

STATEMENT BY MR. GOVINDRAO, MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT, ON 'REVIEW OF THE UNITED NATIONS PEACEBUILDING ARCHITECTURE' AT 65TH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON OCTOBER 29, 2010

Mr. President,

Thank you for convening today's session on a topic of importance and significance to all of us. Let me at the outset align my delegation with the statement delivered by my distinguished colleague from Bangladesh on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.



I wish to begin by echoing the Secretary General's assertion, in his report last year, on peacebuilding in the aftermath of conflict wherein he had emphasized

the imperative of national ownership and the anchoring of international peacebuilding efforts at the level host country.

My delegation recognizes the importance of post-conflict peacebuilding as the foundation for building sustainable peace, security, and development in the aftermath of conflict. Mr. President, sustainable peacebuilding requires an integrated approach with coherence between political, security, development, human rights and rule of law activities. Security clearly is the key peacebuilding pillar. Capacity building also assumes significance especially in instances where countries find it difficult to completely utilize the financial assistance they have been provided. It is equally important to focus on building economic opportunity, particularly for the youth, along with the political and social stability.

Mr. President,

Peacebuilding requires a holistic approach that is informed of economic, social and political milieu of the post-conflict situation. It is also necessary that we have stakeholders in the host 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 that is able to govern effectively and to govern well. In this regard, capacity building assumes importance especially in instances where countries find it difficult to completely utilize the financial assistance they have been provided.

It is equally important to focus on building the economic opportunity, particularly aimed at the youth alongwith political and social stability. Unemployment amongst youth, Mr. President, is a major factor for perpetuation of the underlying causes of conflict. Economic revitalization and economic opportunity is, especially among the youth is crucial in achieving sustainable peace and security. Another key issue is that of financing. Let us be clear and acknowledge the fact that the 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 through provision of appropriate technologies are important as well.

Given the sensitivities of peacebuilding tasks such as security sector reforms and development administration, a high degree of coordination within the United Nations is desirable. Work in the country-specific configurations has been a positive dimension. 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 exists a two-way dialogue between countries on the Agenda of the PBC and the Commission itself through all stages. In particular, the consultations with the troop and police contributing countries, both individually

and through the instrumentality of the PBC, while formulating and revising mandates of UN Missions, would be of important.

Mr. President,

My delegation firmly believes that peacekeeping and peacebuilding are mutually supportive and reinforcing projects. Launching of peacekeepers speedily in a conflict-torn scenario is a reflection both of our ability to mobilize resources and to access conflict zones. Early peacebuilding efforts depend largely on the role of the peacekeeping missions. The multidimensional peacekeeping is a necessary condition for peacebuilding and sustainable peace. We firmly believe that the peacekeeping and peacebuilding endeavours have to be premised on national ownership and development of national capacity.

Mr. President,

Ever since the creation of the PBC in December 2005, India, as a member of the Organizing Committee has engaged itself constructively with the work of PBC. We have contributed to the Peacebuilding Fund with the spirit that PBF achieves its task as mandated 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,

My delegation is 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. In this regards, it is important that the on-going review reorients the existing peacebuilding architecture that enables the Organization Committee and the PBC to play a more decisive role in formulating the Commission's approach to post-conflict situations. Also, the country-specific configurations must not run ahead of the national governments in setting targets. National needs rather than the normative prescriptions should determine the peacebuilding priorities. A mechanism should be devised to incorporate the wealth of experience that is available with the troops on the ground. No efforts should be left unattended that may enrich the peacebuilding project in a post-conflict society. To maximize peace dividend through peacebuilding and peacekeeping it is necessary that the mandates are mindful of the specifics on the grounds. The Commission and the Organizing Committee should play an important role in this regard.

Mr. President,

The international community has to be pro-active when it comes to resource mobilization for peacebuilding. Resources available should be tailored to suit local demands. Experience thus gained will be valuable in apportioning Peacebuilding its due share in the process in the transition from conflict to peace. My delegation firmly believes in the significant role of PBF in this regard. PBF should bridge the crucial gap between resources and implementation by financing peacebuilding projects through flexible financing. Mr. President, my delegation is convinced that social revitalization can not be complete without an inclusive and cohesive social agenda. Early peace dividends have the potential not only to win the hearts and minds but also to catalyse the process of social recovery in a participative and inclusive manner. We believe that the net should be cast wide among the players present in the Peacebuilding architecture to harness the wealth of ideas, resources, capacities and expertise.

Mr. President,

It is not neither possible not desirable to transplant models specific to one region to another context. International community must not be unduly eager for standard implementation to bring peace in a hurry. Sustainable peace has to be earned diligently, empathically and inclusively. In this regard, the regional and sub-regional approaches to crisis situations have a greater relevance while working out peacekeeping and peacebuilding mandates at the UN. We believe that the peacebuilding architecture must institutionalize structures and processes to this end.

Mr. President,

Peacebuilding is a UN-centric term. It is important that this is connected to the real world on the ground. The elements and the intent of the Peacebuilding Commission need to be communicated better to the larger audiences internationally. Various strategies and efforts of the peacebuilding architecture must be geared to strengthen the institutions of governance and administration in the host country. Transition strategies will have to bear in mind the efficacy of the prospective State institutions to continue these initiatives forward.

To assist Peacebuilding Commission carry out its mandated task of "an intergovernmental advisory body", it is incumbent that all organs of peacebuilding architecture, such as the General Assembly, the Security Council, and the Economic and Social Council, work in a coordinated and coherent manner. The PBC should not merely advise States on post-conflict peace

consolidation but should instead help the with efficient harnessing of international expertise.

Mr. President,

We must 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 fulfill 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.

In conclusion, Mr. President, let me share India's unique nation-building enterprise in a vast, varied and diverse settings. We have strived towards better life to our people. In the process we as a nation have earned capacities that are relevant to development and peacebuilding. We have shared this expertise with a number of countries making transition from conflict to peace. We will continue to make available our abilities to countries in post conflict situations and cooperate with the United Nations in its peacebuilding endeavours

Thank You.

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