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Summary record of the 18th meeting

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Wednesday, 4 November 2015, at 3 p.m.

Chair: Mr. Proaño (Vice-Chair) (Ecuador)

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The meeting was called to order at 3 p.m.

Agenda item 56: Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects (*continued*) ([A/70/95-S/2015/446](#), [A/70/357-S/2015/682](#) and [A/69/968-S/2015/490](#))

1. **Mr. Kaswan** (India) said that his Government was proud to be the largest cumulative troop contributor to United Nations peace operations, with over 85,00 troops having served in 48 of the 69 missions mandated so far.

2. The main issue for peacekeeping operations was the opaque manner in which the Security Council mandated such operations without any accountability or transparency. While the report of the High-level Independent Panel on Peace Operations ([A/70/95-S/2015/446](#)) had referred to trilateral consultations among the Secretariat, Security Council and troop-contributing countries, it was his Government's view that direct and formal consultations between troop-contributing countries and the Security Council during mandate formulation and change were a *sine qua non* for all effective peacekeeping operations.

3. Although Article 44 of the Charter of the United Nations called on the Security Council to invite Member States not represented in the Council to "participate in the decisions of the Security Council concerning the employment of contingents of that Member's armed forces", that never happened in practice. The formulation of and mid-stream changes to the mandates were thus a source of concern for his delegation.

4. The Security Council tended to mix an original mandate with an interventionist mandate for a small portion of the troops in the peacekeeping operation. One example was the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) mandated by Security Council resolution 2098 (2013). As his Government was contributing over 4,000 troops to that Mission, it had concerns on that important issue. The report of the Secretary-General entitled "The future of United Nations peace operations: implementation of the recommendations of the High-level Independent Panel on Peace Operations" ([A/70/357-S/2015/682](#)) stated that "dialogue between the Council, the Secretariat and contributors [was] essential for the mandate and conduct of a peace operation", and "should begin before a mission [was] established". His delegation strongly

supported that position. Noting that report's proposal for a renewed focus on prevention and mediation, stronger regional-global partnerships, and new ways of planning and conducting United Nations peace operations to make them faster, more responsive and more accountable to the needs of countries and people in conflict, his delegation believed that primacy must be given to the pacific settlement of disputes as the core objective of United Nations peace operations, as set out in the Charter.

5. The United Nations, and the Security Council in particular, must ensure that the mandates of all United Nations peacekeeping operations included legally binding provisions for prosecuting, penalizing and neutralizing any non-governmental armed groups and armed militias causing or threatening harm to those operations.

6. Both the aforementioned reports recognized that United Nations peace operations were not designed or equipped to impose political solutions through sustained use of force, nor were they the appropriate tool for military counter-terrorism operations. His delegation endorsed those recommendations, as the Organization's peacekeepers were not suited to targeted offensive action against armed militia, non-State actors and terrorists.

7. The core values of United Nations peacekeeping, including the principles of consent, impartiality, and non-use of force except in very limited circumstances, remained highly relevant. To mitigate growing resource constraints, his Government called for the current allocation of resources within peace operations to be reviewed, so as to support political efforts to bring about peaceful conflict settlements.

8. His delegation welcomed the Secretary-General's reaffirmed commitment ([A/70/357-S/2015/682](#)) to inform the Security Council of escalating risk for civilians or serious shortfalls in the capability of missions to fulfil protection mandates. As a troop contributor, his Government looked forward to participating in such briefings. The Security Council could clearly benefit from the ground-level assessments that troop-contributing countries were able to provide through direct interaction with other Member States, thereby contributing to a more effective implementation of the mandate for protection of civilians. Article 44 of the Charter should be implemented in letter and spirit.

9. Multidimensional mandates lacked commensurate financial resources. The General Assembly had decided on a peacekeeping reimbursement rate of USD 1,322 per person per month from 1 July 2014, compared with the USD 1,762.55 suggested by the Troop Cost Survey and recommended by the Senior Advisory Group. That had not resolved the mismatch between resources requirements and allocation.

10. Sexual exploitation and abuse continued to shame the Organization. His Government viewed such cases as extremely serious, and called for a zero-tolerance policy in all peacekeeping and peacebuilding field operations.

11. At the Leaders' Summit on Peacekeeping held in September 2015, India's Prime Minister had demonstrated his Government's active commitment to supporting United Nations peace operations by announcing a 10 per cent increase in troop contributions to existing or new operations, an additional 3 police units with greater female representation, a commitment to deploy critical enablers and technical personnel, and additional training for peacekeepers in India and in the field.

12. **Mr. Wehbi** (Lebanon) said that the reports of the High-level Independent Panel ([A/70/95-S/2015/446](#)) and of the Secretary-General on implementing the Panel's recommendations ([A/70/357-S/2015/682](#)), along with the Leaders' Summit on Peacekeeping Operations, had reaffirmed the collective political will to ensure that such multidimensional missions were more flexible, adaptable and responsive to national priorities.

13. The Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations should remain the only intergovernmental forum to discuss policies and guidance, and to collaborate with the Security Council, troop- and police-contributing countries, the Secretariat and other United Nations agencies. It was vital to enhance regional and triangular cooperation, as well as partnerships among Departments at Headquarters and between Headquarters and the field. Strong relationships with host countries, the civilian population and armed forces were also paramount.

14. The Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Field Support should finalize guidance to streamline the leadership of peace operations in light of renewed global commitments to increase the participation of women in leadership and mediation roles. The number of female peacekeepers

and heads of missions should be increased in line with the latest findings.

15. Peacekeeping operations should never be the end goal, but must include peacebuilding and post-conflict reconstruction from the outset. A smooth transition involving national ownership and political solutions required support for national institutions and capacity building in elements such as the rule of law, security sector reform, good governance, and disarmament, demobilization and reintegration.

16. There was an excellent relationship between the Lebanese Armed Forces and the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) at the operational and coordination levels. The five-year plan to strengthen the capabilities of the country's armed forces would eventually enable them to fulfil their tasks in south Lebanon, combat terrorism and maintain security and stability. His delegation had cautioned against Israeli attempts to undermine that cooperation and the credibility of UNIFIL and the Lebanese Army. His Government believed that, through the tripartite mechanism, UNIFIL could prevent any unilateral and provocative action that could lead to escalation.

