



General Assembly

Seventy-third session

Official Records

Distr.: General
11 December 2018

Original: English

Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee)

Summary record of the 17th meeting

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Tuesday, 30 October 2018, at 10 a.m.

Chair: Mr. Kemayah, Sr. (Liberia)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.

Agenda item 56: Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects

1. **Mr. Lacroix** (Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations) said that 2018 had been a transformative year for the Organization and for peacekeeping, with the General Assembly endorsing the Secretary-General's reform agenda. Once implemented, the reforms would help create an environment conducive to the success of peacekeeping operations. The restructuring of the peace and security architecture would make it possible to respond to crises based on better integrated regional analysis and to formulate more strategic responses that combined conflict prevention and management with peacebuilding. Reform of the development pillar would place sustainable development at the centre of the Organization's work. Lastly, revamped management practices would foster a culture of initiative and accountability at all levels.

2. The problems faced by Secretariat staff working in peacekeeping operations, often in difficult conditions, were exacerbated by the changing nature of conflicts – on the whole longer and multidimensional – and the new forms of warfare spawned by new technologies and transnational armed groups. Weak governance and exclusively security-centred responses fed into the cycle of violence. Moreover, serving under the United Nations flag no longer guaranteed the safety of peacekeepers, as evidenced by the recent deadly attacks on the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA).

3. In response to those challenges, the Secretary-General had launched the Action for Peacekeeping initiative earlier that year. Its aims included making peacekeeping operations stronger and safer and securing additional backing for political solutions and better equipped and trained forces. To date, 150 countries had signed the Declaration of Shared Commitments on United Nations Peacekeeping, indicating the overwhelming political support for the Action for Peacekeeping initiative, and for multilateralism and United Nations peacekeeping more broadly. The commitments, based on existing United Nations resolutions and on the recognition that peacekeeping depended on the engagement of a wide range of stakeholders, were respective and mutual, and were shared by the Secretariat and Member States in their various capacities as host countries, donors, troop- and police-contributing countries and Security Council members. The Secretariat had begun to take action but

Member States must do their part. All United Nations bodies involved in peacekeeping must seize the opportunity to translate the political momentum generated by the Action for Peacekeeping initiative into meaningful, transformative action.

4. Enhancing the political impact of peacekeeping was a key area covered by the Action for Peacekeeping commitments. Independent, externally-led reviews of peacekeeping missions had assessed the mandates of such large operations as the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS), the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA) and MINUSMA in order to determine whether appropriate strategies and resources were in place to keep or restore the peace. Unsurprisingly, the reviews had demonstrated that while there was no silver bullet for peacekeeping success, political will and the presence of peacekeepers were crucial in breaking stalemates and preventing or managing violence.

5. Moving forward, the Department would continue to develop agreed political road maps for multidimensional settings; strengthen information gathering, management and analysis within the new peace and security pillar; and make full use of the new pillar to define new regional political strategies within which peacekeeping operations would be situated. The aims would be to facilitate more effective transitions and integrate a peacebuilding perspective into the life cycle of a mission. The Department's peacekeeping operations continued to deploy new approaches in order to better uphold its commitment to tailored, context-specific protection – an imperative underscored in the Action for Peacekeeping initiative.

6. The need for robust support from Member States and for unified efforts across the Security Council, regional actors and the United Nations system had emerged as a consistent theme across the findings of each independent review. The host State's role was critical. The Security Council and the General Assembly would have to take decisions to advance Action for Peacekeeping commitments, while Member States had a duty to develop tangible measures to address the gap between mandate and resources, to align policies with Security Council resolutions and to foster more meaningful triangular consultations.

7. With peacekeeping fatalities at their highest level in a generation, doing more to guarantee the safety and security of peacekeepers was a top priority and one of the main drivers behind the Action for Peacekeeping initiative. To implement its action plan to improve the security of peacekeepers, the Department was working

to strengthen its operational readiness and accountability, provide better-tailored training and ensure that peacekeepers had the necessary equipment and that they received the best and promptest care possible in the event of an incident.

8. The Office for Peacekeeping Strategic Partnership and offices across the Departments of Peacekeeping Operations and Field Support were coordinating implementation of the action plan, along with a Headquarters-based interdisciplinary implementation support team established by his Department. The five peacekeeping missions with the highest fatality rates since 2013 had also developed mission-specific action plans and corresponding implementation support teams to ensure that the actions taken were tailored to their contexts. While threats against peacekeepers persisted, the overall effort was already yielding results in the form of a 43 per cent decrease in peacekeeper fatalities compared to the previous year.

9. The Department was also taking steps to bolster its training and capacity-building effort in pre-deployment and in-mission settings. Starting in January 2019, it would work closely with the Department of Operational Support to guarantee a common approach to the training provided to uniformed and civilian personnel, and with the new Department of Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance to develop training initiatives aimed at eliminating sexual exploitation and abuse. In addition, triangular initiatives to build troop- and police-contributing country capacity were being undertaken as part of the effort to develop peacekeeping capabilities. However, as performance in dangerous operating environments required more than optimal training and equipment, the Department was working to strengthen mission leadership and develop a framework for the responsible use and management of peacekeeping intelligence.

10. Greater accountability remained central to the Department's effort to strengthen peacekeeping performance. Measures to enhance accountability included improving the investigation of incidents and preventing certain units from being redeployed until it was confirmed that they met the relevant standards and requirements. The Department had scaled up its assessment of performance – a whole-of-mission responsibility – to be able to better address existing gaps and weaknesses and reward good performance. It would continue to develop the integrated performance policy framework requested by the Committee and the Security Council, along with the comprehensive performance assessment system, and to evaluate the performance of uniformed personnel through pre-deployment evaluations, integrated assessments and other means.

Additionally, shortfalls would be addressed, in conjunction with troop- and police-contributing countries, and the causes and circumstances of major incidents would be clearly ascertained. The Department would do its utmost to uphold the Secretary-General's zero-tolerance policy on sexual exploitation and abuse.

11. He thanked Member States for the voluntary support they extended to peacekeeping activities and enjoined States with the capacity to provide training and equipment to troop- and police-contributing countries to step up their response to current needs, including by making voluntary contributions to the Department's training plan. Member States should identify and clearly communicate any caveats or change in caveats to mission commanders. Furthermore, States with advanced military capabilities should contribute more troops and police to peacekeeping operations, which were in need of critical capabilities, including helicopters, rapid reaction forces and medical support. Member States should also do more to exercise their authority to hold all categories of personnel responsible for criminal conduct accountable. Lastly, he encouraged States to assess first-hand the performance of United Nations peacekeeping operations and share their conclusions with the Department.

12. Partnerships, another central element of the Action for Peacekeeping Declaration of Shared Commitments, were the cornerstone for peacekeeping success at a time when local conflicts had regional and global dimensions. The Secretariat would continue to strengthen its partnerships with key regional organizations, based on the principles of complementarity, comparative advantage, burden-sharing and collective responsibility. It had conducted joint field visits with the African Union to the Central African Republic, the Sudan and South Sudan to coordinate collective action in those countries, and was working with the African Union to strengthen its compliance frameworks in international humanitarian law and other priority areas and to advocate for sustainable, predictable and flexible funding for African Union peace operations. It would also strengthen and enhance triangular capacity-building for African Union operations and deepen partnerships in the field.

