

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

Statement by Mr. Tabir Hussain Andrabi, First Secretary, Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the United Nations

Madam President, the Pakistan delegation would like to thank you for arranging today's debate and for your insightful concept paper (S/2011/16).

Today's debate coincides with the mandatory review of the Peacebuilding Commission, which concluded late last year, and the review of the international civilian capacities, which is in its final stage. I hope that our deliberations today will complement the work of both these important review processes.

The theme of institution-building can be placed within the broad rubric of priorities identified by the Secretary-General in his report on peacebuilding in the immediate aftermath of conflict (S/2009/304). The Secretary-General's priorities included safety and security, support for political processes, provision of basic services, restoring core government functions and economic revitalization. Similar priorities are also outlined in the President's concept paper.

The international community can optimize its institution-building efforts in conformity with priorities of the countries concerned for ensuring national ownership of all peacebuilding initiatives. To that end, our approach must be people-centric and tailored to specific needs or circumstances. It should not be seen as outside interference. That is important for the longevity and resilience of the nascent institutions built in a post-conflict setting.

I wish to highlight four points in answer to the very pertinent questions raised in the President's concept paper.

First, institution-building should be factored into a mission's mandate from its inception. That can be done by focusing on security sector reform together with strengthening national capacity to manage intercommunity conflicts. Whenever such mandates are devised, peacekeepers have always played an important role, despite resource constraints.

As a leading troop contributor with vital stakes in the success of the peacekeeping operations, Pakistan has been supportive of mandates that ensure local capacity-building to prevent relapse into conflict. That is evident from our record in the Security Council, as resolutions 1509 (2003) and 1565 (2004), which authorized strengthened missions in Liberia and the Democratic Republic of Congo respectively, were supported by Pakistan during its term in the Council. Pakistani troops also participated in those challenging missions.

At present, nearly 10 United Nations peacekeeping missions are performing a broad range of peacebuilding activities, which also include institutionbuilding. Therefore, the role of peacekeepers in postconflict institution-building cannot be ignored. It will be important to provide for the needs of peacekeepers so that they can better perform their role. In this regard, vital responsibility rests with the Security Council, where these mandates are formalized, and with the Secretariat, where the resources are provided to back them.

Secondly, institution-building in a post-conflict situation can be greatly facilitated by a targeted focus on the development aspect of peacebuilding. Priority areas could include the employment of youth and women, engaging the private sector, building local entrepreneurship, revitalizing the economy and developing service-based infrastructure. Such an approach will, on the one hand, build national ownership and engage all stakeholders in peacebuilding endeavours and, on the other, will reinforce the notion of the people-centric approach, bringing the benefits of peacebuilding to the common man's doorstep.

Thirdly, organizational coordination within the United Nations is essential to avoid duplication. We note that an Integration Steering Group (ISG), which includes peace and security, humanitarian and development actors across the United Nations, is in place in the Secretariat for policy coordination in 18 countries where there is both a mission and a country team. The ISG can enhance the Secretariat's responsiveness to the institution-building demands.

Finally, the Peacebuilding Commission, with its unique composition, is ideally placed to establish an integrated approach to institution-building and to address the gaps in transition. In this context, I will propose that a working group on institution-building could be created within the Commission's Organizational Committee or within its countryspecific configurations. Alternatively, a dedicated theme of institution-building could be added to its existing Working Group on Lessons Learned. That would allow the Commission to optimize its advisory role for all principal organs of the United Nations, not just the Security Council, on the subject of postconflict institution-building.

