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STATEMENT BY

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SECURITY COUNCIL THEMATIC DEBATE ON POST-CONFLICT PEACEBUILDING

New York

July 22, 2009

Please Check Against Delivery

Colleague Ministers,

Mr. Secretary General,

Excellencies Ambassadors,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me begin by thanking you for participating in this High-Level meeting to focus on the important issue of post-conflict peacebuilding.

You will recall that the Security Council, in May last year, requested the Secretary-General, the Peacebuilding Commission, international and regional organisations, and Member States to consider how to support countries affected by conflict to secure sustainable peace in a faster and more effective way.

I would therefore like to thank the Secretary General for the report he has prepared which he will be presenting today.

Excellencies

The task before us is to consider and refine strategies through which the United Nations, and the international community,

can effectively support countries emerging from conflict to move towards sustainable peace, reconstruction, economic recovery, and development.

Post-conflict peacebuilding is premised on the simple fact that without peace, development is not possible and yet, without development, peace is not durable. There is need to deliver tangible peace dividends including provision of basic services and improvement of the standard of living of the population.

Going by the current practice and framework, peacebuilding activities are not envisaged in countries that are still in conflict situations. The Security Council needs to address the critical issue of early consideration of peacebuilding activities, right from the peacemaking and peacekeeping stages.

Excellencies

In any peacebuilding endeavour, national leadership and ownership is of paramount importance.

National authorities must take the primary responsibility for re-establishing the key institutions of governance, and

economic recovery with the support of the United Nations and the international partners.

This requires identifying key priorities, developing and agreeing on a national strategy to address them through a widely consultative process, and mobilizing the requisite political, financial, and technical support in a coordinated manner.

Our experience in Uganda showed us the importance of identifying national priorities based on our own unique situation and conditions. We decided that it was important to address post-conflict peacebuilding, starting from 1986, in a sequenced manner; beginning with the most urgent and critical elements.

These included efforts to guarantee security of life and property; embarking on national reconciliation and unity by establishing a broad based government; establishing a Human Rights Commission to investigate human rights abuses in the country; introducing and consolidating the concept of popular democracy.

Other priorities included security sector reform by, inter alia, integrating all former fighting forces into a new national army and granting amnesty among others. We launched and executed a nationally agreed minimum recovery programme, and then embarked on a process of constitutional reform through country-wide consultations culminating in the promulgation of a new national constitution in 1995.

Excellencies,

Peacebuilding is a shared responsibility in which the United Nations, sub-regional, regional organizations, and the wider international community have a critical role to play.

It does not really matter where conflict situations arise whether in the Balkans, Asia, Latin America or Africa. The role of regional approaches to solving the problems is key, because regions have more intimate knowledge. The experience in Africa and the Great Lakes region in particular, shows that regional efforts can be successful.

The regional peace initiative on Burundi chaired by Uganda and facilitated by South Africa, is a good example in this

regard. The knowledge and clear understanding of the political and social dynamics that the regional leaders brought to the peace process in Burundi was critical to resolving the conflict.

Burundi is now making steady progress in post-conflict peacebuilding with the support of the East African Community, the African Union, the UN and international partners. The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) played a positive role in Liberia, while the African Union, through AMISOM, is currently engaged in efforts to bring about peace and stability in Somalia.

Regional Organisations such as the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN), the Organization of American States (OAS) the European Union (EU), and the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), have also made substantial contributions to peacebuilding.

Excellencies

The regional organizations in Africa have the human resources but, what they clearly lack are the financial resources. That is where the United Nations and the international community can help. The challenge is how the United Nations can address issues of international peace and security meaningfully and remain relevant.

Uganda therefore calls upon the United Nations and international partners to support regional and sub-regional efforts to strengthen their capacities in peacebuilding.

Excellencies,

Post-conflict peacebuilding activities require adequate, flexible and predictable funding. There is urgent need for the United Nations system to ensure greater coherence in peacemaking, peacekeeping, peacebuilding, and development activities. We therefore call upon the United Nations to strengthen further its strategic partnerships with the World Bank and other financial institutions.

We are encouraged by the initiatives for flexible funding being undertaken by the United Nations, through the Peacebuilding Fund, and launching of in-country Multi-donor Trust Funds. The United Nations should also focus more on implementation of the concepts of “Joint UN Vision” and “Integrated Missions” in supporting peacebuilding activities.

Finally, we thank all the delegations for their contribution to the draft Presidential Statement, as an outcome of our deliberations.

I thank you.