17. A Spanish UNIFIL peacekeeper had been killed by Israeli shelling in January 2015. The 1997 Israeli attack on UNIFIL quarters in Qana and the 2006 Israeli attack on an observation post of the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO) had been reminders that such crimes should never be repeated and that their perpetrators should be held accountable. Respect for the safety and security of United Nations peacekeepers was of paramount importance for the implementation of the mandates of all peacekeeping missions.

18. Reaffirming its commitment to the full implementation of Security Council resolution 1701 (2006), his Government reiterated calls for the international community to compel Israel to comply with its obligations by withdrawing from the remaining Lebanese occupied territories and ceasing to violate Lebanon's sovereignty by land, air and sea.

19. His Government would like to thank the Force commander of UNIFIL, the women and men fulfilling the mandate on the ground and all the troop-contributing countries for their commitment. The noble sacrifice of peacekeepers should be matched with unwavering political and financial support to invest in the future and provide civilians with the sustainable peace they deserved.

20. **Ms. Myint** (Myanmar) paid tribute to all those serving in United Nations peace operations as Blue Helmets who had sacrificed their lives to maintain peace and security across the world, and emphasized the importance of ensuring the safety of the peacekeeping troops serving in difficult and dangerous conditions.

21. The norms and mandates used to resolve conflicts between States did not apply to new and complex conflicts within nations or among civilians. The Organization's peace operations should keep pace with the changing nature of the peace and security situation. Peacekeeping missions must uphold the purposes and principles of the Charter and the principles of consent of the parties and host-government, impartiality, and the non-use of force except in self-defence and in defence of the mandate.

22. Traditionally, the Organization's peacekeeping operations had only begun with the agreement of the parties to the conflict. The conduct of peace operations needed to be reviewed and adjusted in light of the changing context, without undermining the underlying principles of United Nations peacekeeping. Her delegation therefore welcomed the initiative of the Secretary-General to launch a review of peace operations and the resulting report of the High-level Independent Panel ([A/70/95-S/2015/446](#)). Her Government expected the Secretary-General's report on implementing the Panel's recommendations ([A/70/357-S/2015/682](#)) to serve as a useful basis for discussion.

23. Although the protection of civilians, especially women and children, was an important issue, the primary responsibility lay with the Government of the host country. Peace missions should support national authorities in carrying out their protection responsibilities. Mandates to include civilian protection therefore needed to be realistic, and should be the subject of careful consultation among Member States. That consultation should focus on the host Government, with full recognition of its limits and the basic principles of the United Nations Charter.

24. Her delegation believed that the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations, which Myanmar had recently joined, was the essential forum for the success of the review process. Her Government had made significant progress in reforms, particularly to promote peace and reconciliation. Recent historic achievements included the nationwide ceasefire

agreement signed between the Government and eight armed ethnic groups.

25. Her Government was reaching out to the international community, taking up training opportunities and building its national capacity to contribute more to United Nations peace operations, with personnel already serving in peacekeeping missions in Liberia and South Sudan. Her delegation stood ready to work more closely with the United Nations to enhance its national capacity and contribute more qualified personnel to that noble cause.

26. **Ms. Sánchez** (Honduras) said that, while the Charter did not specifically include the term "peacekeeping", Dag Hammarskjöld had referred to it as belonging to "Chapter Six and a Half" of the Charter, i.e. between such traditional methods of peaceful dispute resolution as negotiation and mediation under Chapter VI, and the more forceful action authorized under Chapter VII.

27. That the 16 peacekeeping operations under way included over 100,000 people deployed from 121 countries was a clear demonstration of the global commitment to peacekeeping. Her Government was contributing two experts to the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO) and 37 officials to the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH). Her delegation called for a rapid resolution of conflicts, as well as championing the human rights of displaced populations so that they were not criminalized for fleeing conflict.

28. Highlighting the efforts to implement Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women, peace and security, with women as active peacekeeping and peacebuilding agents, her delegation also welcomed General Assembly resolution 69/287 on the comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects, bearing in mind the constant need to maintain efficiency and increase effectiveness of those operations.

29. Her delegation had confidence in preventive diplomacy and effective dialogue between parties as the most appropriate means, in accordance with the Charter, of preventing conflict and achieving lasting peace. In the meantime, her Government remained willing to increase its involvement in peacekeeping and applauded the Department of Peacekeeping Operations for its impressive work worldwide.

30. Peace and security based on international law were a prerequisite for the success of the Sustainable Development Goals. Peace and development were intertwined, and the Goals would never be achieved in the midst of conflict. It was vital to come together and act moderately without using or threatening force, so as to strengthen cooperation based on equality and reciprocity.

31. **Ms. Nguyen** (Viet Nam), welcoming the reports of the High-level Independent Panel ([A/70/95-S/2015/446](#)) and the Secretary-General on implementing the Panel's recommendations ([A/70/357-S/2015/682](#)), said that in increasingly hostile peacekeeping environments, the safety and security of United Nations personnel should be a major concern for Member States. In that regard, pre-deployment training and the responsible use of new cost-effective technologies were key factors.

32. Her Government commended the priorities set by the Secretary-General, especially the renewed focus on prevention and mediation. A stronger partnership between the United Nations and regional and interregional organizations was essential.

33. United Nations peace operations must uphold the purposes and principles of the Charter, as well as the guiding principles of impartiality, non-use of force except in self-defence, and the consent of the parties concerned. Broader consultation with troop- and police-contributing countries, as well as strict observation of those principles in preparing and implementing mandates, would help to build a sustainable culture of peaceful United Nations involvement in conflict resolution and avoid any misunderstanding concerning peace operations.

34. Her delegation strongly supported collective United Nations peacekeeping efforts. Her Government had joined the community of troop-contributing countries in 2014, with peacekeepers deployed to the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) and the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA). As her President had pledged during the Leaders' Summit on Peacekeeping in September 2015, her Government was preparing to dispatch a level-two hospital and an engineering company to peacekeeping missions, and continued to send liaison and staff officers. Echoing the pledges made to peace operations by many other countries at the Summit, her delegation

stood ready to cooperate with the United Nations and all other partners in peace operations, which required a stronger political will and durable commitments to maintain adequate financial and human resources. Her Government deeply appreciated the sacrifices and invaluable contributions of peacekeepers in that noble endeavour.

35. **Ms. Natividad** (Philippines) thanked the Secretary-General for strengthening the United Nations through various reviews on peace operations and the relevant Security Council resolutions on women, peace and security. Her Government had been a consistent contributor of financing and troops to peacekeeping operations since 1963; thousands of Filipino men and women had served in at least 23 missions in 15 countries since then. The Philippine National Council for United Nations Peace Operations continued to carefully analyse developments in the field in connection with her Government's levels of commitment and participation.