13. Eighteen years after the adoption of the landmark Security Council resolution [1325 \(2000\)](#) on women, peace and security, much remained to be done to enhance the role of women in preventing and resolving conflicts. Earlier that month, the Secretariat had undertaken a joint mission with the African Union and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) to South Sudan to reiterate its support for a truly inclusive peace process

that would honour commitments to women's participation and create a safer environment for women. In 2018, the Departments of Peacekeeping Operations and Field Support had endorsed a new gender policy to render peacekeeping mandates on women, peace and security operational.

14. Despite the Department's efforts to give women a more prominent role in peacekeeping, women currently accounted for a scant 21 per cent of civilian and uniformed personnel and 18 per cent of officers in the Office of Military Affairs at United Nations Headquarters. As a result, the Secretariat was striving to increase the number of women in key positions. Member States had a vital part to play in that endeavour and should lead by example, encouraging women's participation in peacekeeping and leadership positions.

15. While the international system and conflicts had changed dramatically since the inception of peacekeeping seven decades earlier, that unique instrument continued to contribute to global peace and security. However, its future depended on collective action. The Action for Peacekeeping Declaration, which had the political support of 150 Member States, set out a clear vision to strengthen peacekeeping. He called on States that had yet to endorse the Declaration to do so and to support efforts to implement it. He looked forward to working with Member States to ensure that United Nations peacekeeping operations remained anchored in the Organization's principles and upheld the ideals cherished by the Department and Member States alike.

16. **Mr. Khare** (Under-Secretary-General for Field Support) said that the Department of Field Support was working to implement its commitments under the Action for Peacekeeping initiative, along with the Secretary-General's new management paradigm, which was based on simplifying policy frameworks, decentralizing decision-making authority to the point of delivery and enhancing accountability and transparency. The reorganization of responsibilities and resourcing at United Nations Headquarters, from the existing Departments of Management and Field Support to the new Department of Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance and the new Department of Operational Support would help to shift the focus from process to results, eliminate duplicative functions, establish a clearer division of roles and responsibilities and ensure that checks and balances were in place. The new Department of Operational Support promised to strengthen work in the field and enhance the ability to deliver on the expectations of troop- and police-contributing countries by providing a broad spectrum of guidance and operational support across the Secretariat

on supply chain management, personnel matters and training, information and communications technology requirements and support for uniformed capabilities, in addition to support to departments at Headquarters. Planning for the January 2019 launch was under way.

17. The key features of the new Department of Operational Support included a one-stop-shop for troop- and police-contributing countries, providing a single point of contact to enable faster processing for all administrative and logistical issues related to force generation, memorandums of understanding, contingent-owned equipment and reimbursement. The new Uniformed Capabilities Support Division would consolidate capacities currently spread across three divisions to improve performance, capability and the safety and security of peacekeepers. The new Special Activities Division would focus on the sensitive needs of missions in the surging, transitioning and downsizing stages and contain capacity for analysis and operational and resource planning. The Support Partnerships Service would serve as an entry point for external partners.

18. The reorganization at Headquarters and the consolidation of logistics and procurement functions in one department, with full respect for the integrity of each area, would make it possible to take the end-to-end supply chain farther, eliminating lengthy bureaucratic delays caused by interdepartmental handoffs. The close relationship with the new Department of Peace Operations would ensure a uniform approach to knowledge management, guidance and training for all personnel serving in peace operations, thereby facilitating mobility across functions and missions while maintaining a common doctrine and standards. Lastly, the Secretary-General's reforms would empower the field by better aligning decision-making in human resources, finance, procurement and property management through direct delegation of authority to the heads of missions. The new Department of Operational Support would focus on backstopping operations with required assistance, for instance, by ensuring that missions had access to well-populated and geographically diverse personnel rosters.

19. In response to the General Assembly's request for the proposed global service delivery model to be reconceived, his Department was preparing a new proposal for review by Member States. In the interim, the Regional Service Centre at Entebbe and the Kuwait Joint Support Office would continue to provide and improve transactional administrative services.

20. Turning to his Department's efforts to implement the Declaration of Shared Commitments, he noted that a

key area of the Declaration was the impact of peacekeeping operations on sustaining peace and the condition of the country after missions drew down. Ahead of the withdrawal of the United Nations Mission for Justice Support in Haiti (MINUJUSTH), scheduled for October 2019, the Department was supporting planning for a gradual transition of programmatic activities from the mission to the United Nations country team, ensuring the responsible handover of remaining sites, in line with environmental standards. The African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID), slated to close by June 2020 if certain benchmarks were met, was working to reconfigure in response to the new mandate and prepare for the handover of United Nations facilities to the United Nations country team or the Sudanese Government. On a visit to Darfur, he had urged the Government to consider national UNAMID staff for future employment. Encouragingly, host Governments had committed to build and sustain peace and cooperate with United Nations operations.

21. His Department called upon Member States to support such transitions, particularly by supporting United Nations country teams and ensuring that sufficient resources were made available for responsible environmental management during the drawdown phase. Measures taken by the Department to lay the foundations of sustainable peace in the Democratic Republic of the Congo included a plan to optimize the use of mission resources and expertise to support the forthcoming elections. Moreover, logistical support provided by the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) had been an integral part of the response to the country's Ebola crisis.

22. As highlighted in the Declaration of Shared Commitments, civilian and uniformed peacekeepers, particularly leadership, must be held accountable for effective performance under common parameters. His Department's steps to implement its commitments in that regard included reviewing missions, drawing on performance data and improving medical care.

23. In Somalia, the conclusion of a tripartite agreement with all troop- and police-contributing countries was a welcome development. The Department continued to work with them to enhance the possibilities of country-provided assets. The recently completed strategic review of the United Nations Support Office in Somalia had revealed that effective support by the mission would require unity of purpose between the United Nations, the African Union and other stakeholders; improved visibility of African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) operations and closer

coordination regarding accountability and compliance with international human rights law and international humanitarian law.

24. The effort to strengthen acute medical care for peacekeepers confronted by serious illness or injury persisted. To help ensure that all missions met the 10-1-2 standard – namely, ensuring access to skilled first aid within 10 minutes, providing advanced life support within one hour and access to surgery within two hours of an incident – missions had been asked to conduct health risk assessments, and casualty evacuation stress-testing would be carried out at high-risk missions in order to identify gaps and guide the potential redeployment of medical resources.

25. To help measure progress towards strengthening performance, the Department had introduced a new performance management framework for field support, based on 12 standard indicators in nine service areas for all missions. The Department was also monitoring its performance in payments and services to Member States; in 2017, it had paid out \$6.2 million in death and disability claims and was making progress towards handling all claims in a timely and transparent manner. The new payment provisions from the most recent working group on contingent-owned equipment were being implemented, with more than \$8 million processed or paid for equipment damaged in hostilities and an additional \$13 million in claims being processed. In 2018–2019, \$2.4 million would be paid out in reimbursements for units pledged at rapid deployment levels of the Peacekeeping Capability Readiness System, and \$7.5 million in risk premiums had been issued for contingents deployed in MINUSMA and the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) between 2014 and 2016. Strict criteria had been established to ensure that the contingents receiving risk premiums, deployed in extremely challenging circumstances, upheld exceptional standards of behaviour.

