

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

Statement by H.E Mr. Ranko Vilotić, Permanent Representative of Croatia to the United Nations

My delegation aligns itself with the statement of the European Union, which we strongly support. However, in the light of the particular importance of this timely and exceptionally relevant debate, allow me to add a few remarks in my national capacity.

The contemporary world is increasingly faced with a rapidly changing international environment that constantly adds new challenges to the international peace and security agenda. In that context, peacebuilding, as an effort to strengthen and consolidate peace in countries immediately after they emerge from conflict, represents an important tool at the disposal of the United Nations to confront those challenges and, at the same time, one of its core functions. It is obvious, and not only from this debate, that broad cross-regional support for stronger peacebuilding is growing, encompassing not only Governments, but also many international organizations, as well as civil society.

We are grateful for the Secretary-General's detailed overview of the progress achieved in the implementation of his agenda for action set out in the report on peacebuilding in the immediate aftermath of the conflict he issued a year ago (S/2009/304). In particular, we find valuable the many diverse examples from the field used to further clarify and support the report. Equally, we appreciate the Secretary-General's report on women's participation in peacebuilding (S/2010/466) and the strategic, seven-point action plan introducing necessary practical suggestions for women's more active engagement in peacebuilding processes, which we wholeheartedly support.

At the same time, Croatia welcomes the excellent report on the review of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture (S/2010/393, annex), presented by the three co-facilitators. The report adds substantially to our comprehension of the complex issue of peacebuilding and further confirms our perception that urgent action in this field is necessary.

On that basis, Croatia strongly supports further strengthening peacebuilding operations through further implementation of the Secretary-General's ambitious agenda for action and careful consideration of the requests, proposals and recommendations contained in his recent reports. Simultaneously, we call for appropriate consideration and adequate implementation of the many valuable recommendations contained in the report of the three co-facilitators (S/2010/393, annex). We believe that the time for a new balance within the United Nations peace architecture has definitely arrived.

If I were to identify just two of the most important features that we perceive as imperative preconditions for any successful peacebuilding exercise, they would certainly be, first, national ownership and, secondly, predictable and sustainable multidimensional action by the international community, encompassing imperative regional considerations.

We strongly believe that peacebuilding should be built on clearly established national priorities, but, equally, that it should lead to full reconstruction and further improvement of national institutions, capacities and capabilities. In that context, we particularly welcome ongoing efforts within the United Nations to further strengthen and mainstream national capacities, including conflict management capacities.

Peacebuilding is a complex long-term effort that unites development, peace and security and human rights, reflecting their interlinked and mutually reinforcing nature. As has been said many times before, there can be no development without genuine security and vice versa, or, as we are reminded in the co-facilitators' report, "conflict remains the single most important impediment to development" (S/2010/393, annex, para. 3). Likewise, in harsh, insecure and brutal conditions in the underdeveloped world there can be no real respect for or protection of human rights and human dignity.

Bearing all this in mind, it is obvious that only coordinated, coherent, sustainable, mutually accountable national and international efforts, adequately encompassing security, human rights and development, will bear fruit. In that regard, Croatia particularly welcomes the new United Nations system-wide guidelines for the

integrated missions planning process, which set standards for field-based integrated strategies and planning. We also welcome the post- conflict needs assessment adopted by United Nations Development Group, the World Bank and the European Union.

Starting from the premise that building local capacity is the ultimate priority of peacebuilding, we strongly support the establishment of the Senior Advisory Group tasked to undertake a review of international civilian capacity in order to strengthen the availability, deployability, coherence and appropriateness of civilian capacities based on an assessment of existing capacities.

The interdependence of today's world — in which, on the one hand, national crises easily evolve into global problems and in which, on the other, global problems inevitably prowl within national borders — requires enhanced sensitivity to regional considerations and their successful integration into overall peacebuilding efforts. In that context, Croatia considers the further improvement and deepening of cooperation between the Peacebuilding Commission and regional and subregional organizations, as well as the appropriate engagement of various United Nations entities active in particular regions, to be crucially important.

Croatia's transition from recipient to donor country has been fairly short and effective. Today we are sharing our knowledge and experiences with countries in the region, as well as with other countries in crisis, where our post-conflict experience in nation- building is particularly relevant. Accordingly, Croatia assists in the development of civil society, reconciliation and post-conflict reconstruction, as well as in building functioning administrative capacities in the social realm.

Finally, let me mention that as a co-founder of the Peacebuilding Fund, Croatia fully recognizes the critical role that timely and sustainable peacebuilding funding plays as an early investment towards peace and development, and in that regard strongly supports the Fund's new simpler structures and its efforts to introduce predictable, flexible and sufficient funding schemes through revisited terms of reference and guidelines. In that context, we welcome the strengthening of a strategic partnership between the United Nations and the World Bank and expect with special interest the World Bank *Conflict, Security and Development Report 2011*.

Let me conclude by saying that Croatia — working together with other Member States and the United Nations as a whole, and acting with the same enthusiasm and spirit that clearly accompanied our ambitions some five years ago — stands ready to play its due part in the revival of the peacebuilding architecture and the thorough implementation of its core functions.