

Intervention by Mr. Devesh Uttam, First Secretary, during informal consultations on the 2015 review of Peacebuilding Architecture (PBA) on 13 November, 2015

Distinguished co-facilitators,

1. Thank you for convening this informal meeting on the 2015 review of Peace building Architecture. I would also like to welcome Amb. Gurt Rosenthal, Chair of Advisory Group of Experts and thank him for being with us today.
2. The Advisory Group's report provides a good basis for stage two of the review process. The report rightly points out that current PBA architecture comprising PBC, PBF and PBSO created in 2005 has proved inadequate, under-resourced and largely neglected by member states, and most importantly by the Security Council, which has a primary responsibility for peacebuilding.
3. The willingness of the international community to provide adequate resources is a necessary condition for successful peacebuilding efforts in post-conflict countries. The Advisory Group's report rightly highlights that financing for peacebuilding remains scarce, inconsistent and unpredictable. Peacebuilding, anchored firmly in the overall peace process, can deliver results if the international community makes available predictable and appropriate level of resources over extended periods. It is important that advocacy must be accompanied by matching commitments in resources.
4. We support the Advisory Group's recommendation that PBF should be provided annually with symbolic 1% of the value of the total UN peace keeping budget as core funding. We also support strengthening of PBSO and it should be provided adequate resources from the regular budget.
5. It is imperative for the peacebuilding efforts to align themselves with national priorities and ensure that all plans and programmes are implemented under national leadership and through national institutions. This would ensure that gains, even if slow, are sustainable. It is necessary to rebuild institutions and infrastructure in nations torn by civil war if we want to consolidate peace and avoid a relapse into conflict. A certain amount of external guidance is implicit in peacebuilding, but it should not be at the cost of local ownership and agenda. AGE report put forward the concept of inclusive national ownership. However, we would like to emphasize that the concept of 'inclusive national ownership' should not be diluted. It is the primary responsibility of national governments of countries emerging from conflict to identify priorities and strategies for peace building in order to ensure national ownership.
6. The international community needs to go beyond short term fixes and address long term socio-economic development of the host country. Poverty and lack of opportunity pose some of the most formidable barriers to sustainable peace. The Advisory Group's has also pointed out in the report that progress in development is critical to prevent both lapse and relapse into conflict. It also rightly emphasized on the need for greater attention to conflict prevention.

7. The rule of law is also important as consolidation of peace cannot be achieved unless the population is confident that their grievances would be redressed in a just manner. Peace building needs to integrate indigenous and informal justice mechanisms into judicial reforms, instead of viewing them as being incompatible with western liberal values.

8. The Advisory Group's Report on Peacebuilding Review, High Level Independent Panel on Peace Operations, and the High Level Advisory Group on Implementation of UNSC Resolution 1325 (Women, Peace & Security) coincided. We think that these review processes should look into the contribution that peacekeepers and peacekeeping missions make to early peacebuilding, including through creating a conducive environment and suggest ways to further consolidate these early gains enabling economic recovery and mitigation of the root causes of conflicts. At the same time, it is also important to recognize that humanitarian actors, development actors, other peace builders and peace keepers all have different tasks and priorities. Therefore, integration of peace keeping and peace building should only be done to the degree they need to be, to build sustainable peace.

9. At the end, let me assure you of my delegation's constructive support and participation in the review process.

I thank you.