36. The number of hostile acts against peacekeepers had more than doubled yearly over the past three years; fatalities had increased by 50 per cent on the previous year, and the number of peacekeepers injured had increased threefold. Those grim statistics highlighted the need for continued and thorough review of mandates, operational and tactical rules governing troop engagement, and the need for measures to protect the safety and security of peacekeepers. Noting the Secretariat's initiatives in the field towards more agile, flexible and responsive measures, including the use of technology and innovation, her Government reiterated its call for further consultation on ways and means to protect peacekeepers.

37. Her Government was pleased that 15 out of 161 Philippine military troops and police personnel deployed to MINUSTAH were women, and would continue to mainstream female representation in recruitment and deployment policies. It strongly supported the Secretary-General's zero-tolerance policy on sexual exploitation and abuse, holding that one case of such behaviour was one too many, tarnishing the Organization's image and constituting a disservice to brave and honourable peacekeepers. It pledged to hold its troops accountable to the highest standards of conduct.

38. Her Government welcomed the High-level Independent Panel's report ([A/70/95-S/2015/446](#)) and

its recommendations for the peaceful political settlement of disputes to prevent conflicts; partnerships with regional organizations, host Governments and local communities; and people-centred, flexible responses through a field-focused framework. Those recommendations reaffirmed Article 33 of the Charter on the primacy of the peaceful settlement of disputes through negotiation, mediation and resort to regional agencies or arrangements. That report referred to a “culture of prevention” that had yet to be embraced by the Organization, however, finding that Member States had not sufficiently invested in addressing the root causes of conflict. Member States must invest in their own capacities, while also drawing upon the knowledge and resources of others beyond the United Nations system.

39. Endorsing the Panel’s recommendations on protection of civilians and unarmed strategies to build protective environments, her delegation underlined the Panel’s suggestion that, for missions with a mandate to protect civilians, the Secretariat should present the Security Council with frank assessments and resource requirements while informing it of obstacles to fulfilling mandates.

40. Her Government also appreciated the Secretary-General’s report on implementing the Panel’s recommendations (A/70/357-S/2015/682), its action plan based on three pillars, and its proposals to enhance existing organizational and operational frameworks. It also called for holistic reform of the funding and backstopping of special political missions, and was pleased that the Panel had addressed the issue as such reforms enhanced the delivery of development mandates. Supporting the ongoing process, her Government looked forward to more in-depth consultations in the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations and in the Fifth Committee. It honoured all peacekeepers and their work in hostile conditions, and saluted all those who had made the ultimate sacrifice for the cause of peace.

41. **Mr. Al-Hashmi** (Qatar), underscoring the principles of the United Nations Charter and peacekeeping operations, including sovereignty and the importance of coordinating with the host Government, said that to safeguard credibility of peacekeeping, missions should respect their mandates, and that the Security Council should tackle each case comprehensively and independently in order to protect civilians.

42. Security and other aspects of peacekeeping, including tackling of root causes, should be coordinated as the best means of achieving peace. Missions should keep in mind the specificities, culture and language of the country of operation to facilitate communication between troops and locals. Equipment and approaches needed to be developed to tackle new challenges and embrace partnerships. His Government welcomed the Organization’s efforts to make improvements through the peacekeeping review and other partnership activities, and encouraged the Secretariat in its development of procedures to provide logistical support, commending the Security Council for enhancing the role of women in conflict prevention and response. His delegation endorsed the zero-tolerance policy on sexual abuse by United Nations peacekeepers.

43. As a troop-contributing country, Qatar appreciated the important role played by international peacekeeping forces in difficult circumstances, and saluted the ultimate sacrifice that some had made for world peace.

44. **Mr. Doucouré** (Mali) welcomed the October 2015 special session on peacekeeping, and noted the conclusions of the reports of the High-level Independent Panel (A/70/95-S/2015/446) and of the Secretary-General on implementing the Panel’s recommendations (A/70/357-S/2015/682).

45. Mali was the host country for the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA), one of the largest peacekeeping operations, and the entire country was grateful for the remarkable work that mission had achieved. His delegation also thanked the troop-contributing countries for sending their people to achieve peace in Mali in an often-dangerous environment.

46. While United Nations peacekeeping operations had certainly helped to settle conflicts worldwide, the decades-old gap between emerging security challenges and United Nations peacekeeping doctrine needed to be updated for modern times. His Government fully endorsed the view of the High-level Panel (A/70/95) that peace operations were too often based on standard templates rather than supporting political strategies tailored to each situation. MINUSMA itself had been the target of 50 asymmetrical attacks by hostile forces resulting in 56 deaths and 126 serious injuries, making it the most dangerous peacekeeping operation in the

world. As such situations undermined the Organization's international credibility, his delegation strongly urged the United Nations to work with regional organizations and troop-contributing countries on more realistic and better-defined mandates to respond to specific conflict situations, including those involving terrorist groups. Deployed units should also have the equipment and skills needed for their theatre of operation, and be able to use all means available to thwart treats against civilians and United Nations facilities and personnel. United Nations personnel should in turn embody the values of moral integrity to avoid any human rights violations, as the protection of civilians must be based on a culture of accountability.

47. His delegation supported the recommendations of the Secretary-General's report on women, peace and security (A/2015/716) calling for greater involvement of women in preventing and managing conflict, as well as in peacebuilding.

48. At the regional level, his Government echoed the African position on the review of United Nations peacekeeping operations, while also commending the strategic partnership between the Organization and the African Union in the framework of Chapter VIII of the Charter. That partnership should give rise to a flexible, predictable and sustainable mechanism based on assessed contribution to the United Nations in support of peacekeeping operations led by the African Union with the authorization of the Security Council. The people and Government of Mali paid homage to all United Nations personnel and blue helmets, including those from MINUSMA, for their unfailing commitment to a better world free of conflict and war.

49. **Ms. Andrianarivelo-Razafy** (Madagascar) said that her Government was proud of its contribution of officers to MINUSMA, MINUSCA, the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI), the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) and MINUSTAH. In addition, the Government had recently announced its intention to deploy an infantry battalion to peacekeeping operations for the first time in 2017.

