

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

Statement by H.E. Mr. Lukwiya, Permanent Representative of Uganda to the United Nations

I thank the presidency of the Council for organizing this important debate on post-conflict peacebuilding. I also thank the Secretary-General, the Deputy Prime Minister of Timor-Leste, and the Chairman of the Peacebuilding Commission for their insightful statements this morning.

Uganda welcomes the increasing emphasis on the need to ensure that post-conflict peacebuilding activities are carried out in a more coordinated, coherent and effective way. Post-conflict countries face a number of challenges, including insecurity, weak or non-existent State institutions, the resettlement of internally displaced persons and refugees, reconstruction and economic recovery, which are often compounded by lack of resources. It is therefore essential that peacebuilding efforts be underpinned by recognition of the need to address the root causes of conflict and to build effective national institutions for sustainable peace and development.

In this regard, the primary responsibility for re-establishing and building the institutions of governance lies with national authorities, supported by international partners, including regional organizations and the United Nations. In Uganda's experience, the building of national institutions requires identifying key priorities based on a country's specific needs. This should be followed by developing and agreeing on a national strategy to address them, and by mobilizing the requisite political, financial and technical support and resources. Given the competing demands on scarce resources, it is important to sequence implementation beginning with the most urgent priorities. These include guaranteeing security of life and property, national reconciliation, adherence to the rule of law, and promoting democratic governance. It is also important to develop and implement a national economic recovery programme.

In order to build effective national institutions in post-conflict situations, these must enjoy popular support and legitimacy to overcome the distrust and suspicion that follow conflict. One way to achieve public trust and legitimacy is by ensuring that institutions are responsive to the needs of the populations and that decision-making is consultative and participatory. There is also a need to focus on delivering tangible dividends, including the provision of basic services and the improvement of the standard of living of the population. In cases where gross violations of human rights have been committed, justice must be done so that those responsible are held accountable.

The major challenge post-conflict countries face in building national institutions is mainly the lack of financial resources and technical expertise in various fields. We welcome the increasing engagement of the United Nations, through the Peacebuilding Commission, regional and international partners, and international financial institutions in support of national capacity development and improving mobilization of resources for peacebuilding. The best and most sustainable approach is to build on existing national human resources and capacities. Where technical expertise and assistance are provided, emphasis should also be placed on building national capacities to undertake those responsibilities.

Finally, we look forward to the imminent completion of the Senior Advisory Group's review of international civilian capacities and its recommendations for improving the international response by strengthening the availability and appropriateness of civilian capacities for post-conflict peacebuilding. Of particular interest will be proposals on how best to mobilize and organize specific civilian capacities from the global South and among women, and on how to ensure that their deployment enhances the building of national capacities. Uganda reiterates the importance of women's full participation in post-conflict peacebuilding and involvement in institution-building.