



General Assembly

Sixty-seventh session

Official Records

Distr.: General
28 December 2012

Original: English

Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee)

Summary record of the 18th meeting

Held at Headquarters, New York, on 8 November 2012, at 10 a.m.

Chair: Ms. Borland (Vice-Chair) (Belize)
later: Mr. Messone (Chair) (Gabon)

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In the absence of Mr. Messone (Gabon), Ms. Borland (Belize), Vice-Chair, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 10:15 a.m.

Agenda item 54: Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects (*continued*) (A/66/19, A/66/615 and A/67/312-S/2012/645)

1. **Ms. Percaya** (Indonesia) reiterated the need for United Nations peacekeeping missions to be clearly defined and achievable. To fulfil their mandates and ensure the safety of peacekeepers, they must be well equipped and well supported at every stage. Their efforts to protect civilians should support, rather than replace, those of host Governments. She welcomed the Security Council's increased interaction with troop- and police-contributing countries and the Secretariat in 2012 and also the consensus adoption of the report of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations (A/66/19), whose recommendations must be duly considered by all stakeholders. She was gratified by the report's many important references to the Peacebuilding Commission and its emphasis on integrating peacebuilding from the outset.

2. She emphasized that technology for enhancing the safety and security of peacekeepers should be used in accordance with the principles of the Charter and of United Nations peacekeeping and noted that there was as yet no agreement on its legal, technical, financial and operational aspects, in particular, the consent of host countries. With respect to United Nations police capacity, she looked forward to a discussion of progress in developing the Strategic Guidance Framework for International Police Peacekeeping. Noting the Special Committee's holistic approach to troop costs, she expressed the hope that the work of the Senior Advisory Group would result in significant progress on that important issue. The ongoing review of international civilian capacities had proved useful and her delegation looked forward to substantive deliberations on the report of the Secretary-General on civilian capacity in the aftermath of conflict (A/67/312-S/2012/645).

3. Her Government had recently inaugurated a peacekeeping centre in West Java that served as a national and regional hub for integrated peacekeeping training. She emphasized that with more than 1,990 Indonesian troops and police deployed in seven United

Nations peacekeeping operations, especially in Lebanon where it was the top troop contributor, Indonesia should be fairly represented in senior peacekeeping posts at Headquarters and in the field. Her delegation remained concerned about the lack of transparency in the recruitment, selection and appointment process for senior positions in UNIFIL and other missions.

4. **Mr. Mashabane** (South Africa) urged Member States to use the Special Committee's report as a basis for arriving at a common position on United Nations peacekeeping at the current session. His delegation stood ready to contribute to a dialogue on optimizing the Special Committee's working methods. He noted that the Senior Advisory Group had recently submitted a report on reimbursement of troop costs. That issue was particularly important to troop-contributing countries, which were committed to finding a permanent solution as soon as possible. He urged all Member States to join in a global peacekeeping partnership in order to share a burden that was currently borne mainly by developing countries.

5. With regard to hybrid peacekeeping missions, the recently established United Nations Office to the African Union provided coordinated, consistent support to the African Union across several strategic fronts, including peacekeeping, and should therefore be given a status in keeping with its responsibilities and impact. When the African Union took on responsibilities in complex political and security environments and under difficult financial and logistical circumstances, it needed to be able to count on a swift and adequate response from the United Nations and the support it received should be identical to that provided to United Nations peacekeeping operations. In keeping with the recommendations of the report of the African Union-United Nations panel on modalities for support to African Union peacekeeping operations (Prodi Report) (A/63/66-S/2008/813), the financing of African peace support operations must be Security Council-authorized, predictable, sustainable and flexible.

6. His delegation was concerned at the proposed cutback in the United Nations peacekeeping budget, which would be accompanied by increased funding for special political missions. Funding for the latter should not affect peacekeeping budgets, especially at a time when more was expected of peacekeeping missions in highly complex conflicts, or budgets that supported the

United Nations development agenda. With respect to the use of modern technologies to enhance the safety and security of mission personnel, Member States must retain oversight of their use, even when host countries gave their consent. Host countries must help ensure the safety of peacekeeping personnel and investigate when United Nations troops were killed in the line of duty. The proposed Inspector-General's functions must include such investigations.

