

Security Council Open Debate on Post-Conflict Peacebuilding: Institution Building
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Statement by Mr. Néstor Osorio, Permanent Representative of Colombia to the United Nations

I would like to commend you, Mr. President, for convening this debate on a very relevant issue in terms of the functioning of States and their co-existence in the aftermath of conflict. Focusing the discussion on institution-building demonstrates its value for generating conditions that can ensure sustainable peace. The statements by the Secretary-General, the Deputy Prime Minister of Timor-Leste and Mr. Peter Wittig, Chairperson of the Peacebuilding Commission, reflect the progress that has been achieved and the tasks that remain before us on this issue.

Peacebuilding is primarily a national responsibility, and I believe we all agree on that. Countries recovering from the effects of conflict require tools to ensure good governance, strengthen the rule of law and channel economic and social development. In this regard, the international community is responsible for providing support for national agendas and priorities aimed at creating, restoring or reforming institutions in order to achieve effective administration and national capacity-building. The actions of the international community, including States, the United Nations, regional organizations and international financial institutions, should be aimed at supporting programmes that encourage a country's stability and viability. That is why the leadership of the State in question is paramount at every stage of the process.

Rebuilding the institutional structure that sustains a State affects every area of peacekeeping and peacebuilding. This viewpoint must be present from the earliest stages of the planning and executing of peacekeeping operations. Strategies aimed at establishing stable and lasting peace must be adapted to the specificities of each individual case. This understanding must guide the Council's discussion and decisions in order to ensure that the measures adopted respond to the political, economic and cultural characteristics of each situation.

The preparation and implementation of institution-building require from the outset the participation of the State and the use of existing national capacities to ensure the transition towards stability and long-term development and to help progressively to reduce dependence on the international community.

Conflicts weaken or lead to the dissolution of important civil society structures. There are many examples. Therefore, it is essential to generate sustainable economic activities that guarantee a steady income, a decent standard of living and the reconstruction of the social fabric. That will help to prevent the re-emergence of the conditions at the root of the conflict. Likewise, we must ensure that all actors involved in the peacebuilding process work in a coordinated and consistent way in order to avoid the duplication of efforts and to ensure the efficient use of available resources.

Colombia believes that the Peacebuilding Commission is destined to play a central role in meeting the special needs of countries emerging from conflict. It should promote recovery, reintegration and reconstruction and help to lay the foundations of sustainable development. Accordingly, it should promote institution-building and the regular use of its advisory role to the Security Council. Moreover, if the United Nations is to be more effective throughout the conflict cycle, the Security Council must make use of the conflict prevention tools at its disposal to develop actions to prevent the emergence and recurrence of situations that threaten or undermine peace. The experiences and lessons of all countries in that regard should serve to foster solid institution-building that ensures the transition to lasting peace.