

Security Council Open Debate on Peacebuilding in the Aftermath of Conflict
Wednesday, October 13, 2010

Statement by H.E Mr. Octavio Errázuriz, Permanent Representative of Chile to the United Nations

My delegation welcomes the holding of this debate on the Secretary-General's progress report on peacebuilding in the immediate aftermath of conflict (S/2010/386) and his report on women's participation in peacebuilding (S/2010/466). We also thank the Secretary-General for his statement this morning and the valuable statement delivered by the Chairperson of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC), Ambassador Wittig.

This debate is especially timely, in part because of the review of the Peacebuilding Commission, which is expected to conclude shortly after the excellent work by the facilitators appointed by this Council and by the President of the General Assembly. In addition, this is the tenth anniversary of the adoption of resolution 1325 (2000), which lays the basis for the Secretary-General's report on women's participation in peacebuilding.

I would like to highlight the Secretary-General's report on women's participation in peacebuilding and his seven-point plan, which places women on truly equal footing with men and emphasizes their full participation in the peacebuilding process from the outset. As stated in the report, women's participation is crucial in shoring up the three pillars of lasting peace: economic recovery, social cohesion and political legitimacy. Coordinated work between the PBC and UN Women seems to us to be essential.

As the Secretary-General has said, the peacebuilding process is an opportunity to better rebuild a country in all its aspects, with one of the most important aspects being the status of women, their legal position, and access to jobs and to justice, among others. This last aspect — access to justice — is of crucial importance, since women are among the main victims of conflicts. Their access to justice is crucial, since it will enhance their confidence in the State and in the country's political processes.

Chile supports the fact that the proposed seven-point peacebuilding plan embodies a gender approach. In order for it to succeed, there must be proper coordination among the various United Nations agencies and coordination between them and other external partners, in particular international financial institutions, that participate in the peacebuilding process. Particular attention should be paid to ensuring the presence of women in leadership positions either by direct appointment or by popular election.

Lastly, we welcome the Secretary-General's proposal of specific measures to ensure that the recommendations contained in the report are implemented on the ground through the inclusion of women in development, infrastructure, employment, and disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes.

With respect to the progress report on peacebuilding in the immediate aftermath of conflict, Chile welcomes the progress made since the submission of the 2009 report (S/2009/304). Chile agrees with the Secretary-General that, although the peacebuilding process is a national challenge and responsibility, the international community and the United Nations have a major role to play in supporting the national agenda. This is proof not only of solidarity but also of the need for mutual support created by the global village.

The progress noted by the Secretary-General in his report in the areas of effective leadership, coordination and accountability is important, as is the United Nations experience in Haiti through its Stabilization Mission, in which Chile participates.

Chile welcomes the establishment of the comprehensive Integration Steering Group to support field missions with a holistic approach. It also underscores the importance of coordination with regional organizations, which we view as fundamental and which allows for greater efficiency in the use of international resources. I also underscore the emphasis placed on national capacity-building in post-conflict States. This is crucial to establishing national leadership and strengthening democratic institutions and socio-economic development.

With regard to the international review of civilian capacity currently under way, based on the potential deployment of teams of international experts, Chile looks forward to the publication of the report and emphasizes that it has been an important aspect of its participation as a member of the Peacebuilding Commission. We trust that these Member States will participate broadly in these teams.

Here, I should like to emphasize the importance of regional and South-South cooperation. However, we often encounter difficulties in financing such cooperation in its entirety. To that end, the participation of developed countries is essential, and Chile is therefore in favour of triangular cooperation.

Lastly, Chile shares the concerns of the Secretary-General with regard to adequate financing for the Peacebuilding Fund, especially in times that are difficult for us all. In this connection, Chile reaffirms its commitment to peacebuilding.