7. In assisting countries to achieve durable peace, United Nations peacekeeping operations should support political processes as part of an integrated, system-wide approach. To avoid duplication and wasteful expenditure, a closer working relationship should be established between the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and the United Nations Resident Coordinator, accompanied by a flexible, coordinated approach at Headquarters that incorporated a development agenda. That would also make it possible to produce country-specific packages that went beyond peacekeeping operations.

8. The integrated approach to conflict-related sexual violence illustrated the merits of working as a cohesive unit on a particularly challenging issue. His delegation fully supported the United Nations policy of zero tolerance of sexual exploitation and abuse in peacekeeping operations and believed that it should be extended to special political missions, which should also fall within the purview of the proposed Inspector-General.

9. With regard to field support, the Global Field Support Strategy should ensure early authorization and provision of support packages to African Union and hybrid peacekeeping operations. Proper assessments of the cost savings and efficiencies achieved by the Regional Service Centre at Entebbe should be made and reviewed before establishing other such United Nations centres.

10. **Mr. Kamau** (Kenya) said that, to achieve lasting stability in conflict areas, more emphasis must be placed on drafting clear and achievable mandates and providing field missions with the requisite human resources and logistical and financial support. Any review or amendment of mandates should therefore be carried out in full consultation with troop-contributing countries. His delegation regretted the delay in reimbursement of costs for contingent-owned equipment and self-sustainment, which had been

caused by the failure of some Member States to pay their assessed contributions. It reminded those States that such delays seriously affected morale and mission success. With regard to the lamentably low rates of reimbursement for troop costs, he welcomed the report of the Senior Advisory Group and hoped that its recommendations would lead to a sustainable solution.

11. With regard to the increasing involvement of regional and subregional organizations in conflict resolution in Africa, his delegation appreciated the critical role played by the United Nations in support of the African Union Mission in Somalia and endorsed the regional conflict-resolution efforts of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development. Effective mediation was the cornerstone of sustainable dispute settlement. His delegation appreciated the Secretary-General's efforts to strengthen the role of mediation and the enhanced coordination of conflict resolution between the United Nations and the African Union. However, successful peacekeeping in the Horn of Africa and the Great Lakes Region hinged on strengthening the negotiating capacities of regional and subregional stakeholders and adapting mediation processes to local cultures and norms in order to ensure national ownership of peace processes

12. **Mr. Kyslytsya** (Ukraine), deploring the late submission of the Special Committee's report for the second consecutive year, emphasized the need for the Secretariat to receive timely strategic guidance from Member States. There must be no ill feeling in the strategic partnership among troop-contributing countries, police-contributing countries, financial contributing countries, the Security Council and the Secretariat. Only through synergy among the different stakeholders could the Special Committee be revitalized and live up to its mandate. Despite the lateness of the Special Committee's report, he urged the Secretariat to do its utmost to implement its recommendations, including enhancing the legal mechanisms for investigating and prosecuting crimes against United Nations peacekeepers. In that connection, it looked forward to the Secretariat's briefing aimed at clarifying all United Nations internal policies, rules and procedures on internal investigations of misconduct against United Nations peacekeepers.

13. His delegation supported the Special Committee's request to the Secretariat to identify the factors that prevented troop-contributing countries from providing

military helicopters. It urged meaningful implementation of the Senior Advisory Group's recommendations concerning key, highly specialized military assets, but believed that a real, long-term solution would require more robust incentives for countries that contributed helicopters. His delegation fully supported the Group's recommendations as to the need for the reimbursement system to recognize the different levels of risk incurred in different United Nations missions, in order to secure broader and more effective participation in even the most demanding missions. It also supported the Group's call for troop-contributing and police-contributing countries to be involved more fully in the planning and implementation process.

14. His delegation noted the progress made on developing the Strategic Guidance Framework for International Police Peacekeeping and welcomed the holding of the first two regional workshops in Indonesia and Argentina. It also welcomed the introduction of the United Nations Police Selection and Recruitment Resource Kit and the development of a standard operating procedure for the assessment of individual police officers for service in United Nations peacekeeping operations and special political missions, as well as a similar procedure for Formed Police Units.