26. At the request of the African Union, the Organization's most vital partner, his Department had implemented a two-year pilot partnership programme to enhance cooperation on support for peace operations. Staff exchanges between his Department and the African Union and the inclusion of African Union personnel in United Nations managerial and support training sessions had been so successful that they would be institutionalized. Noting the importance of effective African capacities, he urged Member States to consider steps to establish a mechanism for financing African Union-led peace support operations partly through United Nations assessed contributions.

27. Under the Triangular Partnership Project, the Department had made notable progress in enhancing women's participation in peacekeeping and strengthening the engineering, signals and command and control communication capacities of uniformed peacekeepers. It was also taking measures to extend triangular partnership arrangements to new geographic regions. Henceforth, the project would rely heavily on the generous support of Member States in various forms.

28. The Declaration of Shared Commitments had highlighted proper conduct and sound environmental management as priority areas of work for the Department, which had finalized its first set of environmental scorecard results that month. Inclusion of the results in that year's budget performance reports would enable the Department to more easily prioritize challenges. Ongoing efforts to strengthen data measurement and improve processes should result in the establishment of a robust baseline by June 2020.

29. While the scorecard was derived from mission-reported data on risk, performance and process, Member States should focus on the narrative, not only the numbers. When the Department's framework on wastewater management and final waste disposal identified a significant risk level, the system nullified the mission's overall score reported to Member States and triggered a risk mitigation plan approved at the Under-Secretary-General level, affecting both immediate priorities and the subsequent budgetary cycle. He called upon Member States to fulfil the commitment to employ environmentally responsible solutions for all operations and mandate delivery.

30. The Department persisted in its strenuous effort to ensure that personnel conducted themselves in accordance with the highest standards of conduct, as every case of sexual exploitation and abuse contravened the Organization's loftiest values. The number of alleged cases of sexual exploitation and abuse had declined from the previous year, while there had been a slight spike in allegations of other forms of misconduct. The Department had strengthened its monitoring and improved its reporting procedures in order to hold personnel and leadership accountable, in line with the Declaration of Shared Commitments. In addition, it had launched a risk management toolkit to address sexual exploitation and abuse and other types of misconduct.

31. He urged Member States to sign the Secretary-General's voluntary compact on preventing and addressing sexual exploitation and abuse and to redouble their efforts to certify that personnel met United Nations standards for service, encourage good conduct and ensure accountability. With reformed

management structures for the Secretariat, the Organization would be able to deliver more fully on mission mandates, uphold standards of conduct and discipline and guarantee that personnel were properly equipped and protected. However, it could not do so without the engagement of Member States – as vital members of the peacekeeping partnership – in implementing the Declaration of Shared Commitments, providing better trained troops and equipment and bringing United Nations reforms to fruition.

32. **Mr. Hilale** (Morocco), speaking on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, said that the Movement welcomed the Secretary-General's reform process and supported the Action for Peacekeeping initiative and other initiatives intended to strengthen peacekeeping. It also welcomed the Secretariat's development of an integrated planning performance framework and underscored that all caveats should be avoided given their impact on performance. Additionally, discrepancies such as size and nature of participation should be taken into account, with a view to guaranteeing efficient performance. A renewed Peacekeeping Capability Readiness System was also needed in order to make the selection process transparent and fit for purpose. In developing policies, only those ideas and approaches agreed at the intergovernmental level and adopted collectively by Member States should be implemented.

33. The Movement looked forward to the full implementation of the revised working methods of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations, the only United Nations forum mandated to review the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all its aspects. In that regard, the Movement reemphasized its support of all efforts to achieve effective peacekeeping operations, and reiterated the following positions:

34. Establishing peacekeeping operations or extending their mandates should strictly observe the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, as well as the basic principles of consent of the parties, impartiality and the non-use of force except in self-defence and in defence of the mandate. Respect for the principles of sovereign equality, political independence, and the territorial integrity of all States and non-intervention in matters within their domestic jurisdiction should also be upheld.

35. The effectiveness of United Nations peacekeeping hinged on the Security Council's formulation of clear, focused and achievable mandates matched with sufficient resources, in consultation with troop- and police-contributing countries and host countries. The Movement reiterated the need to seek greater coherence

between mandates and resources in support of political situations on the ground and to manage the expectations of all stakeholders. Furthermore, mandates should not be changed without prior consultation with troop- and police-contributing countries, as well as with military personnel in the field.

36. The safety of United Nations personnel remained a matter of concern for troop- and police-contributing countries. The Movement looked forward to updates on the Secretary-General's action plan, implementation of which had reduced the number of fatalities that year. Appropriate training was key in guaranteeing the safety and security of peacekeepers. Pre-deployment training was the responsibility of troop- and police-contributing countries, while it was up to the Secretariat to provide adequate training materials. The Movement therefore requested the Secretariat to update its training material regularly, taking into account the evolving nature of contemporary conflicts and with a focus on mission-specific material. Only professional soldiers should be deployed, and the Organization should not devote its already scarce resources to providing basic military training. Success also required full troop- and police-contributing countries' participation in policy formulation and decision-making, along with effective triangular cooperation among troop- and police-contributing countries, the Secretariat and the Security Council. The Movement strongly supported a substantial reworking of the current modalities of that cooperation to make it result-oriented and beneficial to all, and remained ready to engage constructively through the open-ended group created after the previous session of the Special Committee or in any other relevant forum.

37. The Movement strongly condemned all forms of sexual exploitation and abuse committed by United Nations peacekeeping personnel as a despicable betrayal of the duty to protect, and reiterated its support for the Secretary-General's zero-tolerance policy. Responsibility for investigating and prosecuting such cases lay with the national jurisdictions of the States concerned, but combating sexual exploitation and abuse was a collective responsibility that should be dealt with by all stakeholders. The Movement welcomed the significant decrease in the number of allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse against uniformed personnel in 2017. However, equal accountability measures for all personnel would be required to address the increase in the number of allegations against civilian personnel. The Movement reiterated its support for General Assembly resolution [72/304](#) on the issue.

38. All necessary support, including financial and human resources and military and civilian capacities,

should be provided to peacekeeping missions to ensure that they achieved their goals while fully respecting host-country laws and regulations. The latest survey of troop cost had resulted in a symbolic increase, which called for a revision of the methodology for quadrennial surveys on troop cost reimbursements. The overall lack of resources for peacekeeping and the difficulty of providing troops and equipment for military operations must be addressed.

39. While peacekeeping intelligence could contribute to the safety and security of peacekeepers and to the protection of civilians, the Secretariat should continue to engage with Member States in formulating all subsequent documents, guidelines and policies following the revision of the Policy on Peacekeeping Intelligence. The Movement noted the growing responsibility of police in United Nations peacekeeping operations and called for better coordination with other mission components.

40. The Peacebuilding Commission, its country-specific configurations and the United Nations Peacebuilding Fund enhanced integration between peacekeeping and peacebuilding, and ensured that peacekeeping efforts were accompanied by national ownership-based economic recovery and capacity-building. In that regard, the Movement noted the Security Council's regular requests for the targeted, strategic advice provided by the Peacebuilding Commission, inter alia, to assist with the longer-term perspective required to sustain peace during the formation, review and drawdown of peacekeeping operations.