50. Sustainable development required peace, and her delegation was therefore committed to finding innovative ways of improving peacekeeping operations. It commended the review of peacekeeping operations and the efforts to reform the peacekeeping architecture. That would enable the Organization to tackle the

changing nature of conflicts, as well as terrorism, piracy, the illegal trade in small arms, organized crime and human trafficking. The excellent work of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations, the Secretary-General's report on implementing the recommendations of the High-level Independent Panel (A/70/357-S/2015/682), and the Strategic Guidance Framework for International Police Peacekeeping would contribute to finding solutions that took the complexity of conflict into account.

51. Capacity within peacekeeping missions must be strengthened, and action must be taken on the training opportunities announced at the recent Leaders' Summit on Peacekeeping. Her delegation welcomed the commitments made by Member States, as peace missions required sufficient human as well as financial and logistic resources. The safety of peacekeeping personnel must also be tackled by the Organization, and she paid homage to those who had lost their lives defending the United Nations banner.

52. Protection of civilians was another priority. Her Government strongly condemned sexual abuse, as it tainted the exceptional work and devotion of thousands of United Nations peacekeepers. Her delegation supported the zero-tolerance policy, and recalled that personnel must follow strict rules of conduct when fulfilling their mandate.

53. Her Government reiterated the importance of triangular cooperation among the Security Council, troop-contributing countries and the Secretariat, while also recognizing the significance of strategic partnerships with regional bodies. One such example was with the African Union, as 60 per cent of peacekeeping operations were deployed in Africa.

54. Peacekeeping operations were not the end point; a political solution and exit plan were always required. As time was of the essence for saving lives in conflict situations, her Government called on all Member States to implement any means of optimizing peacekeeping operations once they had been identified and approved by the Assembly, the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations and the Security Council.

55. **Mr. Perera** (Sri Lanka) said that his Government was grateful for the efforts of the Under-Secretary General for Political Affairs and his staff, and welcomed the Secretary-General's report on implementing the recommendations of the High-level Independent Panel (A/70/357-S/2015/682), the Report of the Advisory

Group of Experts for the Review of the United Nations Peacebuilding Architecture (S/2015/490), and Security Council resolution 2242 (2015). Acknowledging the cooperation and support of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Field Support, his Government expressed a desire to expand the Sri Lankan presence within United Nations peacekeeping missions, while recognizing the need for reform, given the current scale and complexity of such operations.

56. That complexity, which involved the political process, protecting civilians and assisting in the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of former combatants, meant that peacekeeping mandates included electoral support, protecting and promoting human rights, and assisting in restoring the rule of law. It was therefore essential to monitor reform initiatives carefully, and seek to develop a better model of sustainability.

57. To maintain the continued support of Member States, it was vital to address the mismatch between mandates and resources in peacekeeping. Peacekeeping mandates should be clear, and take into account the complexities of current peacekeeping operations. The United Nations should consult troop-contributing countries and recipient States in developing mandates, and countries receiving the peacekeepers should take ownership of the process where possible. There should be a clear emphasis on building national institutions, strengthening national security structures and addressing issues of restorative justice and reconciliation. Finally, it was important to consider the root causes of conflict and build local information and intelligence-gathering networks to better protect civilians and non-combatants.

58. The report of the High-level Independent Panel on Peace Operations (A/70/95-S/2015/446) identified the protection of civilians as a core obligation of the United Nations, and called for the Organization's personnel to use every tool available to them to protect civilians. His Government had recently adopted the Kigali Principles on the Protection of Civilians in Peacekeeping, and called on more countries to join the initiative.

59. Open, inclusive and engaged communication between peacekeeping missions and Headquarters was essential. The United Nations system needed to improve coordination with regional and subregional bodies, and

the Secretariat should provide independent advice. There must be a clear emphasis on exit strategies and mechanisms for the continuous review of goals that took local sensitivities and needs into account.

60. Given the need for improvements in the quality of peacekeeping, his delegation supported the Secretariat in its attempts to strengthen, train and support developing countries wishing to contribute troops. Indeed, developing countries were the largest troop contributors to peacekeeping operations, often at great sacrifice.

61. An upgraded logistical support system would guarantee rapid deployment, and his Government approved of Secretariat efforts to optimize operational procedures and speed up the deployment of peacekeeping missions. The Secretariat's use of new technology with a view to improving the efficiency of peacekeeping operations was also welcome.

62. At the recent Leaders' Summit on Peacekeeping, Sri Lanka's President had pledged to enhance the country's presence in a way that would help to achieve the shared goals of all Member States. His delegation looked forward to engaging with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations on the implementation of that pledges. His Government's renewed cooperation with the that Department was part of a new policy of positive engagement with the United Nations and commitment to the protection and promotion of human rights, rule of law and good governance following the presidential and parliamentary elections of 2015.

63. That commitment included the training and assessment of peacekeepers in Sri Lanka to uphold the highest standards of peacekeeping. Stringent vetting procedures and high standards of discipline had also been developed. The country's troops had excellent expertise and experience in difficult conditions. His Government was also keen to deploy women peacekeepers in battalions, in step with United Nations efforts to include women at all level of peacekeeping, peacebuilding and post-conflict situations.

64. More than 3,326 United Nations peacekeepers had made the ultimate sacrifice. His delegation paid them the highest tribute, and expressed thanks and humility for their achievements.

65. **Mr. Sukhee** (Mongolia), welcoming the report of the High-level Independent Panel (A/70/95-S/2015/446) and the Secretary-General's report on implementing the

Panel's recommendations ([A/70/357-S/2015/682](#)), agreed that United Nations peace operations were not the appropriate tool for military counter-terrorism operations. United Nations peacekeepers were not deployable for targeted offensive action against armed militias, non-State actors and terrorists. The main principles of United Nations peacekeeping — consent of the parties, impartiality and the non-use of force except in self-defence and defence of the mandate — should be upheld.

66. Noting the three pillars for conducting peace operations proposed in the Secretary-General's report, his Government believed that the most important consideration was the peaceful settlement of disputes as the core objective of United Nations peace operations, as set out in the Organization's Charter. His delegation supported the request of the Secretary-General to assess the current state of peacekeeping operations, emerging future needs and issues related to in-mission mobility as well as command and control of military enabling assets by 2016.