15. Having contributed a Formed Police Unit to the United Nations Mission in Kosovo for almost a decade, his Government had acquired the necessary expertise and was ready to contribute to the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL). Over the past 20 years, it had participated in more than 20 United Nations missions, contributing more than 34,000 troops to United Nations peacekeeping efforts around the world.

16. **Ms. Abu** (Israel) said that, with the steady growth in the size, scope and complexity of peacekeeping missions, it was more important than ever to prioritize objectives for each mission and look for new approaches to help them succeed. In that connection, her delegation was encouraged by the second progress report on the New Horizon initiative, which it hoped would continue. Her Government had deployed a police unit specialized in crowd control to the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) in 2010 and was preparing to incorporate individual Israeli police officers into United Nations peacekeeping forces.

17. Given the turmoil in the region, especially the dire situation in Syria, the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) and the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) had become crucial for maintaining regional stability. However, attacks on UNIFIL had intensified to the point where, according to the Lebanese press, it had asked to move its headquarters to a better-protected location. Hizbullah was also increasing its obstruction of UNIFIL operations and continuing to amass military forces and armaments in South Lebanon. In the light of circumstances in the region, it was important to maintain UNIFIL troop numbers, composition and training. Since 1974, UNDOF had been essential for maintaining stability along the Israeli-Syrian border, as well as facilitating the movement of goods and people. Her Government was very concerned about attacks by Syrian troops on Syrian civilians living in the areas of separation and about the general spillover of violence, which endangered both UNDOF troops and civilians and jeopardized the stability of the entire region. The international community must send a clear message that violence towards peacekeepers was unacceptable, denounce Hizbullah's obstructive and dangerous tactics and encourage the Syrian Government to fulfil its international obligations and ensure the safety of the peacekeeping forces.

18. **Mr. Abd Hadi** (Malaysia) reiterated his Government's firm belief in the central role of the United Nations in the maintenance of international peace and security. With 1,265 Malaysian military and police personnel serving in eight United Nations peacekeeping missions, it supported the capability-driven approach to peacekeeping proposed under the New Horizon initiative and the implementation of the Global Field Support Strategy. Member States must continue to provide human, financial and logistical resources to ensure the timely and successful implementation of peacekeeping operations. His Government viewed peacekeeping as a form of early peacebuilding and undertook in-country activities aimed at creating an environment conducive to socioeconomic development, while bearing in mind that development plans remained the sole responsibility of host countries.

19. His delegation was concerned about the increasing threats to the security and safety of United Nations peacekeepers and strongly condemned all acts of violence against them. As a troop-contributing

country, Malaysia reaffirmed its commitment to the policy of zero tolerance for all forms of misconduct, including sexual exploitation and abuse. It would continue to emphasize the issue of misconduct in training sessions at the Malaysian Peacekeeping Training Centre.

20. **Mr. Rahman** (Bangladesh) said that the success of a peacekeeping mission depended largely on political support and the timely provision of adequate resources. Closer, more active involvement of troop-contributing countries was needed when deciding on the creation, amendment or extension of peacekeeping operations. That could be achieved by building a stronger, more meaningful partnership among the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, the Department of Field Support, troop-contributing countries and the Security Council and by consolidating and institutionalizing the full participation of troop-contributing countries in every stage of the decision-making and planning process. To enhance the safety and security of peacekeepers, peacekeeping operations should have clearly defined, achievable mandates, as well as contingency plans and exit strategies, and continue to be governed by the principles of neutrality, impartiality, consent and non-use of force.

21. His delegation welcomed the supplemental payment for troop costs and hoped that the Senior Advisory Group's recommendations would result in rational, periodic increases in reimbursement rates. Timely reimbursement of contingent-owned equipment and troop costs and prompt approval of compensation for death and disability were vital.

22. In order to prepare the ground for post-conflict reconciliation and development, peacekeeping must be accompanied by effective peacebuilding. His delegation looked forward to greater complementarity and synergy between the two processes. It was also imperative that peacekeeping mission priorities were aligned with national priorities and strengthened the post-mission capacity of nationals and national authorities. While aware of the need for cost-effectiveness, his delegation cautioned against cost cutting that might affect overall performance or weaken peacekeepers' morale. It welcomed the implementation of the Global Field Support Strategy for improving logistical services, but felt that care should be taken not to undermine operational effectiveness. Any examination of new reform

proposals must take place at Headquarters and involve all Member States. His delegation supported the capability-driven approach and was heartened to know that mission-specific training was receiving due emphasis. As a troop-contributing country for more than 20 years, Bangladesh was proud to have over 9,000 peacekeepers currently in the field, where it enforced a zero-tolerance policy in respect of disciplinary and conduct issues.