41. Peacekeeping operations should not be used as alternatives to addressing the root causes of conflicts, nor as ways to manage the conflicts themselves. Instead, conflicts should be managed through political, social and developmental tools that would achieve a smooth transition to lasting peace, security and sustainable development. Moreover, exit strategies should always be agreed upon early in mission planning and periodically reviewed.

42. Reiterating its position on the use of force in peacekeeping operations, the Movement called for further consultation with Member States on protecting peacekeeping personnel and facilities. While the primary responsibility for civilian protection ultimately lay with host countries, such protection by peacekeepers, where mandated, should support national efforts but should not be the sole basis for United Nations military intervention in conflicts.

43. The Movement was clearly committed to maintaining international peace and security. Its

members comprised most, if not all, of the top troop- and police-contributing countries, and also regularly contributed civilian experts to peacekeeping missions. The Movement paid tribute to the men and women of the United Nations who were defending and giving their lives to that cause.

44. **Mr. Escalante Hasbún** (El Salvador), speaking on behalf of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), said that the work of the United Nations in maintaining peace and international security had proven to be an effective tool for helping countries along the difficult path from conflict to peace, hence the importance of strengthening its operational capabilities and organizational structure and providing sufficient resources for peacekeeping operations. He paid tribute to all peacekeeping personnel for the contributions and sacrifices they had made in the service of peace.

45. CELAC noted the Secretary-General's proposed reforms of the peace and security pillar and trusted that, in consultation with Member States, the reforms would help improve the implementation of General Assembly resolutions without seeking to change mandates, functions or sources of funding. CELAC also noted the Secretary-General's Action for Peacekeeping initiative, which sought to renew the political commitment to United Nations peacekeeping operations. In that regard, CELAC reiterated that the Special Committee was the sole intergovernmental body in a position to examine all aspects of the question of peacekeeping and underscored that all peacekeeping operations must adhere to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and to the basic principles of peacekeeping. To be truly effective, peacekeeping operations required adequate human, financial and logistical resources, political support, and viable, clearly-defined mandates, particularly when moving from peacekeeping to peacebuilding. CELAC welcomed the contribution of peacekeeping operations to an integral peacebuilding strategy.

46. The extremely fragile security and political situation in United Nations peacekeeping-mission areas were deeply concerning. Changes in the pattern of violence and their increasingly volatile operational environments had led to a significant rise in the number of casualties. To achieve lasting peace, such operations must go hand-in-hand with inclusive, carefully-planned peace processes conducted with the consent and support of the parties concerned. Also essential were clear exit strategies, whose points of transition must be assessed in light of the need to create a temporary security framework enabling the host country to achieve sustainable economic and social development.

47. CELAC reiterated its commitment to helping Haiti progress towards stability, peace and sustainable development, supported by MINUJUSTH, with the full participation of the Government and people of Haiti, complete respect for its sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and unity during the process, and the close collaboration of the troop- and police-contributing countries. CELAC appreciated the hard work and dedication of MINUSTAH personnel, and of the troop and police forces of other countries, in fulfilling their vital support mission in Haiti over the past fourteen years.

48. Sustainable development could not be achieved without peace, nor peace without sustainable development. Coordination must be strengthened between the United Nations peacekeeping operations and peacebuilding architecture (particularly the Peacebuilding Commission) and the funds, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations system. Such development activities, in particular early peacebuilding, were crucial for the success of peacekeeping missions, since they enhanced missions' commitment to local populations and were instrumental in preventing conflicts and achieving lasting peace, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 70/262.

49. Women and young people played a critical role in preventing and resolving conflicts, and they must be encouraged to participate fully and meaningfully at all levels of decision-making in maintaining and promoting a sustainable peace. Gender advisers should be increasingly involved in peacekeeping missions. CELAC emphasized its support for the recommendations of the High-level Independent Panel on Peace Operations concerning implementation of the women, peace and security agenda and of the youth, peace and security agenda.

50. While the basic responsibility to protect civilians fell to host countries, the legitimate requirement to protect civilians must never be used to override the principle of State sovereignty. When establishing and executing civilian protection mandates, all actors involved must reach an agreement regarding the mandates and the rules of engagement. Secretariat policies and directives must be subject to consultation with the Member States at the intergovernmental level and must be applied only after agreement by the Special Committee. CELAC was concerned that policies had been implemented in specific missions without such approval.

51. Concerned at the increase in the number of accusations of sexual exploitation and abuse, CELAC remained fully committed to the Organization's zero-

tolerance policy. Those responsible must be rapidly investigated and held accountable under due process and in accordance with the relevant memorandums of understanding signed with the United Nations. He commended the Organization on measures adopted to prevent such behaviour and for providing training and assistance to victims; progress achieved in that respect should be reviewed.

52. CELAC underscored the importance of consultations with troop- and police-contributing countries, recalling its appeal to the Security Council to ensure full consideration of their views and concerns. Their perspective was particularly relevant at the policymaking and decision-making levels, as well as during the deployment, transition and renewal of peacekeeping operations and whenever any other important changes occurred.

53. Troop- and police-contributing countries should be reimbursed promptly and efficiently, and the principles of equitable geographical distribution and gender balance must be applied to all staffing, both at Headquarters and in the field, particularly at the expert and senior managerial levels.

54. **Mr. Ratray** (Jamaica), speaking on behalf of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), said that CARICOM supported the Secretary-General's efforts to reform the United Nations peace and security architecture and welcomed his commitment to making the Organization more coherent, effective and fit for purpose, to better deliver on mandates. In that vein, CARICOM welcomed the Secretary-General's Action for Peacekeeping initiative and reiterated that the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations was the mandated intergovernmental body to review peacekeeping operations in all their aspects.

55. CARICOM supported the extension of the mandate of MINUJUSTH to April 2019 and noted the efforts by the United Nations and the Haitian Government to responsibly articulate an exit strategy to support the transition to non-peacekeeping United Nations presence in Haiti beginning in October 2019. MINUJUSTH had a strategy to build momentum and political buy-in by national stakeholders for a concrete course of action with a clear timeline, and CARICOM noted the 11 benchmarks, with 46 distinct indicators, outlined in the Secretary-General's most recent report on MINUJUSTH. Meeting the targets with specific transition dates would be essential to consolidating the stability gains and establishing a strong foundation for long-term political stability, security and development in Haiti.

56. The international community must remain actively engaged in partnership with the Government and people of Haiti to consolidate the progress made and maintain an environment conducive to sustainable peace, stability and development. He commended Member States that had assisted Haiti throughout the transition period, particularly for backing the Secretary-General's new approach to cholera in Haiti and the contributions to the United Nations Haiti Cholera Response Multi-Partner Trust Fund. However, CARICOM was concerned that present contributions to the Trust Fund were severely insufficient and called for predictable funding from the international community to ensure just compensation to the victims of cholera and their families.

57. The peacekeeping debate was complementary to the ten-year review of the peacebuilding architecture. CARICOM stressed the importance of coordination between peacekeeping operations and United Nations peacebuilding entities, in particular the funds and programmes, which must work in close partnership with national authorities. The collective international endorsement of the Sustainable Development Goals, especially Goal 16, had reinforced the natural synergy between peace, security and development.

