

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

Statement by H.E. Mr. Fazli Çorman, Deputy Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations

Mr. President,

At the outset I would like to thank you and commend your Presidency for organizing this meeting. I would also like to express our appreciation to the Secretary-General for his thorough and analytical reports on peacebuilding regarding the immediate aftermath of conflict and women's participation in peacebuilding. Let me briefly highlight some of the important conclusions that we have drawn from these reports.

First, we are glad to see that the interlinkages and interactions among peacemaking, peacekeeping and peacebuilding are now better appreciated. The report of the Secretary-General makes an important contribution in this regard by laying down an integrated strategic framework for peace operations in which these processes complement and mutually reinforce each other from the very outset. This is also precisely what the Presidential Statement adopted at the Security Council Summit held on 23 September 2010 called for, and we believe that the UN is moving on the right track.

Secondly, the report of the Secretary-General points to the numerous short-term challenges existing in the immediate aftermath of conflicts and provides guidance on how these challenges, if addressed in a proper and timely way, could be turned into opportunities to sustain peace. An important corollary is that short-term peacebuilding efforts need to be integrated into longer-term strategies.

In this regard, the Secretary-General's report rightly makes a strong case for more effective UN leadership on the ground, backed up by the effective strategic planning capabilities at the UN Headquarters. We thus welcome the steps taken towards providing improved guidance and support to the field missions, and also support the Secretary-General's initiative to deploy integrated and effective leadership teams in these field missions.

Thirdly, we also concur with the Secretary-General that peacebuilding is primarily a national responsibility and that the principal role of the international community should be to support the national peacebuilding efforts. The emphasis of the Secretary-General's report on nationally-owned planning processes and national capacity building is therefore well-placed. We thus believe that the international community should assist in building or rebuilding national capacities in a sustainable way, instead of simply substituting for these capacities. This will prevent a culture of dependency from taking root in these societies and provide credible transition and exit strategies.

In this regard, while there is certain merit in trying to generalize about the steps to be taken, we should also not lose sight of the fact that every country is unique. Local conditions, needs, opportunities and limitations may differ considerably from one country to another. This means that there is no single blueprint for dealing with the challenges facing peacebuilding activities across the board. Rather, the strategic planning of peacebuilding activities should be sufficiently flexible so as to take into account country-specific capacities and other idiosyncracies.

Fourthly, the diversity of challenges and complexities associated with peacebuilding efforts today suggests that we will continue to need the support and contribution of a myriad of actors, including international financial institutions, regional and sub-regional organizations, civil society and private sector. Indeed, various actors, such as the African Union, the European Union, NATO and the World Bank have become established players in peacekeeping and peacebuilding efforts and the UN should be able to support and make use of the capabilities of these organizations. Of course, coordination among those stakeholders is also critical and the UN's role in this regard is simply essential.

Related to that, we also support the efforts aimed at strengthening the international civilian capacity to be deployed in countries emerging from conflict and hope that the review process which is presently underway

under the auspices of the Secretary-General will lead to a broadening and deepening of the pool of civilian experts available for deployment in a coordinated and coherent way.

Last but not least, we wish to underline the importance of mainstreaming women's participation in peacebuilding efforts, as well as increasing opportunities for women to engage in decision-making and economic recovery. In this framework, we welcome the Secretary-General's action plan for gender-responsive peacebuilding aiming to address women's post-conflict needs and remove the constraints on their full participation in the peacebuilding processes.

Mr. President,

The Presidential Statement that is before us today contains important elements on all the issues I have just touched upon and we fully support it.

But allow me to conclude by reiterating Secretary General's call on all UN Member States to play their part in the collective efforts, not only through commitment of resources, but also through coherent, consistent and sustained participation in peacebuilding activities. Longer-term commitment, integrated approach and capacity-building are indeed the key words. On our part, Turkey will continue to be guided by those key principles and will actively engage in all peacebuilding efforts.

Thank you.