23. **Mr. Pham Vinh Quang** (Viet Nam) said that his delegation supported the ongoing reform of United Nations peacekeeping. It agreed with the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations that all peacekeeping missions should be reviewed periodically for right-sizing and believed that the establishment or extension of any peacekeeping mandate should strictly observe the purposes and principles of the Charter and the guiding principles of United Nations peacekeeping. A renewed global partnership among Member States, United Nations system entities, regional and subregional organizations and other partners and effective triangular cooperation among the Secretariat, the Security Council and troop-contributing countries were needed. Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations could also contribute to a better understanding of the situation. With respect to peacebuilding, the process of developing civilian capacity in the aftermath of conflict should be inclusive, cooperative and nationally owned. Developing countries that had made a successful transition from conflict to post-conflict situations were a source of expertise on that process and his Government looked forward to working constructively with Member States and the Secretariat in that regard.

24. **Ms. Bouhamidi** (Morocco) said that it was time to articulate a collective vision of peacekeeping for the coming decade. Peacekeeping must move forward from the traditional division of labour to true partnership. Bold steps had been taken to build triangular cooperation among the Security Council, the Secretariat and troop-contributing countries, but much remained to be done. As a troop-contributing country and current Chair of the Security Council Working Group on Peacekeeping Operations, Morocco joined with the Under-Secretaries-General for Peacekeeping Operations and Field Support in advocating inter-mission cooperation, which could help maximize operational savings. It was time, too, to systematize

cooperation between emerging troop contributors and countries with peacekeeping know-how and expertise, particularly in the area of training. The Secretariat must also reach out to former contributors and new donors in order to expand the revenue base. It was important to reach a consensus on a global peacekeeping partnership, while insisting on respect for the legal bases of peacekeeping operations.

25. Another aspect of such a partnership was the relationship between peacekeeping operations and the media. In that connection, Morocco and Italy, in partnership with the International Press Institute, would shortly be launching a series of conferences on the impact of the media on United Nations peacekeeping. To establish a truly global peacekeeping partnership, the United Nations would have to engage with academic institutions, civil society organizations and think tanks in order to change perceptions of United Nations peacekeeping operations and focus on their achievements.

26. **Mr. Abbas** (Lebanon) said that peacekeeping should not be seen as an end in itself, but as a step towards the permanent resolution of conflict. There should be regular consultations among the Security Council, the Secretariat, troop-contributing countries and host countries. Care should be taken to provide sufficient resources and adequate field support and transition and exit strategies should be defined. Peacekeeping operations should incorporate a peacebuilding component from the earliest stages and should cooperate with regional organizations in accordance with Chapter VIII of the Charter. He commended efforts by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to incorporate a gender perspective into all aspects of peacekeeping and expressed his delegation's support for the Secretariat's recent initiative to enhance civilian capacity in post-conflict situations.

27. His country was host to one of most successful United Nations peacekeeping operations, the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), with which the Lebanese army maintained constant cooperation and communication. UNIFIL had played a major role in protecting Lebanese civilians, bringing an end to the Israeli occupation of Lebanese land and removing mines planted by Israel in South Lebanon. It had also sustained losses as a result of the cluster bombs dropped by Israel in 2006. He urged the international community to put pressure on Israel to implement its obligations under Security Council

resolution 1701 (2006), to cease its violations of Lebanese sovereignty and to withdraw from occupied areas, including northern Ghajar, the occupied Shaba's Farms and the Kafr Shuba hills. It was time to make the transition from a cessation of hostilities to a ceasefire.

28. **Mr. Hamed** (Syrian Arab Republic), noting that the United Nations bore primary responsibility for peacekeeping and international security, said that peacekeeping operations needed to maintain respect for sovereignty in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and to adhere to the three principles of consent of the parties, non-use of force and impartiality. Failure by certain parties to observe those principles would only undermine the trust that was essential to the successful operation of any peacekeeping force. Peacekeeping operations should never be a substitute for permanent solutions that addressed the root causes of conflict. Protection of civilians was primarily the host country's responsibility and should never be used as a pretext for interference in a country's internal affairs.