58. CARICOM continued to support women's active participation in conflict prevention and resolution, peacekeeping, peacebuilding and in promoting international peace and security, in accordance with Security Council resolutions on women, peace and security. It looked forward to the finalization of the Gender Forward Looking Strategy of the Departments of Peacekeeping Operations and Field Support, and encouraged measures to increase the number of female officers on missions. Meaningful participation of women in peacekeeping required that women have a seat at the negotiating table, that their interests and lived experiences be fully reflected in peace processes, and that they be equally considered in recovery efforts in the aftermath of conflicts.

59. CARICOM endorsed the zero-tolerance approach to all peacekeeper misconduct, in particular acts of sexual exploitation and abuse. The rights and dignity of victims should be at the centre of efforts to end impunity through better reporting, transparency and accountability. CARICOM also favoured deepening engagement with civil society and key national and international actors in order to ensure that United Nations personnel were held to the highest standards.

60. Full participation of troop- and police-contributing countries in policy formulation was needed to achieve the partnership and effectiveness required for United Nations peacekeeping missions. Consistent, transparent

and effective triangular cooperation between the Security Council, the Secretariat and troop and police contributors was also necessary in addressing the challenges of peacekeeping. Reimbursements to and compensation claims by troop- and police-contributing countries must be handled in a timely and efficient manner to incentivize diverse and sustained participation of those countries in peacekeeping.

61. Peacekeepers must be alert, proactive and properly equipped, in order to adapt to their increasingly dangerous working environments. Technological advances in that regard, including the supplemental Internet training courses provided for all mission staff were welcome. CARICOM also appreciated the pre-deployment training developed by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and provided by the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR).

62. CARICOM paid tribute to all who had served and continued to serve in peacekeeping operations and recognized in particular those who had given their lives for the maintenance of peace and security. CARICOM reaffirmed its support for the Organization's initiatives to strengthen its capability and ensure the safety and security of personnel across all United Nations peacekeeping missions. It looked forward to meaningful, comprehensive engagement in United Nations peacekeeping and would continue to participate actively in the development of solutions involving all aspects of peacekeeping.

63. **Mr. Djani** (Indonesia), speaking on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), said that United Nations peacekeeping had been an effective tool for the maintenance of international peace and security around the world, but there was room for improvements to make it fit for purpose. While various recommendations for reform had been made in the past, a clear commitment and political will had been lacking; therefore, ASEAN welcomed the Secretary-General's Action for Peacekeeping initiative as a unique opportunity to renew political commitments to support United Nations peacekeeping. ASEAN member States had been among the first in the Southeast Asia region to endorse the Declaration of Shared Commitments, and ASEAN looked forward to more endorsements of the initiative moving forward.

64. Peacekeeping reforms should be geared towards enhancing performance and capabilities and improving the decision-making process in the field; enhancing the political impact of peacekeeping; strengthening the protection provided by peacekeeping including by increasing the meaningful participation of women peacekeepers; ensuring the safety and security of United

Nations peacekeeping; improving the impact of peacekeeping on sustaining peace; strengthening partnerships; and improving the skills and conduct of peacekeepers. For successful missions, resources must match the mandates of each mission. Additionally, greater efforts were needed to translate words into action.

65. Collaboration between ASEAN and the United Nations in peacekeeping had been strengthened, including through the national focal points of ASEAN member States and the ASEAN Peacekeeping Centres Network. ASEAN supported the innovative force generation and partnership initiatives of the Departments of Peacekeeping Operations and Field Support, and some member States were working to deploy specialized contingents based on the new force generation model. ASEAN would continue to promote the sharing of experience and expertise internally and among partners and remained committed to strengthening the work and quality of its peacekeepers.

66. Speaking in his national capacity, he said that peacekeeping mandates must be clear, focused, sequenced, prioritized, realistic, achievable and supported by the required resources. Additionally, necessary capabilities must be deployed so that peacekeepers could protect themselves and local populations, and peacekeepers must be better trained, prepared and equipped, including through triangular partnerships and co-deployments. United Nations peacekeeping would benefit from the Secretary-General's commitment to developing an integrated performance policy framework based on common parameters and clear standards for all actors. Lastly, Indonesia would continue to contribute to strengthening United Nations peacekeeping.

67. **Mr. Arbeiter** (Canada), speaking also on behalf of Australia and New Zealand, said that Canada, Australia and New Zealand supported the Secretary-General's reform efforts, endorsed the Action for Peacekeeping initiative and looked forward to cooperating with others on the implementation of the Declaration of Shared Commitments. By advancing political solutions and protecting civilians, particularly women and children, peacekeeping represented the best way to help those affected by conflict, and Member States had a responsibility to engage more meaningfully with all partners in peace operations.

68. In November 2017, Canada had hosted the United Nations Peacekeeping Defence Ministerial in Vancouver, where the Vancouver Principles on Peacekeeping and the Prevention of the Recruitment and Use of Child Soldiers had been launched. Canada had

also announced the Elsie Initiative for Women in Peace Operations to increase women's meaningful participation in United Nations peace operations. Member States' support and implementation of such initiatives would enhance the effectiveness of United Nations peace operations.

69. States must work together to protect those in harm's way and make peacekeeping more effective for the 21st century. New technologies and modern practices should be used to enhance operational effectiveness and to increase the safety and security of those serving in peace operations. To that end, in October 2018, New Zealand had hosted the International Association of Peacekeeping Training Centres' Conference on Innovative Capacity Building for Effective Peace Operations. Canada, Australia and New Zealand also supported the peacekeeping intelligence policy framework for its consistent and principled approach to peacekeeping intelligence and encouraged its full implementation by the Secretariat as a matter of high priority.

70. Due to growing financial and capability demands, innovative solutions must be found to adequately equip United Nations peacekeeping operations. To that end, the light coordination mechanism proposed in the Declaration of Shared Commitments should be implemented in full and early. The effectiveness of the pooling of resources and critical capabilities in a peacekeeping environment had been proven by MINUSMA and should serve as an example for future planning.

71. Canada, Australia and New Zealand strongly supported all efforts to inculcate a robust culture of performance evaluation and accountability in United Nations peace operations to improve the safety and security of both civilians and peacekeepers alike, and they welcomed Security Council resolution [2436 \(2018\)](#) and the Secretariat's integrated performance policy framework for mandate implementation, which established clear performance standards for all peacekeeping personnel. Troops and police must be not only well trained and equipped, but also deployed to the field willing and able to implement mandates. Furthermore, mandates must be clear, prioritized and achievable and must be matched by appropriate resources, and missions must have clear exit strategies, including by implementing the Secretary-General's 2018 report on peacebuilding and sustaining peace ([A/72/707-S/2018/43](#)).

72. When women were present and gender perspectives integrated, peacekeeping missions were more likely to succeed, and the peace they created was

likely to be more enduring. Women could learn more about threats and conflict dynamics because they connected with local communities differently and could go to spaces where women gathered. Canada, Australia and New Zealand were working with partners across the United Nations system and civil society to increase the meaningful participation of uniformed women in peace operations. They supported Security Council resolution [1325 \(2000\)](#) on women, peace and security as well as resolution [2242 \(2015\)](#), which outlined specific targets for women's participation.