67. As a troop-contributing country, Mongolia would actively consider the two reports in the General Assembly, the Fourth Committee and the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations, and urged all Member States to do the same. There were currently about 1,000 Mongolian peacekeepers, including 70 female soldiers, serving in highly challenging missions such as those in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Darfur and South Sudan. His Government was taking all necessary steps to build capacity for the new contribution of an engineering company it had pledged. Mongolia had also facilitated the training of international peacekeepers through the Peace Support Training Centre in Ulaanbaatar. The Centre was available to deliver standardized United Nations training for the Asia-Pacific countries.

68. As one of the pillars of peacekeeping was building law-enforcement capacity in host countries, his Government was preparing individual police officers for United Nations Peacekeeping operations. The Selection Assistance and Assessment Team (SAAT) of the United Nations Police Division had visited Mongolia, and the authorities had submitted a list of individual police-officer candidates to be assessed for service in United Nations peacekeeping operations and special political missions. Finally, his delegation expressed its deepest gratitude to the thousands of blue helmets and soldiers who had taken

part in peacekeeping operations with skill and discipline.

69. **Mr. Ben Sliman** (Tunisia), welcoming the report of the High-level Independent Panel ([A/70/95-S/2015/446](#)) and the Secretary-General's report on implementing the Panel's recommendations ([A/70/357-S/2015/682](#)), said that His Government also welcomed the consultation process undertaken by the High-level Panel with various groups and stakeholders, and applauded the greater focus on conflict prevention, the peaceful resolution of disputes and sustainable political solutions to conflicts to promote lasting peace. Given the increasing number of casualties among United Nations peacekeepers, the focus on their safety was also welcome. Peacekeeping troops should be given the equipment and training needed to improve their safety. All aspects of peacekeeping should include a gender perspective, and his delegation called for stronger measures to prevent sexual abuse in peacekeeping operations and to bring perpetrators to justice. It was his Government's hope that the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations, which was the most appropriate intergovernmental forum for such matters, would discuss the reports' recommendations in depth.

70. The effectiveness of peacekeeping operations required a strong partnership with troop- and police-contributing countries. A more constructive dialogue with such countries would promote a balanced approach to the new challenges of multidimensional missions. Troop-contributing countries should participate in decision-making, policymaking and changes to mandates. Interaction should also be increased between those countries, which had knowledge on the ground, and the Security Council to develop a shared understanding of mandates and a common commitment to implementation.

71. Subregional and regional organizations played a crucial role in peace, security and stabilization efforts. His Government therefore called for strengthened cooperation and partnerships between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations. It favoured strengthening cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union in accordance with Chapter VIII of the Charter, and called for increased support for the African Union to consolidate its peacekeeping architecture through adequate funding.

72. **Mr. Alemu** (Ethiopia) welcomed the report of the High-level Independent Panel on Peace Operations

(A/70/95-S/2015/446), as strengthening United Nations peacekeeping was key to international peace and security. His Government commended the fact that the Panel's work had been carried out consultation with Member States and other stakeholders, thus producing a balanced document reflecting a range of views and concerns expressed during the consultation process. The Panel's recommendations must be implemented, in conjunction with the highly appreciated report of the Secretary-General on implementation of Panel's recommendations (A/70/357-S/2015/682). Welcoming the adoption of the resulting resolution, his Government was ready to engage constructively in discussions on the aforementioned reports in the relevant committees.

73. His Government endorsed the Panel's recommendation to strengthen the Organization's strategic partnership with Africa, particularly in the form of United Nations-assessed contributions for supporting African Union peace-support operations on a case-by-case basis, as authorized by the Security Council, so as to address the serious financial constraints faced by African Union-led peace support operations.

74. As one of the top troop-contributing countries, Ethiopia was prepared to make its contribution to strengthen peacekeeping operations. At the Leaders' Summit on Peacekeeping, its Prime Minister had pledged two battalions in addition to the 8,000-plus Ethiopian peacekeepers already deployed; that did not include the 4,000 Ethiopian peacekeepers deployed in Somalia under the African Union. His Government had also pledged support in terms of training, with a Peace Support Training Centre for peacekeepers from Ethiopia and the wider region. The country was also on track to becoming an important police-contributing country.

75. He concluded by paying tribute to the men and women who had sacrificed their lives for the cause of international peace and security.

76. **Mr. Sharoni** (Israel), thanking the Security Council for extending the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) for a further six months, and commending the Force's Commander for his leadership, also expressed his Government's gratitude to the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Member States that had helped to maintain the United Nations presence on the Israeli-Syrian border, including India, Ireland, Fiji, Nepal, as

well as Netherlands and Bhutan. His delegation also attached importance to the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) as a stabilizing force in the region, and he thanked the Force's commander and troop-contributing countries for their efforts. Amid escalating tensions, his Government reaffirmed its commitment to Security Council resolution 1701 (2006), and called on neighbouring countries to do likewise, and to use the trilateral forum to raise, discuss and solve routine minor incidents.

77. The relative calm in southern Lebanon was deceptive. In the twenty-first semi-annual report of the Secretary-General to the Security Council on the implementation of Security Council resolution 1559 (2004) (S/2015/258), the Secretary-General had stated that "The maintenance by Hezbollah of sizeable and sophisticated military capabilities outside the control of the Government of Lebanon remains a matter of grave concern, in particular because it creates an atmosphere of intimidation and represents a key challenge to the safety of Lebanese civilians and to the Government monopoly on the legitimate use of force". Hezbollah continued to build an army equipped with tens of thousands of missiles and a large stockpile of strategic weapons. As stated by Israel's Prime Minister before the General Assembly, Hezbollah had smuggled surface-to-air missiles and cruise missiles into Lebanon, and also possessed precision-guided surface-to-surface missiles and attack drones.

78. His Government had an interest in the stability of Lebanon and in the implementation of Security Council resolution 1701 (2006). The entrenchment of Hezbollah in the areas within the UNIFIL mandate constituted a violation of resolution 1701, and the concealment of weapons within civilian population centres was a war crime. His Government held the Lebanese Government responsible for all that occurred on Lebanese territory, and for the implementation of resolution 1701. While his Government supported the United Nations forces serving on its borders as a stabilizing influence, Israel was also prepared to defend itself.

79. His delegation recognized the need for reform in Peacekeeping and was looking forward to working with the Secretariat on the basis of the report of the High-level Independent Panel on Peace Operations (A/70/95-S/2015/446) and the report of the Secretary-General's Expert Panel on Technology and Innovation in United Nations Peacekeeping. Israel also had

cutting-edge technology, sustainable logistics, expertise in medicine and the protection of civilians and peacekeepers, and looked forward to cooperating with United Nations peacekeeping in those and other areas. In conclusion, he paid tribute to the brave men and women from all over the world serving in United Nations peacekeeping operations, and thanked them for their dedication and commitment.

