild government institutions in the aftermath of conflict. We are therefore pleased that the World Bank was invited to brief us today. This Council needs a robust and continuous dialogue with the Breton Woods Institutions, multilateral development banks, and major donors who will often underwrite key dimensions of recovery.

Mr. President,

Last December, the United States presided over a special Security Council event on “voices of a new generation.” Youth from around the world sent in emails and videos repeating a common refrain: They long for peace, they worry about conditions that could ignite conflict, and they see a clear link between security and development.

Through the debate you have convened today, the Security Council is demonstrating that their voices are being heard.

Thank you, Mr. President.