

STATEMENT BY MR. E. AHAMED, MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS,
BRIEFING ON POST-CONFLICT PEACEBUILDING, AT UNITED NATIONS
SECURITY COUNCIL ON OCTOBER 31, 2011

Madam President,

At the outset, I would like to thank you for organizing this timely debate.

Your initiative will not only be significant in determining the relevance and effectiveness of this Council but also of the larger United Nations system in the decades to come.



I would like to thank ASG Judy Cheng-Hopkins and Chair of Peacebuilding Configuration for Guinea Ambassador Sylvie Lucas for their useful briefings.

Our sincere appreciations are also for Ambassador Gasana for his able stewardship of the Peacebuilding Commission.

Madam President,

The idea of peacebuilding essentially emanates from experience of peacekeeping distilled over decades.

The United Nations has made enormous investments of manpower and resources in "multidimensional" PKOs.

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

India's excellence in peacekeeping is a result of our long partnership with the UN missions wherein our consolidated contributions outsize the magnitude of the current peacekeeping operations.

Our peacekeepers have invariably also been early peacebuilders.

India has also shared its experience and expertise with a range of countries that have embarked onto the path of transition from conflict to peace.

We will happily continue to make available our capacities to societies emerging from post-conflict situations and will partner UN in its peacebuilding endeavours.

As a member of its Organisational Committee, India has partnered PBC actively, since its inception in December 2005, and has made contributions to the Peace Building Fund.

Madam President,

Peacebuilding is a cooperative and coordinated venture.

Peacebuilding strategies need to be harmonized within the UN system first. The existing structures and networks of strength need to be consolidated as we explore alternatives elsewhere.

Harnessing capacities from the global South will energize our peacebuilding enterprise.

It is also important to keep in mind that national ownership is the critical determinant of success in peacebuilding.

It is the duty of the international community to ensure assistance for capacity building to national authorities.

Madam President,

Security is, of course, the key pillar for peacebuilding.

It is, however, equally important that we focus on economic opportunity, particularly for the youth in tandem with political and social stability.

This demands a holistic approach.

It is also important that there is an effective two-way dialogue between countries on the Agenda of the PBC and the Commission itself through all phases.

Let us also acknowledge the fact that lack of funding constitutes a major impediment to the success of peacebuilding initiatives.

It goes without saying that other elements such as human resource, technical assistance, managerial assistance, assistance in kind and other programmes of assistance through provision of appropriate technologies are also important.

Predictable and appropriate level of resources over an extended period will guarantee sustainability of peacebuilding initiatives.

Madam President,

Enhancing civilian capacity will have a major impact on staffing, resourcing and the peacekeeping missions themselves.

These are essential but should neither dilute nor detract from the requirements of peacekeeping.

It is also important that the civilian capacities are sourced with the requisite measure of ground experience. In this context priority should be given to obtain capacities on secondment from Governments of developing countries.

My delegation is hopeful of constructive and meaningful discussions on the substance of the Secretary-General's report on civilian capacities.

It is essential that these discussions take place in inter-governmental settings and involve the C-34 and the Fifth Committee.

Thank you, Madam President.

BACK TO SECURITY COUNCIL