80. **Mr. Louis** (Haiti), paying homage to the 3,402 blue helmets who had made the ultimate sacrifice for the cause of peace, said that his Government welcomed the Secretary-General's report ([A/70/357](#)) on implementing the recommendations of the High-level Panel, and its calls for peacekeeping operations to be targeted, well designed and based on the needs of the population, as well as for faster, more effective and more suitable means of preventing and resolving conflicts, including a series of reforms to tackle the most urgent issues at hand.

81. His Government also welcomed the report of the High-level Independent Panel on Peace Operations ([A/70/95-S/2015/446](#)), and its call for a holistic approach to peacekeeping operations. The international community had a duty to take all possible action to ensure that peacekeeping operations were able to tackle threats involving terrorism, transnational crime, climate change, mass atrocities and extreme poverty.

82. It was encouraging that the Secretary-General had introduced more rapid authorization to engage missions, material resources for strategic deployments, a permanent police force, capacity building for host States, guidelines, partnerships, civilian protection, mediation and electoral support. Moreover, efforts to improve conduct and discipline in peacekeeping operations had been ongoing since 2006. Cases of sexual abuse and exploitation had nevertheless been reported in certain missions in the past five years, and in Haiti in particular. His delegation urged the United Nations authorities to stringently apply the rules in force to prevent behaviour that could taint the image of the Organization.

83. Since MINUSTAH had been set up in 2004, the number of uniformed personnel had been reduced from a maximum of just over 9,000 to slightly under 5,000. While fully supporting the reconfiguration of MINUSTAH, his Government highlighted the need for a gradual and orderly transfer of power to the national authorities to ensure that vulnerabilities as well as

progress were taken into account, in order to avoid jeopardising any security advances already made.

84. Haiti's President had informed the General Assembly that in view of the national stability and modernization partially achieved thanks to MINUSTAH, any withdrawal should take place according to a pre-agreed schedule. Security Council resolution 2243 (2015) had affirmed the intention to consider the possible withdrawal of MINUSTAH "based on the Security Council's review by 15 October 2016 of Haiti's overall capacity to ensure security and stability and on the security conditions on the ground", and to continue to assist the Government of Haiti to consolidate peace, including support to the Haitian National Police.

85. Welcoming the role played by friendly nations in supplying troops and strengthening cooperation in health, agriculture, energy and the environment, his Government was grateful to Trinidad and Tobago for the USD 1 million contribution, and for the USD 50,000 dollars from Argentina for electoral support. He also thanked countries from the Southern Hemisphere for shining an international spotlight on Haiti's national situation. The country as a whole deeply appreciated the role of the United Nations and MINUSTAH, as well as the friendship, solidarity and cooperation shown by all Member States as Haiti moved towards the rule of law and a fairer and more democratic society.

86. His delegation encouraged the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Field Support to continue consultations with Member States as part of a permanent mechanism for implementing the necessary improvements in peacekeeping and special political missions, specifically by strengthening regional and subregional cooperation and mobilizing the financial resources to promote operational flexibility and rapid response.

87. **Ms. Pobee** (Ghana), welcoming the report of the High-level Independent Panel on Peace Operations ([A/70/95-S/2015/446](#)) with its insight and bold recommendations, said that her Government also commended the Secretary-General for appointing that Panel and for his report on implementing the Panel's recommendations ([A/70/357-S/2015/682](#)), emphasizing political settlement, conflict prevention, peacebuilding, reconstruction and other considerations. Her delegation also looked forward to contributions from the Advisory

Group of Experts on the Review of the Peace-building Architecture, especially regarding the important role of women in peace and security.

88. Despite peacekeeping's successes and failures, it was heartening that the lessons learned continued to inspire the Organization to persevere in finding sustainable solutions to threats to international peace and security. Successful peacekeeping involved relevant training, the formulation of achievable mandates addressing the root causes of each conflict, appointment of capable mission leadership and appropriate peacebuilding mechanisms.

89. In Africa, conflicts involved many actors with different underlying motivations, along with the increasing use of terrorism, rape, targeting of civilian populations and serious violations of human rights and humanitarian law. Peacekeeping and political missions must tackle those issues or become irrelevant.

90. Partnerships with regional organizations including the African Union were essential. The African Standby Force (ASF) was of critical and strategic importance. The efforts of the African Union must be supported through predictable and flexible funding mechanisms, and her Government was pleased that the Panel's report ([A/70/95-S/2015/446](#)) had emphasized that issue. The United Nations should take the lead in securing funding and transferring modern peacekeeping practices to the African Union to build the necessary capacity.

91. As one of the top 10 troop-contributing countries, Ghana pledged to contribute its quota for peacekeeping. It had hosted the United Nations Mission for Ebola Emergency Response (UNMEER), and applauded the Organization for setting up UNMEER and for mobilizing resources that had helped to halt the spread of the disease in West Africa. Her Government expected that the lessons learned from such experience would help to define rapid and effective global responses to future pandemics.

92. Reiterating her President's call for Member States to watch over each other through diplomacy and peaceful negotiations, rather than using force to resolve conflicts, she added that the recommendations of the aforementioned reports should be implemented on the ground through the transformation of current practices. Her Government looked forward to being part of that process and urged the entire United Nations system, particularly the Security Council, to show

leadership and fulfil its mandate to maintain international peace and security.

93. **Ms. Haile** (Eritrea) said that peacekeeping operations should not be permanent fixtures or substitutes for addressing the root causes of conflicts. According to the report of the High-level Independent Panel on Peace Operations ([A/70/95-S/2015/446](#)), lasting peace was achieved not through military aid but through political solutions. Further efforts were required for averting rather than managing conflicts. A strategy for early warning and rapid response systems would be helpful in that regard.

94. Any changes to peacekeeping needed to conform to the principles of peacekeeping, i.e. respecting sovereignty and territorial integrity, consent of the parties, impartiality, and non-use of force except in self-defence and in protection of the mandate. Any changes should also be agreed upon in relevant intergovernmental forums.

