

Security Council Open Debate on Post-Conflict Peacebuilding: Institution Building
21st January 2011, Security Council Chamber (GA-TSC-01)

Statement by H.E. Mr. Tsuneo Nishida, Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations

At the outset, Japan extends its congratulations to Bosnia and Herzegovina on its assumption of the presidency of the Security Council. Japan convened an open debate on peacebuilding at the Council last April (see S/PV.6299). We are thus heartened by the holding of this meeting, which serves to highlight the success of Bosnia and Herzegovina as a country that has experienced the post-conflict peacebuilding process, as well as to provide encouragement for others currently undergoing that process. We also appreciate the briefings by the Secretary-General, His Excellency Mr. José Luis Guterres of Timor-Leste and Ambassador Wittig of Germany, Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC).

Japan attaches a great importance to institution-building. Based on our own experience in reconstruction, valuing national ownership is the primary principle of our development assistance. In that context, discussion on the role of the Security Council in promoting institution-building is relevant. I would like to offer three points from Japan's perspective.

First, the Security Council should utilize the PBC more proactively. I shall return to this issue later.

Secondly, there is a global shortage of civilian capacity for institution-building. There is therefore an urgent need for fostering such capacity. In order to facilitate the training for and the expeditious deployment of such capability, we believe that the Security Council must review and implement the conclusions of the upcoming report by Mr. Guéhenno in a timely manner.

Thirdly, as the mechanism for partnership in peacebuilding is complex and involves various stakeholders, the Security Council must promote strong leadership on the ground to enable United Nations representatives and the Government concerned to work together towards solutions, taking into account the specificity of the situation. We also hope that the Secretary-General will appoint strong special representatives, giving particular consideration to women candidates. We hope that Member States will cooperate in submitting appropriate nominees.

Concerning the PBC, the Security Council should tap further into its potential. We believe that will contribute significantly to the Council's decision-making process.

First, the PBC has been holding consultations on some countries on the agenda more frequently than the Security Council itself, including with the participation of the countries concerned and international organizations. Building a stronger link between the deliberations at the two bodies will contribute to providing solutions to various peacebuilding issues. Last year, Japan facilitated the holding of an informal dialogue of the Council with the PBC. The Security Council should consider holding such informal dialogues on a more regular basis, which will also contribute to better relationships with host countries.

Secondly, the PBC can be used as a forum for discussing exit strategies for peacekeeping missions. Liberia could serve as a test case in that regard when determining whether we can arrive at a successful exit for peacekeeping mission in order to handover to peacebuilding partners. We also heard from the representative of Timor-Leste today that his country needs a smooth transition from peacekeeping to assistance from development partners. In that context, it is worthwhile to consider placing a country on the agenda of the PBC in order to provide more effective international support in the transition phase. The PBC could increase the number of countries on its agenda and seek to determine the best strategies to assist post-conflict countries based on lessons learned.

Thirdly, the PBC is also a valuable forum for raising international awareness and mobilizing resources. With that in mind, Japan intends to add approximately \$13 million to the Peacebuilding Fund. We hope to utilize the Fund to more effectively fill the gap between peacekeeping and peacebuilding. We urge other countries to contribute to the Fund as well.

In conclusion, let me reiterate Japan's appreciation for the holding of today's meeting focused on institution-

building, which is a fundamental element of the peacebuilding process. Japan will continue to contribute actively in this field, including through exploring the expanded utility of the PBC.