

**OPEN DEBATE OF THE  
SECURITY COUNCIL:  
POST-CONFLICT PEACEBUILDING**

**STATEMENT**

**BY**

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TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

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Mr. President

We thank you for organizing this debate as well as for producing a concept paper in preparation for it. This debate comes at an opportune moment: At a time when the demand for peacekeeping has reached an unprecedented scale, it is certainly timely for the UN membership to take a look at the activities it undertakes after conflicts have ended. The increase in costs for peacekeeping operations certainly entails the risk that the resources necessary for post-conflict peacebuilding will not be made available. We are, of course, not discussing a new topic today, quite the opposite. Your concept paper illustrates this: The paper quotes from the Brahimi report published in the year 2000, and it is quite appropriate that Under-Secretary-General Lakhdar Brahimi was invited to address the Council today. We very much appreciated his presentation this morning which focused strongly on very practical aspects of post-conflict peacebuilding. The comments on the necessity to create national and local ownership and to therefore rely to the fullest extent possible on human resources in those countries where peacebuilding activities are undertaken deserve particular attention.

Mr. President

The fact that some parts of the Brahimi report are still not implemented after all these years illustrates that progress in this area has been slow. Nevertheless, it also has been steady and received an important boost through the establishment of the Peacebuilding Commission, which turns out to be one of the most important results of the 2005 World Summit. The work carried out so far by the PBC has clearly had positive effects, and we hope that its potential can be fully explored in the future. In particular, the Commission should be able to consider situations immediately after a conflict has ended and a ceasefire or peace accord has entered into force. It must also be understood that post-conflict peace-building is always also a tool for conflict prevention, and there should be an exchange of best practices from both fields. One feature of the work of the PBC that merits increased attention and further consideration is its practice to consider situations in different configurations in order to ensure an optimal inclusion of all stakeholders. This is a very interesting formula that could, in certain cases, probably be successfully applied to the work of the Security Council itself as well.

Mr. President

The rule of law plays a central role for the stabilization of countries and societies in post-conflict situations. It is our hope that the Rule of Law Unit, whose establishment required much more time than we had expected, will play a positive role in this respect. Efforts by the United Nations to secure the rule of law in the long term can only be successful if they tap extensively into local and national capacities and expand expertise in all relevant areas. In addition, increased attention must be given to transitional justice needs if and where they exist. The international community has accumulated extensive experience and expertise on this issue over the past years and developed different models and modalities to satisfy transitional justice needs. The International Criminal Court can play a particular role in this regard, and we hope that it will be given the political support required, including by the Security Council. In particular, the Council has to recognize that the principles of peace and justice are complementary, mutually reinforcing and, in their combination, an indispensable ingredient of post-conflict peacebuilding.

Mr. President

Your concept paper identifies rapid and flexible funding as one of the big challenges in the area of peacebuilding. In a time of rapidly increasing costs for peacekeeping, this challenge is likely to be exacerbated in the near future. Since peace-building is a form of conflict prevention, it can in principle be very cost effective, but experience shows (such as the examples given in your concept paper) that there can be little or no money available just during the initial phase after a conflict, when it is most needed and when the direction for the future process is set. Even though the activities are very different in nature, it would therefore appear that there is a similarity in terms of funding dynamic to the humanitarian work of the organization. Funding mechanisms designed following the example of CERF, which has served the purposes of humanitarian assistance quite well, seem therefore to be worth exploring.

I thank you.