95. Geographical regions were assuming more responsibility for peacekeeping operations within their own regions. That must remain consistent with Chapter VIII of the Charter and should not circumvent the role of the Organization. Especially in Africa, caution was needed when deploying troops from neighbouring countries, as decisions could conceivably be partly driven by their own national interests. Her delegation also paid tribute to the women and men who had lost their lives while serving under the United Nations flag, and expressed its condolences to their families.

96. **Ms. Byaje** (Rwanda), welcoming the report of the High-level Independent Panel ([A/70/95-S/2015/446](#)) and the Secretary-General's report on implementing the Panel's recommendations ([A/70/357-S/2015/682](#)), said that discussions should be guided by the needs of the brave women and men serving as blue helmets throughout the world.

97. As the fifth largest troop- and police-contributing country, with men and women serving in seven missions, Rwanda had a significant stake in the success of peacekeeping. In 2015, her Government had contributed more troops and police officers, with a particular focus on deploying more female officers and military helicopters.

98. Focus on the primacy of politics was essential to ensure that prevention- and mediation-based political solutions kept countries from sliding back into conflict.

Clearly-understood mandates were vital for meeting the expectations of local communities. Success in that regard depended on the Security Council and the Secretariat, in which context the Panel had recommended reforms. On the ground, focus must be placed on enhancing rapid deployment capabilities, strengthening regional partnerships, becoming more field- and people-focused, and increasing the number and the role of women in United Nations peace operations. Her Government had data proving that the role of women could strengthen missions relationship's with neighbouring communities and advance peace processes during times of conflict. Moreover, women must be empowered to work alongside men in the quest for sustained peace.

99. Enhancing rapid deployment required capabilities from inside and outside the United Nations, which entailed cooperation with regional organizations such as the African Standby Force. Such regional operational partnerships should be supported through assessed contributions, so that consistent and adequate funding could lead to more field-focused operations.

100. Calling upon nations to join the growing number of troop- and police-contributing countries that had endorsed the best-practices guidelines provided by the Kigali Principles on the Protection of Civilians in Peacekeeping, her delegation expressed hope that all countries concerned would to their utmost to ensure a timely deployment of troops and other capabilities pledged at the recent Leaders' Summit on Peacekeeping.

101. **Ms. Lodhi** (Pakistan) said that troop- and police-contributing countries should be fully and formally consulted on decisions regarding mandate formation and change, as their continued absence from the process was inexplicable and unacceptable. The principles of peacekeeping must continue to be accorded primacy, as they did not hamper 'Protection of Civilians' mandates. The Security Council created those mandates, and the use of force in defence of the mandate was an integral part of the principles.

102. Caution was essential when exceptionally mandating enforcement tasks, with judiciously-crafted mandates to retain the distinction between peacekeeping and peace enforcement. Conflating peacekeeping and peace operations was a recipe for confusion and ambiguity. Adequate resources were also critical for fulfilling mandates, as any mismatch exacted a cost in efficiency and effectiveness. The Secretariat needed to

indicate gaps in resources, and the Security Council should act decisively to ensure rapid deployment and standby capabilities. Moreover, the safety and security of peacekeepers should continue to be an absolute priority. Increasing the Secretariat's prevention and mediation capabilities would further enhance its conflict-prevention role.

103. Her delegation appreciated the Secretary-General's timely convening of a High-level Panel to review peacekeeping as well as the extensive consultations undertaken by the Panel, whose report (A/70/95-S/2015/446), along with that of the Secretary-General on implementing the Panel's recommendations (A/70/357-S/2015/682), contained valuable recommendations. Having fully engaged with the High-level Panel, her Government was pleased that many of its ideas were reflected in the report.

104. As a leading troop- and police-contributing country, Pakistan had contributed over 150,000 personnel and served in 41 Missions in 23 countries, with 140 peacekeepers making the ultimate sacrifice. It hosted one of the first peacekeeping missions, the United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP), which continued to monitor the ceasefire along the line of control in Jammu and Kashmir, thereby contributing to peace and security in a fraught region.

105. Her Government was also at the forefront of norm-setting in peacekeeping. Security Council resolution 2086 (2013) on the role of multidimensional peacekeeping missions, adopted under Pakistan's presidency of the Security Council, was considered a landmark document. As a demonstration of her Government's ongoing commitment to peacekeeping, the Prime Minister had co-hosted the Leaders' Summit on Peacekeeping in September 2015 and had announced a series of substantial new pledges to further enhance the Organization's capacity. Her Government also provided a Centre for International Peace and Stability for training courses and meetings.

106. Her delegation's cautious approach to peace enforcement was aimed at preventing peacekeepers from representing unhelpful external intervention in national or regional conflict. Any change in mandate should be carefully studied in the context of international humanitarian law, the immunity of peacekeepers, and their safety and security when their neutrality and impartiality were perceived as

compromised. Her delegation welcomed the adoption of the procedural draft resolution, and looked forward to a substantial examination of the issues involved in the relevant Committees.

107. **Mr. Mana** (Cameroon) said that his delegation had studied the reports submitted under the agenda item, and called for their implementation based on joint decisions to ensure an effective partnership among all peacekeeping actors. Cameroon's President had addressed the General Assembly to reaffirm the country's willingness to contribute to United Nations peacekeeping, with almost 1,400 women and men currently deployed, including the Commander of MINUSCA.

108. The International Security School, EFORCES, was taking part in the pilot phase of police unit training organized by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations. Other national institutions were involved in pre-deployment training, while female officials had attended international train-the-trainer courses on child protection. His Government remained open to all forms of partnership and cooperation to boost such training.

109. His delegation emphasized the importance of prevention and mediation for maintaining lasting peace. It was also essential to find appropriate solutions to crises by tailoring missions to their context to include military, police, politics, rule of law, disarmament, demobilization, reintegration and security sector reform.

110. Effective and efficient partnerships with stakeholders including the African Union must be established. His Government had recently signed an agreement with the African Union to set up a logistical base for the African Standby Force. Member States should support standby measures for the United Nations in the form of highly-skilled contingents and other such capacity.

111. Regarding peacekeeping and peacebuilding reform, his Government encouraged the relevant United Nations bodies, and particularly the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations, to study the Secretary-General's reports to reach consensus or informed decisions based on neutrality, respect for sovereignty, ownership, overall coherence and coordination and regional and subregional partnership.

112. **Mr. Almahmoud** (United Arab Emirates) said that his Government's Minister of Foreign Affairs, in

his address to the General Assembly, had urged the United Nations to play a greater role in maintaining international peace and security. His delegation thanked the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations and the Under-Secretary-General for Field Support for their efforts in enhancing peacekeeping operations, which played an important role in advancing stability in post-conflict phases.

