

Statement by Mr. Vinay Kumar, Charge d’Affaires at the UN Security Council open debate on post-conflict peacebuilding on July 12, 2012

Thank you, Madam President.

Let me begin by welcoming you, Madam President, to the Security Council and thanking the Colombian delegation for organizing today’s open debate. Our thanks are also due to the Secretary General, Ambassadors Gasana and Momen and the representatives of the World Bank for their valuable statements. I also want to put on record our appreciation for your delegation for the useful Concept Paper to anchor our deliberations today.

2. Madam President, the nature of conflicts today is much different than in the past. Their intra state nature, need for managing natural resources, transnational organized crime, illicit trafficking in drugs and weapons, and regional dimensions demand an approach that is capable of building upon the gains of stabilization. Institutions of core governance, youth employment, transitional justice, national reconciliation, electoral support, and constitution building are tasks that need coherent and sustained assistance from the international community. This, in turn, requires political will, allocation of adequate resources and readiness for long-term engagement.

3. It is in this context that peacebuilding, once described as the “missing middle” between peacekeeping and durable peace, assumes importance. Setting up of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) six years back reflected the collective desire of the international community to assist post-conflict countries on a long-term basis in their transition. Despite its advisory role, the Commission and its Organizing Committee have done work worth our commendation in mainstreaming peacebuilding.

4. Given the wide range of tasks the PBC is expected to administer, it is not surprising that it faces several challenges. In our view, willingness of the international community to provide adequate resources is the first and a necessary condition for successful peacebuilding efforts in post-conflict countries. Second, greater coherence among various UN organs under the aegis of the Commission is required to enhance its ability to carry its agenda forward. In this connection, I would like to mention that the organizational context of peacebuilding continues to lack uniformity. Some peacebuilding efforts are being managed by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, others by the Department of Political Affairs and yet others by the UN Resident Coordinator system. Clearly, the peacebuilding policy-making needs a suitable address in this organization today.

5. Madam President, it is also important to keep in mind that peace in post-conflict societies cannot be restored unless citizens are free from fear and want, and institutions of governance perform effectively. The capacity for effective governance, in turn, depends on the existence of institutions that enable these authorities to respond effectively to people's aspirations. This general political aphorism is substantiated by the experience of the international community in its peacekeeping and peacebuilding efforts during the last two decades.

6. We, therefore, think that the core institutions of governance are the key to sustainable peace. They must be rooted locally rather than being imposed from above. Their local relevance and inclusiveness will make all the difference in the governance process. It is, therefore, important for the PBC to align its objectives with national priorities and ensure that all plans and programmes are implemented under national leadership and through national institutions so that gains are sustainable even if slow. The Commission must also draw from experiences most relevant for the prevailing socio-economic conditions in the countries on its agenda. An effective measure of the success of peacebuilding efforts will be the Commission's success in promoting inclusive political processes, national reconciliation and security sector reforms.

7. Madam President, peacebuilding anchored firmly in the overall peace process will deliver the best results. This requires the international community to make available a predictable and appropriate level of resources over extended periods. Our advocacy must be accompanied by matching commitments in resources.

8. UN's capacity to assist national institutions is contingent upon the Secretariat and the Funds and Programmes having skills and expertise that are relevant to these societies. SG's Civilian Capacity Review, we believe, is a step in making this process inclusive and representative. We firmly believe that the nimbleness of recruitment and deployment are not the sufficient conditions for performance delivery. Those willing to invest lives in the field must be valued. Our in-house experts who have gained valuable insights by spending time in the DRC, Darfur, Sudan and in other challenging locations should be the pivots of all our endeavours. Our efforts, at the same time, must be demand driven and nimble for the changing times rather than supply driven. Our ways of selecting police and military officers on secondment need to be simplified. Communication methods with Member States have stagnated with old times in this regard. Representative nature of our institutions will ensure the collective spirit of our enterprise including in DPKO and DFS.

9. In conclusion, Madam President, I would like to stress that as a responsible global citizen having wide experience of nation-building which are most relevant for

countries on the PBC agenda, India will not be found lacking in responding to challenges of the peacebuilding process, including under the aegis of the Peacebuilding Commission.

I thank you.

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