29. His country had always had excellent relations with the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO) and UNDOF. Although peacekeeping operations were supposed to be temporary, continued Israeli aggression and occupation had forced United Nations peacekeeping forces to remain in the Middle East for decades, at great financial and human cost. His Government appreciated the services and sacrifices of those peacekeeping forces, particularly in the areas of demining and removal of cluster bombs.

30. **Mr. Serdari** (Mongolia) said that since 2002, more than 3,000 Mongolian peacekeepers had served in peacekeeping operations and peace support missions around the globe. Mongolia's Tavan Tolgoi Peace Operations Support Training Centre also provided training for peacekeepers from the Asia-Pacific region. His delegation noted that, despite making progress on various aspects of peacekeeping, the Special Committee had been unable to find common ground on such issues as troop reimbursement rates, the development of early warning indicators and the use of surveillance and monitoring technologies.

31. His delegation welcomed the successful implementation of the New Horizon initiative and the Global Field Support Strategy, but felt that there was

still room for improvement. Peacekeepers must have a clear understanding of the priorities and needs of their mandates and be given the resources to implement them. Protection of civilians must be part of a mission's mandate and should be interpreted politically and backed by appropriate means. Because multiple parties were involved in the peace process, United Nations regional offices should form strong cooperative relationships with regional and subregional organizations and other entities. United Nations peacekeeping operations should also have clear exit strategies that paved the way for national reconciliation, strong governance, peacebuilding and development. Lastly, emerging troop- and police-contributing countries such as Mongolia should be adequately represented at Headquarters and in regional offices.

32. **Ms. Niang** (Senegal) said that, despite Senegal's relatively small population, 2,140 Senegalese soldiers and police were currently serving in various United Nations peacekeeping missions, making it the thirteenth largest troop- and police-contributing country. The growing complexity of peacekeeping missions had made the basic peacekeeping principles of consent of the host country, impartiality and non-use of force except in self-defence increasingly ineffective, necessitating the development of a new approach. At its latest session, the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations had reiterated the importance of nationally owned, country-specific disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) programmes, which remained strategic components of peacekeeping and longer-term peacebuilding. It had recognized the role of women in conflict prevention and resolution and peacebuilding and had underscored the importance of women's participation in all peace processes, including decision-making. Stronger triangular cooperation among the Security Council, the Secretariat and troop-contributing countries would contribute to clear and achievable mandates and a spirit of partnership and mutual trust.

33. Her delegation welcomed the Special Committee's recognition of the supporting role played by regional organizations in the maintenance of peace and called for greater cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union, especially partnership on the ground, planning support and operational management. It also urged increased international support for African peacekeeping centres. With respect

to financial issues, she reminded the Senior Advisory Group of the Special Committee's recommendation to increase the wages and allowances of troops and police in the field and urged the United Nations to pay the reimbursements owed to troop-contributing countries.

34. **Mr. Valero Briceño** (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) said that in view of the Special Committee's difficulties in reaching a consensus on its report, consultations must continue on aspects requiring a critical review. Tensions had arisen in the implementation of peacekeeping mandates because of the development of new concepts that undermined the guiding principles of peacekeeping operations. So-called "robust" peacekeeping operations differed little from military missions that sought to impose peace and security and made moral judgments about the warring parties. Such operations had damaged the Organization's credibility and reputation for impartiality, undermining its ability to resolve conflicts and placing its peacekeepers and staff in constant and imminent danger. By engaging in such operations, the imperial Powers abused United Nations institutions and the good will of troop-contributing countries to impose winners that served their military and political interests. They then used peacebuilding to tighten their grip, often forcing the countries concerned to relinquish their sovereignty. Respect for the principles of sovereign equality, political independence and territorial integrity of all States contributed to the maintenance and consolidation of international peace and security and any process aimed at achieving a just and lasting peace must be based on established peacekeeping principles.

35. Because peacekeeping missions must observe the highest standards of conduct, his Government enforced a policy of zero tolerance with respect to sexual exploitation and abuse.