73. For United Nations peace operations to maintain their credibility, the scourge of sexual exploitation and abuse must be addressed. It was not only a conduct and discipline issue but also an issue of performance and operational effectiveness. Instances of sexual exploitation and abuse undermined the credibility of United Nations operations by breaking down the trust between the mission and the communities they served.

74. Canada, Australia and New Zealand were proud members of the Secretary-General's Circle of Leadership on the prevention of and response to sexual exploitation and abuse in United Nations operations and strong advocates for the full implementation of the victim-centred strategy outlined in the Secretary-General's 2017 report on special measures for protection from sexual exploitation and abuse ([A/71/818](#)). Efforts to implement that strategy must span the entire United Nations system as sexual exploitation and abuse were not confined to peacekeeping, and victims must be treated with dignity and provided with a path to justice and restitution.

75. **Mr. Skinner-Klée Arenales** (Guatemala) said that strategic and operational capacity-building was essential to underpinning the central role of peacekeeping operations in the international peace and security architecture in terms of resolving conflicts, adapting to new situations and enhancing effectiveness in the search for sustainable peace in accordance with the needs of host countries. The success of missions depended on all stakeholders playing their part in a renewed collective commitment. In that regard, his delegation welcomed the Secretary-General's Action for Peace initiative.

76. Peacekeeping operations contributed to integrated strategies for sustaining peace. Successful operations required all of the various components of a peacekeeping operation, such as peacebuilding, human rights, disarmament, demobilization and reintegration. Women's empowerment was also important for the prevention and resolution of conflicts and essential for peacekeeping and sustaining peace.

77. Guatemala supported stronger triangular cooperation between troop- and police-contributing countries, the Security Council and the Secretariat in order to establish viable, clear and specific mandates, while managing the expectations of the various stakeholders and respecting the principles of peacekeeping.

78. As a troop- and police-contributing country with a high level of performance, the Government of Guatemala understood the need for civilian and military personnel deployed in the field to have the highest level of preparation and aptitude, as well as a spirit of peacekeeping. Peacekeepers should have pre-deployment and field training as well as the necessary human and financial resources. His delegation also called for improved protection and security for personnel in peacekeeping operations.

79. The guardians of peace, whether civilian or military personnel, must never become a threat to the population through acts against the code of conduct. His Government was deeply concerned at the persistence of appalling acts of sexual exploitation and abuse in peacekeeping operations, which damaged the reputation of United Nations personnel and the Organization itself. Such incidents must be investigated and punished, with equal consequences for both civilian and military personnel.

80. Peacekeeping missions were not a suitable instrument for combating terrorism. So-called “robust” operations that included counter-terrorism duties distorted the basic peacekeeping function, as peacekeeping operations were not designed or equipped to impose political solutions through the use of force.

81. Caveats had a negative impact on the implementation of mandates and the performance of troops. Additionally, they imposed limits on the work of mission authorities, in particular the force commander.

82. **Mr. Dabouis** (Observer for the European Union), speaking also on behalf of the candidate countries Albania, Montenegro, Serbia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey; the stabilization and association process country Bosnia and Herzegovina; and, in addition, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine, said that the European Union strongly supported the Secretary-General’s initiatives to make United Nations peacekeeping more effective on the ground, especially the Action for Peace initiative. United Nations peacekeeping needed a stronger focus on performance and accountability; improved safety and security of peacekeepers; implementation of the women, peace and security agenda; greater impact on sustaining peace; stronger partnerships; improved conduct of

peacekeeping operations and personnel; and greater protection of civilians, especially women and children and other vulnerable groups. In addition, peacekeeping operations should be deployed in support of political solutions, never as a substitute, and should be allocated adequate resources to ensure full delivery of mandates. All stakeholders must play their part in a renewed collective commitment to implement the relevant Security Council resolutions.

83. The European Union stressed the paramount importance of political solutions to conflicts and the need to prioritize prevention, through the full use of the Secretary-General’s good offices, early deployment of special political missions, regional and bilateral peacebuilding and mediation tools and public diplomacy, all of which must be undertaken in a cost-effective manner. Sustaining peace must be permanently on the agenda, and peacebuilding must be integrated with peacekeeping efforts in order to manage transitions more effectively.

84. The European Union welcomed the Secretary-General’s emphasis on increased accountability and his efforts to strengthen the system’s ability to deal with sexual exploitation and abuse swiftly and decisively. The European Union supported the zero-tolerance policy and the zero-impunity approach for all civilian, military and police personnel in United Nations and other international peace operations.

85. The European Union shared an unprecedented commitment to its strategic partnership with the United Nations in peacekeeping and crisis management and had agreed to strengthen cooperation in eight priority areas for 2019–2021. That work would include greater cooperation in strengthening implementation of the women, peace and security agenda; increased cooperation in the field through reciprocal asset-sharing, coherence and continuity from the initial stages of planning to transition and exit; application of a conflict prevention lens across priority areas; and building partnerships among its member States and partner countries in areas such as training and capacity-building. The European Union also looked forward to widening its partnership to increasingly work trilaterally with, for example, the African Union whenever relevant and useful. Additionally, the cooperation of the international community was essential in stabilization and reconstruction efforts after the initial crisis had ended.

86. Civilian protection and the prevention of atrocities must be the common denominator of any peacekeeping operation mandate. Emphasis on regular assessment of missions’ political and protection effects, their

capabilities to fulfil protection mandates, and the additional political and practical support they required was welcome.

87. The European Union attached great importance to child-protection and conflict-related sexual violence mandates, and urgently requested the United Nations to ensure that missions were able to effectively protect women and children in situations of armed conflict. Given the need to increase the meaningful participation of women in United Nations peacekeeping operations, at all levels and in all areas of expertise, the European Union was prepared to work with the Secretary-General on a revised strategy to double the number of women in military and police contingents over the coming five years, and it supported adequate financing of gender components and the integration of gender targets in all compacts with senior managers at United Nations Headquarters and in the field, so as to ensure gender-responsive and effective peacekeeping operations.

88. Local ownership was important in protecting civilians, and strategies and guidance to encourage engagement with local populations should be mission-wide. As corruption was a driver of conflict and instability, strengthening police, justice and correctional institutions was crucial for safeguarding the rule of law and creating the necessary preconditions for lasting peace. Peace operations must also have clear, coherent and achievable mandates with a strong human rights component. Transition arrangements and exit strategies should be explored early on, and should take into account elements contributing to overall mission effectiveness assessment upon completion.

89. For peace operations to succeed, States must match political intent with operational might and find ways to meet the challenge of force generation, especially in terms of enablers and other critical capabilities. The 2018 Ministerial meeting in Vancouver had highlighted ways in which strategic force generation and force planning could contribute to performance improvements over time. The Secretary-General's initiative to request adequate training certificates was also a step in the right direction; mission personnel should be trained and equipped on the basis of consolidated standards, especially in complex environments, and there could be greater cooperation with regional actors. Overall, there was a need to drive forward with a more comprehensive capabilities and performance framework and by further empowering the field. The United Nations needed to become more field-oriented and people-centred, which necessitated administrative and institutional reforms as well as a change in mind-set. At the same time, reducing the overall environmental footprint of peacekeeping

operations required the effective and efficient use of resources.

