

STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR HARDEEP SINGH PURI, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE,
ON POST-CONFLICT PEACEBUILDING [REPORT OF THE PEACEBUILDING
COMMISSION ON ITS 4TH SESSION] AT THE SECURITY COUNCIL ON MARCH 23, 2011

Thank you, Mr President.

Peacebuilding and peacekeeping-peacebuilding are and will remain core activities of the Council in the immediate future. Let me, therefore, begin by thanking you for organising this meeting today on Post-Conflict Peacebuilding. The results of these initiatives will play a key role in determining the relevance and effectiveness of the Council and of the larger United Nations system in the decades to come.

2. Let me also thank the Peacebuilding Commission for its detailed and insightful report and Ambassador Peter Witting under whose able stewardship the report was prepared and who has presented the report to us today. I also thank Ambassador Gasana for his statement. The Peacebuilding Commission, in its Organisational Committee and Country Specific Configurations, has a central position in the global peacebuilding architecture. The working relationship of this Commission, the newest organ of the UN, with the Security Council and the General Assembly is thus of critical importance.

3. My delegation has been a member of the Commission since its inception. It favours close, regular and substantive interaction between the Commission, the Council and the Assembly so that the United Nations can deliver as one when it comes to setting the peacebuilding agenda.

4. Mr President, peacebuilding is a cooperative effort. The United Nations requires working with other peacebuilding actors, including international financial institutions. My delegation has noted the growing focus on the special characteristics of post-conflict situations amongst an increasing number of development and economic actors. This, we expect, will have a positive impact on peacebuilding and on the growing need for resources for peacebuilding initiatives.

5. In an arena with many players, the United Nations must, however, be conscious of the need for it to retain the high ground in developing the normative basis for peacebuilding. An international effort is underway to understand the linkages between

development, peace and security and to suggest solutions. The Council itself debated this issue 6 weeks ago. We must ensure that this effort is able to resist the temptation to create a new peacebuilding orthodoxy. Many of these efforts end up talking down rather than of listening. This must be avoided at all costs.

6. My delegation stresses that the United Nations must play the central role in identifying a common peacebuilding vision, in bringing together the various actors and in acting as bridge between national authorities and various peacebuilding and development actors.

7. Some of these issues were addressed by the Working Group on Lessons Learned, an effort with which we have been associated. We believe that its conclusions *inter alia* in relation to the role of the Peacebuilding Commission in marshalling resources, on the imperative of national dialogue in post-conflict situations and the role of youth, are particularly relevant to the further evolution of peacebuilding.

8. Mr President, peacebuilding emerged from peacekeeping. The United Nations has made enormous investments of manpower and resources in "multidimensional" PKOs mandated to operate in "fragile" states. We are now in the midst of another paradigmatic shift into peacekeeping-peacebuilding operations or purely peacebuilding operations.

9. India brings to this table the experience of almost sixty years of peacekeeping. We have contributed more peacekeepers to more peacekeeping operations than any other nation. We have also participated in every type of peacekeeping operation – from truce supervision to the current generation of purely peacebuilding initiatives.

10. Based on its experience, my delegation stresses that peacekeeping is early peacebuilding. Our peacekeepers in UNTAC, UNOSOM II, MONUC, UNMIS, UNMIL, and MINUSTAH have been early peacebuilders. We believe that the process of implementing a peace agreement must run along with the provision of humanitarian and emergency assistance, with the creation of political institutions that can resolve conflicts, reconcile parties to conflicts and allow dialogue between the state and the governed, with Security Sector Reform, with administrative and economic restructuring, with empowering the weak, building a human rights culture and resuming economic activity.

11. Mr President, national ownership is the key determinant of success in peacebuilding. The international community can encourage, motivate and facilitate. It cannot solve those problems which require national will and national ownership.

12. We believe, however, that the international community has the duty to make available appropriate capacities to national authorities. The solutions and capacities that these authorities seek are those that have been tried and tested in similar environments. Countries like India have successfully surmounted many of the challenges that have produced these conflicts. The shared colonial legacy that produced these challenges and our experience, and that of other nations who faced similar

difficulties, has particular relevance to the problem at hand. The success of the all-female Indian Formed Police Unit in Liberia is a good example of how the capacities and experience in the global South can be leveraged in peacebuilding situations.

13. It is also the responsibility of the international community to provide the resources. Complex peacekeeping operations usually have a life span that is measured in years. Peacebuilding operations will last for decades and require a predictable and appropriate level of resources over extended periods.

14. Mr President, India strongly supports the role and relevance of regional players in post-conflict scenarios. We are greatly encouraged by the African Union's efforts to develop Post-Conflict Reconstruction capacities. The success of NEPAD and the African Peer Review Mechanism has many lessons that are relevant to the strengthening of national ownership.

15. Mr President, the Secretariat and the Funds and Programmes must do more to become an effective player. Skill sets and expertise that are relevant to these societies need to be augmented. I have in an earlier debate spoken about the ponderous nature of the UN bureaucracy and pointed out that an organization that takes up to 200 days to fill positions in the field can hardly be a model worthy of emulation when it comes to institution-building.

16. Mr President, in concluding, I would like to point out that India has engaged bilaterally with a number of nations on the peacekeeping- peacebuilding agenda in response to national requirements. We also have contributed, along with my fellow delegations from Brazil and South Africa, through plurilateral mechanisms such as the IBSA Trilateral initiative that is active in peacebuilding.

17. We are committed to this process and will continue to remain fully engaged.

Thank you, Mr President.

BACK TO SECURITY COUNCIL