36. **Mr. Sahraei** (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that the new approach to peacekeeping had raised expectations in host countries but also challenges, showing how important it was for the international community to develop a coherent approach that acknowledged the complexity of peacekeeping operations. Preventive diplomacy and conflict prevention must play a greater role and peacekeeping missions must be part of a political solution, not an alternative to it. Peacekeeping processes must be individualized and have a well-defined exit strategy. Compliance with the fundamental principles of

peacekeeping was crucial for maintaining confidence in the United Nations, preserving its image and sustaining universal support for peacekeeping operations. Any new concepts adopted to address demands arising from the complex multidimensional nature of peacekeeping operations should be consistent with the principles, guidelines and terminology agreed upon in the relevant intergovernmental negotiating processes. In that connection, his delegation reiterated that the General Assembly and the Special Committee were the forums most competent to review United Nations peacekeeping policies and operations.

37. Successful peacekeeping was a shared responsibility, requiring ongoing cooperation, consultation and coordination among all stakeholders, including effective triangular cooperation among troop-contributing countries, the Secretariat and the Security Council. To achieve sustainable peace, peacekeeping missions should be accompanied by peacebuilding activities that facilitated nationally owned economic revitalization and capacity-building. Peacekeeping must not be allowed to become peace enforcement, which might jeopardize the relationship between the host country and the peacekeeping mission.

38. Primary responsibility for the protection of civilians lay with the host country, but if a peacekeeping mission was mandated to protect civilians, it must receive timely and adequate resources, logistical support and the requisite training. With respect to regional arrangements, he reiterated the position of the Non-Aligned Movement that such arrangements should be in accordance with Chapter VIII of the Charter and should not participate in peacekeeping operations in any way as a substitute for the United Nations, circumvent full application of the guiding principles of peacekeeping operations or absolve the Organization of its primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security.

39. *Mr. Messone (Gabon) took the Chair.*

40. **Ms. Aung** (Myanmar) said that her delegation recognized the Organization's increasing role in conflict prevention, peacemaking and peacekeeping. It believed that protection of civilians should always be the first consideration in the conduct of peacekeeping operations. However, the international community must give priority to ensuring the safety and security of peacekeepers in conflict zones. Peacekeeping mandates

should be based on timely assessment and sound intelligence and peacekeeping troops should have resources and capabilities commensurate with their mandate. It was also important to address the root causes of conflict and ensure long-term stability and development by investing in institution-building and promoting national capacity-building in the areas of security, justice and governance. At the same time, it was vital to find ways to reform, rationalize and strengthen the Organization's peacekeeping capacity.

41. Her Government had paid its contributions for peacekeeping operations in full and called on other States to do so on time and without conditions. It looked forward to early completion of the Senior Advisory Group's work on rates of reimbursement to troop-contributing countries. In 2011, it had again decided to contribute military observers to United Nations peacekeeping operations and was taking steps to honour that commitment.

42. **Mr. Motanyane** (Lesotho) noted that, while peacekeeping had once focused only on monitoring compliance with ceasefire agreements, the ever-changing nature of inter- and intra-State conflicts meant that it also had to tackle root causes and promote conflict resolution. Clear criteria for the deployment of peacekeeping operations were crucial for the proper configuration of missions and would help to prevent them from continuing indefinitely, with no clear exit strategy, or from being terminated abruptly. Providing adequate training to peacekeepers in their role as early peacebuilders was of the utmost importance. His delegation therefore supported the high priority given by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to introducing an overarching quality assurance framework supported by guidance and training. Commending the Security Council's increased engagement with troop- and police-contributing countries, he said that such engagement should continue throughout the process from mission planning to termination. Ongoing consultations with regional organizations were also essential in order to take advantage of their deeper understanding of regional dynamics.

43. Since the Secretariat looked to the Special Committee for policy guidance on how to enhance the Organization's capacity to maintain international peace and security, it was essential that members of the Special Committee find the political will to reach agreement. One bone of contention was protection of

civilians, for which host countries bore primary responsibility but in which peacekeepers' involvement might be warranted in some situations. The Special Committee should continue to explore the possibility of developing multilaterally negotiated guidelines for the protection of civilians, which would need to be agreed by all Member States and would not absolve host countries of their responsibilities or flout the principles of sovereign equality and territorial integrity of all States.