90. The importance of efficient operational and logistical support could not be overstated. Such support must be appropriate and responsive to specific needs. Given their complex and dangerous operating environments, information and intelligence were vital for mission-mandate delivery and protection of personnel. Modern technology must also be encouraged in peacekeeping, and additional efforts made to ensure the security of peacekeepers.

91. The European Union remained a key partner for the United Nations but also deployed its own missions within its Common Security and Defence Policy framework. The role of regional organizations within United Nations-led interventions should be more clearly defined to facilitate rapid deployment as a complement to United Nations operations or to serve in a bridging capacity. The European Union also fully endorsed the development by Africa of its own peace initiatives, which were increasingly contributing to peace and security on that continent.

92. **Mr. Favre** (Switzerland), welcoming the reform of the peace and security pillar approved at the end of 2017 and the organizational initiatives launched earlier in 2018, said that there were three key points the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations should consider regarding the new peace and security pillar.

93. First, conflict prevention must be given priority throughout the United Nations system, and peacekeeping operations played a key role in that regard. Adopting a comprehensive and inclusive approach to conflict prevention was the best way to reduce violence; to avoid the resumption of hostilities; to strengthen the resilience of communities; and to promote the maintenance of peace. Peace and security must be considered holistically, taking into account sustainable development and human rights.

94. Secondly, the Secretary-General's efforts to combat the scourge of sexual exploitation and abuse by United Nations civilian, police and military personnel deserved firm support. It was unacceptable that victims of conflict were subjected to harm by those who were mandated to protect them. Such actions were detrimental to the credibility and reputation of the whole Organization and compromised the mission of all United Nations personnel on the ground. Switzerland welcomed the Secretary-General's focus on prevention, protection and assistance to victims. It was contributing to his Trust Fund in support of victims, and fully endorsed the zero-tolerance policy at the United Nations. Combating

sexual violence and sexism was a foreign policy priority for his Government.

95. Thirdly, the impact of peace operations on the maintenance of peace must be strengthened. The role of the Peacebuilding Commission was significant, particularly its country-specific configurations, which should be taken into account during coming discussions of the Special Committee and in other forums. It would be interesting to hear Member States' views on reinforcing cooperation and coordination between the Security Council and the Peacebuilding Commission in the implementation of mandates for peace operations.

96. **Mr. Nayan** (Philippines), welcoming the launch of the Action for Peacekeeping initiative and the broad endorsement of the ensuing Declaration of Shared Commitments, said that his Government was committed to becoming more involved in United Nations peacekeeping operations and to implementing the recommendations of the Special Committee. It was in any case actively engaged in regional peacekeeping activities through the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and its Peacekeeping Centres Network and Expert Working Group on Peacekeeping Operations.

97. As reflected in the key elements of the Action for Peacekeeping initiative, Security Council resolution [2282 \(2016\)](#) and General Assembly resolutions [70/262](#) and [72/199](#) on the review of the peacebuilding architecture of the Organization had underscored the importance of devising properly financed, long-term peacebuilding strategies. The mandate to protect civilians should be a core criterion when measuring the success of peacekeeping operations, with child protection and combating sexual abuse as central elements. Pre-deployment training should be tailored to respond to country-specific challenges, clearly defining the responsibilities, opportunities and constraints that would be encountered in the field. Ensuring the safety of peacekeepers was another high priority for his Government, and the Secretariat's action plan to implement the report on improving security of United Nations peacekeepers should be used to address the strategic, fundamental and systemic gaps in peacekeeping operations. It was also important to have updated rules of engagement that were aligned with the realities on the ground.

98. The Philippines supported peer learning among troop-contributing countries in order to build resilience in peacekeeping; constructive dialogue on the challenges of maintaining peace; and the pursuit of strategic partnerships. The United Nations should continue to engage with regional organizations in terms of analysis, planning and information-sharing. More

investment in local political solutions to conflict was necessary, and they should be reinforced but not supplanted by the United Nations. The people themselves must configure the peace and the approaches to it.

99. **Mr. Nurakkate** (Thailand) said that as a committed troop contributor, his country supported all efforts to improve the conduct of peacekeeping operations, so crucial to the maintenance of peace and stability. All stakeholders must collectively consider the most appropriate way of implementing the Declaration of Shared Commitments.

100. The implementation of structural reform must reflect the cross-cutting nature of the work of the United Nations and ensure that work in the peace and security pillar was well integrated and therefore effective at both policy and operational levels. Reform initiatives should also take a holistic approach to the peace continuum, ranging from preventing conflict to laying the foundations for sustainable peace. The effectiveness of peacekeeping operations was dependent on thorough planning, adequate resourcing, proper equipment and competent personnel. Mandates must be achievable and flexible, and short- and long-term goals should be synchronized. An integrated performance policy framework based on the report of the Special Committee ([A/72/19](#)) ought to be developed. It was also important to focus on exploring positive rather than negative incentives, which should aim to enable personnel to serve for longer periods and continually develop their skills and experience.

101. Every mandate should be commensurate with the resources available. In that regard, all Member States should honour their financial commitments to the United Nations in full, on time and without conditions. It was vital to preserve the principles that underpinned the financing of peacekeeping operations to ensure the financial predictability of the whole system. All aspects, from training and security to compensation and incentives, should be addressed and financed in a comprehensive and systematic manner.

102. Sustainable development was a critical element of the peace process and should be taken into account in peacekeeping operations. Addressing development needs early on could enhance smooth transitions and significantly reduce operational costs. Coordination with development agencies must be conducted in accordance with existing mandates and the principles of national ownership and State responsibility to ensure that peace and sustainable development could take firm root.

103. Women were effective agents of change, particularly in peacebuilding and sustainable conflict resolution. Their participation in peacekeeping operations must therefore continue to be encouraged. Currently, over 20 per cent of Thai personnel in United Nations peacekeeping operations were female. Eliminating barriers to the deployment of qualified women peacekeepers was necessary, without lowering standards, and all relevant stakeholders should review existing requirements to make that possible.

104. Thailand's approach to peacekeeping was based on the interconnection of security, human rights and development, and it was committed to ensuring that its peacekeepers were trained and equipped to meet the challenges they would face in the field and to assist local populations. For that reason, all peacekeepers received training that included the protection of civilians, child protection and conflict-related sexual violence.

105. **Ms. Jáquez Huacuja** (Mexico) said that while the United Nations had adapted to the changing landscape of challenges to peace and development, issues of inefficiency, resource misallocation and suboptimal results remained. Her delegation therefore welcomed the restructuring of the peace and security pillar and the implementation of management reforms, which it hoped would clearly define the responsibilities of staff members and new departments, avoid duplication and the wasting of resources, promote greater transparency and efficiency, and improve results. The Secretariat should supply Member States with comprehensive and accurate information on the results achieved and on any further adjustments required.

106. Peacekeeping operations required the shared commitment and responsibility of all actors involved, including the Security Council, the Secretariat, troop- and police-contributing countries, donors, regional organizations and host countries. The legitimacy of the tasks with which it was entrusted, namely saving lives, preventing massive atrocities and laying the foundations for stability and sustainable peace. Increasingly complex peacekeeping environments required States to find multidimensional solutions that took into account political, security and development issues. Peacekeeping operations must have clearly defined mandates, objectives and command structures, as well as adequate resources based on a realistic assessment of the situation. Early inclusion of peacebuilding in mandates, particularly during transitional and drawdown phases, would lay the groundwork for long-term, sustainable peace.

