

Security Council Open Debate on UN Peacekeeping: A Multidimensional Approach, January 21st 2013, Security Council Chamber

Statement by Mr. Çevik, Permanent Mission of Turkey to the United Nations.

At the outset, I wish to express our appreciation for the participation of His Excellency Mr. Jalil Abbas Jilani, Foreign Secretary of Pakistan, as he presided over the debate this morning. I commend your efforts, Mr. President, as the Permanent Representative of Pakistan, as well as those of your able team, in preparing the comprehensive concept note (S/2013/4, annex) and in the adoption of resolution 2086 (2013), both of which highlight the issues and challenges that need more attention. The convening of today's debate and the adoption of the resolution are a clear reflection of the longstanding exemplary commitment of Pakistan to United Nations peacekeeping efforts throughout the world. I would also like to also thank the Secretary-General for his briefing.

Peacekeeping operations play a critical role in supporting a country in providing a better future for all its inhabitants. Such operations may have different functions, depending on the unique circumstances of each host country. Security is a precondition for development, and development generates more security. Therefore, although assisting a country in creating a physically more secure environment is one of its primary tasks, supporting national peacebuilding efforts should lie at the heart of peacekeeping operations. We therefore welcome the concept of peacekeepers being early peacebuilders.

Over the past year or so, the Secretariat and the Security Council have spent considerable time and energy in developing a new conceptual framework for peacekeeping and peacebuilding activities. Thanks to those efforts, we now have a better and more thorough understanding of those issues. In particular, the clarification of the nexus between peacebuilding and peacekeeping was highly useful and important.

Peacemaking should also be added to that nexus. We believe that it is essential to use all three tools within a coherent, integrated and strategic framework, in order to achieve sustainability. Turkey placed particular emphasis on those issues during its membership of the Council in 2009-2010, including by holding a summit-level meeting in September 2010 (see S/PV.6390), and an informal retreat for the members of the Council in Istanbul, in June 2010, on this subject. Together with Finland and the Group of Friends of Mediation, we are currently working on how to further the concept of mediation in all stages of conflicts, including in the peacekeeping and peacebuilding phases.

Now that we have a better conceptual framework and a better understanding of the interlinkage between peacekeeping and peacebuilding, the next step should be to concentrate on translating that framework into concrete action, both in the Security Council and in the field. In that regard, producing clear and achievable mandates and adjusting them as needed to reflect changing circumstances is necessary for successful outcomes. Actively supporting national authorities in building their capacities is essential, particularly when we take into account the fact that peacebuilding is primarily a national responsibility. Accordingly, we welcome the civilian capacities initiative.

Furthermore, as peacekeeping missions are economic forces in their own right, it is important to further strengthen their link with local economies. Indeed, that is a peacebuilding measure in itself. On the other hand, we have to be realistic and recognize the fact that there is considerable local resentment, reaction and opposition to peacekeeping missions. One of the priorities of any peacekeeping mission should be to win the hearts and minds of local populations, which can primarily be achieved by demonstrating the path to a better future. In that regard, carefully

addressing root causes is to the benefit of the international community at large.

Ensuring coordination and coherence within the United Nations, including through the exchange of information and consultation among the Security Council, the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Peacebuilding Commission, is clearly a prerequisite not only for a more effective outcome in New York, but on the ground as well. Partnerships are equally important. Actors with similar peacekeeping and peacebuilding capabilities, especially regional and subregional organizations, should be supported. Such streamlining could also be viewed as a sound investment in a time of austerity. In addition, there is also a need for more regionally coordinated approaches. The involvement of regional stakeholders will increase the chances of success and the sustainability of peacebuilding efforts, even after the peacekeeping missions have completed their mandates.

The peacebuilding element of peacekeeping operations is also important during the transition and withdrawal phases. We must ensure that transition from a peacekeeping setting will not lead to a loss of interest in and support for the relevant country. Ironically, many peacebuilding tasks are needed even more after the withdrawal stage. Therefore, when peacekeeping contingents are being scaled down, the level of support for peacebuilding tasks should not dwindle. If the conditions for preventing a relapse are not properly established and sustained, it will ultimately be impossible to avoid duplication or the wasting of precious human and material resources.

Last but not least, let me also underline the importance of mainstreaming women's participation in all stages of the peace process. We welcome the increasing awareness within the United Nations system and among Member States of the importance of removing the constraints on such participation, and look forward to seeing further enhancement in the role of women in peacemaking, peacekeeping and peacebuilding endeavours.

Before concluding, I wish to pay homage to the men and women serving as Blue Helmets, and to express our condolences for the peacekeepers who have sacrificed their lives in the line of duty.