44. United Nations peacekeeping operations were under-resourced, rendering peacekeepers ineffective and vulnerable. For a mission to be successful, it must have resources commensurate with needs on the ground and a clear and achievable mandate. The United Nations Peacekeeping Principles and Guidelines remained the bedrock of successful peacekeeping and adherence to them ensured credibility and neutrality, thereby enhancing the safety of peacekeepers. His Government would continue its modest contribution of personnel to United Nations peacekeeping forces.

45. **Ms. Dunlop** (Brazil) said that political backing and unified policy guidance were fundamental at a time when United Nations peacekeeping was becoming increasingly complex and faced demands that tended to overstretch resources. It was cause for concern, therefore, that it had taken six months from the end of the Special Committee's latest session to reach agreement on its report, creating uncertainty for policy implementation and for peacekeepers on the ground. Future reports should address all relevant issues and avoid showing signs of division within the Special Committee. Her delegation would redouble its efforts to build bridges and promote convergence and was particularly interested in exploring how best to use the time remaining before the Special Committee's next session to refine proposals, do preliminary work on substance and gain a better understanding of the priorities of the negotiating partners.

46. The potential benefits offered by technologies that could enhance situational awareness and hence the safety of peacekeepers must be balanced against legitimate concerns about peacekeeping principles. The best way to do that was for the Special Committee to continue to focus on operational aspects while developing the necessary regulation. Her delegation looked forward to considering the recommendations of the Senior Advisory Group on reimbursement rates. With regard to special political missions and their

oversight, it was ready to examine all options that would allow Member States a proper guiding role without disrupting existing processes. The Special Committee's expertise in providing guidance for peacekeeping operations could offer useful lessons in that regard.

47. The Secretary-General's report on civilian capacity in the aftermath of conflict (A/67/312-S/2012/645) was an important step towards making peacekeeping operations more effective and the Special Committee and the Fifth Committee should consider it carefully in order to give the Secretariat the guidance it needed to move forward.

48. Given the fundamental link between peace, security and development, an integrated approach was crucial. Very often, however, particularly during economic crises, the drawdown of peacekeeping missions was accompanied by a drawdown of financial support for the remaining United Nations presence on the ground, undermining the opportunities for effective exit strategies and a comprehensive peacebuilding architecture with strong national ownership.

49. **Mr. Tan** (Singapore) said that Singapore had contributed to 15 peacekeeping and observer missions since 1989. In the multifaceted, rapidly changing security environment of the early twenty-first century, capacity-building of peacekeeping personnel was crucial. It could take many forms, including training in collaborative skills for working with civilian and non-governmental relief agencies or additional language training to facilitate communication with local populations. He urged the Special Committee to promote further cooperation among Member States in peacekeeping training, including training opportunities for new and emerging troop-contributing countries. Capacity-building was also a cornerstone of nation building in the aftermath of conflict, to which United Nations peacekeeping forces should contribute by working with host Governments and local communities to protect civilians from violence.

50. His delegation welcomed the achievements made by the Department of Field Support in the first year of implementing the Global Field Support Strategy and called on it to continue to improve its governance, risk management and control processes, which should incorporate key performance indicators and benchmarks. It urged the Secretariat to continue to hold informal quarterly briefings on peacekeeping strategy

in order to permit meaningful discussions with all Member States, particularly troop- and police-contributing countries.

51. **Mr. DeLaurentis** (United States of America) observed that everyone present represented an institution whose contribution was essential to the success of United Nations peacekeeping missions. His delegation hoped that it would be possible to resolve the disagreements on peacekeeping priorities that had made the past two years so difficult and to work together to provide the necessary support to peacekeepers in the field. It was essential that peacekeepers have all the tools to carry out their mandates.

52. His delegation continued to believe that an explicit mandate to protect civilians was indispensable for the success of some peacekeeping missions. People must feel safer and actually be safer when United Nations peacekeepers arrived. While primary responsibility for protecting the civilian population rested with host Governments, there were cases where Governments could or would not carry out that responsibility without international support or scrutiny. To ensure civilian safety, the Organization must implement more effectively the standards that the Secretariat and Member States had worked so hard to develop, ensure that peacekeepers had functioning and appropriate equipment, provide the capabilities and resources essential for each mission and develop whole-of-mission strategies.