113. His Government appreciated the Secretary-General's initiative to strengthen the United Nations system, including the establishment of the High-level Independent Panel on Peace Operations. His delegation welcomed the broad consultations undertaken by the Panel. It was important to enhance integration between peacekeeping and peacebuilding to ensure that peacekeeping efforts were accompanied by economic recovery and capacity-building efforts based on national ownership. The Peacebuilding Commission and the Peacebuilding Fund played an important role by engaging at an early stage.

114. His Government had an impressive record of involvement in United Nations operations. That included the Arab Deterrent Force (ADF) in Lebanon during the civil war, "Hope Revival" and "Winds of Goodness" missions in Somalia, peacekeeping in Kosovo, and more recent international coalitions to combat terrorism. In Afghanistan, his Government's forces played a critical humanitarian role within the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF). It also organized many discussions to promote the participation of women in all peace and security efforts, including in post-conflict societies. His delegation supported the Secretary-General's zero-tolerance policy on sexual exploitation and abuse committed by some United Nations peacekeeping personnel.

115. To support the protection of children affected by armed conflict, his Government had funded the translation into Arabic of "Child Soldiers: A Handbook for Security Sector Actors". That book and the initiative in general were an international reference point in the field.

116. He concluded by thanking all peacekeepers, and especially those who had made the ultimate sacrifice for the cause of peace and security.

117. **Mr. Spoerri** (International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)) said that ICRC appreciated the inclusiveness of the High-level Independent Panel on Peace Operations and the Secretary-General's reports

(A/70/95-S/2015/446 and A/70/357-S/2015/682). ICRC was prepared to advise key stakeholders during the next phase of peace operations reform.

118. As a neutral, impartial and independent humanitarian organization that protected and assisted victims of armed conflict, ICRC was regularly present alongside United Nations peace operations. Shared challenges included longer conflicts, dangerous environments for staff and reaching people in need.

119. Recent peace operations had required the use of force by police and military components. The report of the High-level Independent Panel (A/70/95-S/2015/446) noted that certain such tasks risked making United Nations forces and missions into parties to an armed conflict. ICRC reiterated the importance of clarifying and understanding the legal framework that governed the use of force in any given United Nations peace operations context. That included determining when and how international humanitarian law applied to a United Nations mission, particularly one with a robust mandate.

120. ICRC recalled that the applicability of international humanitarian law was determined by objective facts on the ground, irrespective of any Security Council mandate or the terms used to designate the opposing party or parties. In order to protect all persons affected by armed conflict, international humanitarian law applied when its conditions for applicability were met. International humanitarian law governed the involvement of parties to conflict irrespective of the nature of the conflict or the causes espoused by the parties.

121. One important issue not addressed in the Panel's report was the increasing necessity for United Nations Missions to resort to the detention of individuals, who could be common-law criminals or persons deprived of their liberty through capture or surrender for reasons related to an existing armed conflict, including for transfer to the International Criminal Court. That trend entailed complex practical and legal challenges. Detention facilities must operate in accordance with relevant and applicable international law and standards, including international humanitarian law. ICRC welcomed United Nations efforts to establish a relevant framework in the form of the 2010 Interim Standard Operating Procedures on Detention in United Nations Peace Operations (PK/G/2010.6). The ICRC encouraged their full application and implementation,

particularly the humane treatment of all detainees and respect for the principle of non-refoulement when considering the transfer of individuals under the control of United Nations missions.

122. United Nations peace operations needed to be adequately prepared in terms of budget, infrastructure, logistics capacity and trained staff. Member States had the primary obligation to ensure adequate training for such operations. As promoter and guardian of international humanitarian law, ICRC would continue to assist with pre-deployment and on-site training of peacekeepers, including by drawing attention to the Secretary-General's 1999 Bulletin on the observance of international humanitarian law by United Nations forces (ST/SGB/1999/13).

123. In contexts where the United Nations mission included a corrections component in support of the national authorities, ICRC was ready to coordinate with United Nations advisers to ensure that their efforts were complementary and to discuss the context in order to achieve sustainability and continuity. Transfer agreements between United Nations missions and host States could be an essential tool to protect detainees and help guarantee the lawfulness of transfers to local authorities.

124. United Nations peacekeeping operations were increasingly mandated to take all necessary steps to protect the civilian population, including by ensuring that parties complied with international humanitarian law. That moral responsibility of the United Nations was confirmed by the report of the High-level Independent Panel (A/70/95-S/2015/446) and the Secretary-General's report on implementing the Panel's recommendations (A/70/357-S/2015/682).

125. Regarding the obligation to respect and ensure respect for international humanitarian law contained in common Article 1 of the 1949 Geneva Conventions, ICRC saw the aforementioned conclusions as an opportunity to make that clause more operational. A United Nations mission's relationship with political authorities and the armed forces placed it in a unique position to fulfil its obligation to ensure respect for international humanitarian law particularly the protection of civilians during the planning and conduct of military operations.

126. ICRC agreed with the High-level Panel's assertion that humanitarian organizations played essential but complementary roles in protecting civilians and that,

where appropriate, timely coordination between such organizations and peacekeepers was indispensable. However, such coordination should not affect how independent and impartial humanitarian organizations operated and the perception of them working according to those principles. The distinct roles and responsibilities of each actor should be widely publicized in local communities. ICRC also understood the reports' emphasis on the need for peace operations to work closely with those communities. At the same time, close association with a multidimensional mission could pose personal risks to individuals in those communities. The principle of "do no harm" was crucial to mitigate such risks. One option was to call upon civilian personnel to liaise with local communities.

127. ICRC's 2013 Professional Standards for Protection Work reflected the consensus of most humanitarian and human rights protection agencies on the relationship between United Nations missions and humanitarian organizations. They provided essential guidance on the division of responsibilities and interaction. As the United Nations peace operations review process moved towards implementation, ICRC expressed hope that the Standards would enhance the development and implementation of civilian protection strategies.

128. ICRC renewed its commitment to developing a highly constructive dialogue on operational, legal, training and protection issues relating to peace operations with the United Nations in New York and in the field. It was also prepared to engage Member States, particularly troop- and police-contributing countries, Security Council members and the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations in a candid and open dialogue on those important issues.

The meeting rose at 5.40 p.m.