

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

Statement by H.E. Peter Wittig, Permanent Representative of the Peacebuilding Commission to the United Nations

Last year the Security Council recognized that the Secretary-General's 2009 report on peacebuilding in the immediate aftermath of conflict (S/2009/304) was an important contribution to a more effective and coherent international response to post-conflict peacebuilding. The Council also saw the continued engagement of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) as the Secretary-General embarked on the implementation of his ambitious agenda for action. While a number of recommendations made by the Secretary-General in last year's report addressed internal United Nations system mechanisms, there has been a general sense that the PBC is the most suitable platform to generate support for Member States for a shared and coherent United Nations peacebuilding agenda. The PBC therefore has regularly engaged with and been able to contribute ideas and perspectives to the two reports of the Secretary-General before the Council today: S/2010/386, a progress report on peacebuilding in the immediate aftermath of conflict, and S/2010/466, on women's participation in peacebuilding.

Last week the Organizational Committee of the PBC convened a meeting to consider those two reports. We had received a comprehensive briefing by Assistant Secretary-General Judy Cheng-Hopkins. The meeting was also briefed by Jean-Marie Guéhenno, Chair of the Secretary-General's Senior Advisory Group for the Review of International Civilian Capacities, another important process emerging from the 2009 report on peacebuilding.

Allow me to share with the Council today a few points that have emerged from the PBC discussions last week. First, on the matter of capacity development, we stressed the importance of strengthening national ownership and national capacities, in order to lay solid foundation for sustainable peacebuilding. We emphasized the linkage between national ownership and national capacity development as an overarching principle for an effective peacebuilding strategy. Secondly, with regard to roles and responsibilities, we noted the progress made in clarifying roles and responsibilities in the areas of mine action and mediation. We also underlined the need to make more considerable progress in bringing clarity to the roles played by different actors in the United Nations system, in such key areas as disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, security sector reform and rule of law. We shall anticipate the outcome of the ongoing reviews of roles and responsibilities in these areas. As we all know, a more coherent and effective peacebuilding response will benefit from clarity and consequently from establishing solid accountability frameworks for actions in these priority peacebuilding areas.

Thirdly, where the relationship between the United Nations and the World Bank is concerned, the PBC devoted a significant portion of its activities in 2010 to exploring means to strengthen the partnership with the World Bank. We therefore welcome the ongoing initiatives to strengthen the relationship with between the United Nations and the World Bank at the headquarters level and underline the need for more concrete progress in the field. There are encouraging signs of more dynamic country-specific linkages, such as in the case of the Central African Republic.

Fourthly, on financing, we cannot overemphasize the need for coordinated and more predictable financial support for peacebuilding initiatives. We therefore reaffirm the need for flexible financing for peacebuilding instruments. We noted in this regard the progress made in the process for Peacebuilding Fund projects approval through the Immediate Response Facility and an increased envelope from this facility for up to \$10 million.

The PBC has contributed to the report on women's participation in peacebuilding during the drafting phase. We noted the action plan, which aimed at a more gender-responsive peacebuilding agenda. As members are aware, the PBC mandate recognizes the role that women play in peacebuilding, both as victims of conflict and as critical agents for positive change and for rebuilding societies emerging from conflict. The PBC will continue to work with all relevant actors in the countries on its agenda, to ensure that its advice is gender-responsive and that women's role and participation in peacebuilding are appropriately reflected. We also look forward to engaging with the newly established UN Women, and we take this opportunity to congratulate Mrs. Michelle

Bachelet on her assumption of the leadership of that new agency.

In conclusion, I wish to note that the progress in developing the Secretary-General's reports related to peacebuilding has helped to highlight a number of opportunities and challenges facing the continuing evolution of the United Nations peacebuilding agenda. By generating the need for the actors to engage in and contribute to the recommendations, we are gradually placing emphasis on the need for better integration of efforts. The PBC is committed to continue to champion.