53. While his delegation appreciated the dedicated professionalism shown by the vast majority of peacekeepers, it urged United Nations leaders and managers in the field and Member State Governments to enforce the standards to which they had agreed by disciplining misconduct. Lastly, since their composition and objectives differed significantly from those of peacekeeping missions, special political missions should not be discussed in the context of peacekeeping policy.

54. **Mr. Alemu** (Ethiopia) said that Ethiopia had been a major troop- and police- contributing country for the past six decades, most recently in the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA). Peacekeeping was becoming increasingly complex and its multidimensional challenges must be addressed comprehensively. It was critical that peacekeeping mandates, and any amendments thereto, should be

absolutely clear from the outset. They should reflect the ideals enshrined in the Charter, realities on the ground and the views and capabilities of troop- and police-contributing countries and host countries. There could be no “one size fits all” approach.

55. Triangular cooperation and consultations among the Security Council, the Secretariat and troop- and police-contributing countries must be strengthened. Regular meetings between Council members and troop- and police-contributing countries before mandates were renewed should encourage discussions on operational challenges and mandate implementation on the ground, providing the Council with useful information from the field that was relevant for decision-making. His delegation supported the Special Committee’s primary role in the development of peacekeeping-related concepts, policies and strategies.

56. His delegation was open to discussing the use of advanced technologies to enhance the capabilities of peacekeeping missions, provided that their use was completely transparent and had the full consent of host countries. There was an urgent need to address the current mismatch between mandates and resources. Timely reimbursement of contingent-owned equipment and troop costs was also critical. The United Nations should ensure that countries willing to contribute peacekeeping personnel had the necessary capacity and resources to train and equip them and fully understood the administrative processes of peacekeeping operations. That must include both direct support to troop-contributing countries and cooperation to enhance the capabilities of regional organizations such as the African Union.

57. **Mr. Mana** (Cameroon) said that 300 members of Cameroon’s defence and security forces were currently serving in peacekeeping operations. Peacekeeping operations were becoming increasingly complex and multidimensional, creating raised expectations and new challenges. His delegation remained committed to the established peacekeeping principles of consent of the parties, non-use of force except in self-defence and clearly defined mandates and warned against the abuse of modern technologies that might violate sovereignty and territorial integrity. With respect to the need to promote local capacity-building, his Government had established the International Security Forces Training School (EIFORCES) in 2008 to provide training for African countries’ domestic security forces. The School’s contribution had been recognized by both the

European Union and the African Union. To ensure durable peace, peacekeeping personnel must also have been trained in crisis management, be familiar with the history and culture of host countries and be duly informed about the United Nations and its guiding principles. The United Nations also needed to move faster to meet troop-contributing countries' expectations in terms of reimbursement of troop costs.

58. **Mr. Thomson** (Fiji) said that as peacekeeping operations became more complex, their mandates must remain clear and achievable. While institution-building and efforts to address the root causes of conflict could go hand in glove with peacekeeping, they should not become the tasks of peacekeeping personnel. His delegation called for greater clarity on the administrative arrangements for troop-contributing countries involved in both peacekeeping operations and special political missions.

59. It was important to resist the temptation of over-ambitious peacekeeping missions that stretched human and financial resources too thin. Troop- and police-contributing countries could provide useful guidance in that regard, based on their experience in the field: in Fiji's case, on 35 years of peacekeeping across the globe. Those countries must be involved in any decision-making regarding their own forces and decisions that went beyond their agreed responsibilities must not be made without the involvement and consent of the relevant national authorities. The most fruitful approach would be one based on cooperation and information-sharing among troop- and police-contributing countries, host Governments, the Secretariat and the Security Council.

60. Troop-contributing countries, particularly developing countries such as Fiji, should not be expected to bear a disproportionate burden of troop costs. His delegation therefore looked forward to a decision on a comprehensive review of troop costs that took into account the recommendations of the Senior Advisory Group. Recognizing the valuable role played by female peacekeepers, particularly in police peacekeeping, his Government had made an effort to increase the number of female police peacekeepers nominated for deployment. In its most recent police rotations to the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) and the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL), 55 per cent of those nominated had been women. In closing, he called on all members of the

Special Committee to show the requisite political will to reach agreement on outstanding issues.

The meeting rose at 1:05 p.m.