

STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR HARDEEP SINGH PURI, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF INDIA, ON "POST-CONFLICT PEACEBUILDING" AT THE UNITED NATIONS
SECURITY COUNCIL, 16 APRIL 2010.

Mr. President,

Thank you for convening today's debate on "post-conflict peacebuilding" and for the concept note.

At the outset, let me echo the Secretary General's assertion, in his report last year, on peacebuilding in the aftermath of conflict. The imperative of national ownership and the anchoring of international peacebuilding efforts at the country level cannot be overemphasized.

Security is a key pillar for peacebuilding. It is equally important to focus on building economic opportunity, particularly for the youth alongwith political and social stability.

This requires a holistic approach that is sensitive to the economic, social and political milieu of the post-conflict situation. This is also critical so that there is a real stake for the country in the peacebuilding efforts.

It also means that even in cases where it is difficult to locate national ownership, international peacebuilding efforts are geared towards strengthening the capacity of a post-conflict State to govern effectively and to govern well. Capacity building also assumes importance especially in instances where countries find it difficult to completely utilize the financial assistance they have been provided.

My delegation is, therefore, of the view that the international community, acting through the instrumentality of the PBC, must always strive to ensure that there is effective two-way dialogue between countries on the Agenda of the PBC and the Commission itself through all stages.

Another key issue is that of financing. Let us be clear and acknowledge the fact that lack of funding continues to be a major impediment to the success of peacebuilding initiatives. It goes without saying that other elements such as human resources, technical assistance, managerial assistance, assistance in kind and other programmes of assistance through provision of appropriate technologies are also important.

Given the sensitive nature of the peacebuilding tasks such as security sector reforms and development administration, there must be a high degree of coordination within the UN system. Work in the country-specific configurations has been a positive dimension.

In particular, the Council would do well to really consult major troop and police contributing countries, both individually and through the instrumentality of the PBC, while formulating and revising mandates of UN missions.

Mr. President,

India has shared its unique nation-building experience and expertise in a number of countries transiting from conflict to peace. We are very happy to continue to make available our capabilities in nation building to countries in post-conflict situations and cooperate with the UN in its various peacebuilding activities.

Ever since the creation of the PBC in December 2005, India has actively participated in its working as a member of its Organisational Committee and by contributing to the resources of the Peacebuilding Fund. We will continue this active association with the PBC and the PBF with a view to enable these institutions to fulfill in their entirety the tasks as assigned to them by the General Assembly and the Security Council. Further, we are of the view that the Fund should act as a catalyst for good governance.

In this regard, we note with approval the creation of the Senior Advisory Group for the Review of International Civilian Capacities in fulfillment of the 'agenda for action' outlined by the Secretary General in his 2009 Report on Peacebuilding in the aftermath of Conflict.

Mr. President,

We need to be cognizant that peacebuilding is still a concept in its infancy and is continuously evolving. The international community has taken on board the idea of peacebuilding to fulfil the important need of handling post-conflict situations. It is therefore, imperative that we ensure that peacebuilding and the institutions that constitute the peacebuilding architecture are successful.

Thank you.

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