107. Mexico welcomed the Action for Peacekeeping initiative and had endorsed the Declaration of Shared Commitments as part of a collective effort towards sustainable peace with realistic expectations. Given the importance of enhancing the safety of peacekeepers, her delegation supported the Special Committee's call for the Secretariat to formulate practical, implementable, realistic and effective recommendations to reduce peacekeeping fatalities and injuries from acts of violence. Gender mainstreaming to increase the participation of women in peacekeeping operations and in senior leadership positions was also important.

108. In 2018, Mexico had strengthened its cooperation with the United Nations in the police component of operations and its participation in operations in Western Sahara and the Central African Republic. While it had met the 15 per cent quota of female staff required for contributing countries, her country remained committed to further increasing the participation of female staff. It had also established a training centre for peacekeeping operations to offer training to staff from other countries.

109. **Mr. Amayo** (Kenya), expressing his country's long-standing commitment to United Nations peacekeeping operations, said that the peacekeeping environment had undergone significant changes, giving rise to new and previously unconsidered challenges. Furthermore, policy and institutional weaknesses undermined the effectiveness of peacekeeping operations. The future success of peacekeeping was dependent on three factors: the ability of peacekeepers to understand their environment; the nature of mandates; and the resources made available. Strategic partnerships with regional security mechanisms could offer valuable insight into the root causes of conflicts and how to design an optimal solution, thus avoiding the risk of counterproductivity.

110. Partnerships between the United Nations and the African Union were crucial and had notably led to relative peace and security in Somalia. Nevertheless, the security situation in that country remained a matter of serious concern, in particular the terrorist threat posed by Al-Shabaab; his delegation welcomed the extension of the mandate of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), but called for caution in its proposed reconfiguration. Contrary to popular belief, Al-Shabaab still had the capacity to launch large-scale terrorist attacks. All decisions should take into account the security situation on the ground and the capacity of the local security institutions. The Security Council should consider funding from assessed contributions to ensure predictability and sustainability; rethink the drawdown strategy currently being implemented; and develop

context-specific, clear and achievable mandates that permitted necessary latitude in the execution of tasks.

111. His delegation welcomed Security Council resolution [2406 \(2018\)](#) on South Sudan and the signing of the peace deal between the Transitional Government of National Unity and the rebel groups, but was concerned at the continued structural weaknesses of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS), which limited its success. The overall mandate of UNMISS should be reviewed, with a view to creating the necessary conditions for inclusive participation in the peace process, improving the effectiveness of regional forces and allowing the host Government to exercise sovereignty. Meaningful partnership with the African Union, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development and the host Government was necessary, without subjecting countries to unnecessary sanctions.

112. At the national level, Kenya continued to host engineering capability training in the context of a triangular partnership project and had established an internationally recognized centre for the training of peacekeepers. Kenya remained committed to working with the United Nations and other Member States to strengthen peacekeeping operations.

113. **Ms. Goolab** (South Africa) said that peacekeeping missions must be accompanied by a political process for conflict resolution in order to foster conditions that were conducive to long-term, sustainable peace. In that regard, her Government supported the Secretary-General's efforts to give priority to prevention through dialogue and enhance the effectiveness of peacekeeping operations to increase coherence in the peace and security pillar.

114. Her delegation welcomed the Action for Peacekeeping initiative and the Declaration of Shared Commitments, which should be supported by all stakeholders to ensure that peacekeeping operations were equipped to address the challenges they faced. Realistic, tailored and flexible mandates would ensure effective peacekeeping operations and long-term peace and stability. Performance measurement should take the situation on the ground into account, in line with mission mandates and expectations. In that regard, the performance of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo was commendable. Her delegation also welcomed Security Council resolutions [2320 \(2016\)](#) and [2378 \(2017\)](#) and reiterated the need for sustained, predictable and flexible funding mechanisms for peace support operations. It also commended the finalization of human rights, conduct and discipline frameworks by

the African Union, which should further strengthen its cooperation with the United Nations.

115. Police contingents played an important role in peace missions. United Nations police could contribute significantly to the objective of sustaining peace and could offer improved support to envoys and special representatives of the Secretary-General in the negotiation of peace agreements. The United Nations Chiefs of Police Summit was a useful platform for discussing the challenges faced by police officers in peacekeeping missions and ways of improving United Nations policing. The Police Division should continue to engage with police-contributing countries, particularly on the training and rotation of police officers for the effective implementation of mandates.

116. The inclusion of women in peacekeeping missions was vital, particularly as women peacekeepers in military and police components strengthened community relations and gave victims the confidence to report crimes, including those of domestic and sexual abuse that were prevalent in conflict situations. South Africa would continue working to increase the number of women deployed to peacekeeping missions in line with Security Council resolutions [2242 \(2015\)](#) and [2382 \(2017\)](#). Her Government was also fully committed to a zero-tolerance policy on sexual exploitation in peacekeeping operations and had taken immediate, decisive action against those found guilty of such abuses.

117. **Mr. Bayyapu** (India) said that his delegation welcomed the Secretary-General's Action for Peacekeeping initiative and hoped that the reforms would improve the efficiency and effectiveness of United Nations peacekeeping and improve logistics for peacekeepers on the ground. The success of any peacekeeping reform depended on all stakeholders playing their respective roles; shared commitments should therefore be translated into action.

118. His delegation welcomed the development of the integrated performance policy framework. Caveats should be removed, as they directly impacted performance and hindered the fulfilment of mandates. They also went against the basic principle of equality, as it was impossible to fairly assess the performance of peacekeepers operating at different levels. In order to uphold the credibility of peacekeeping operations, peacekeepers must be given adequate resources to accomplish their tasks. India remained firmly committed to contributing to United Nations peacekeeping activities and to sharing its experience with other troop-contributing countries. The partnership initiative of co-deployment should be encouraged.

119. The Government of India firmly supported the zero-tolerance policy against crimes of sexual exploitation and abuse and had signed the Secretary-General's voluntary compact on preventing and addressing sexual exploitation and abuse, having also been the first country to contribute to the Secretary-General's Trust Fund for victims. His delegation endorsed the collective statement made by the circle of leadership on the prevention of and response to sexual exploitation and abuse in United Nations operations, reaffirming its continued commitment to addressing the issue. It had also contributed \$300,000 to the pipeline to peacekeeping command programme.

120. India had met the target of 15 per cent for women military observers assigned to peacekeeping operations the previous year and had deployed the first ever all-female formed police unit in Liberia. The Secretariat should take stock of pledges made by Member States in relation to the deployment of women peacekeepers and explore ways to absorb them as a priority. Incentivizing women peacekeepers was also necessary to encourage their greater participation.

121. While the practice of prioritizing mandates in peacekeeping missions had been established, it was necessary to consider ways of ensuring that adequate resources were made available to fulfil such mandates. The views of troop- and police-contributing countries on the implementation of mandates should be reflected in the relevant reports of the Secretary-General. India welcomed the Secretary-General's close attention to the issue of improving the safety and security of peacekeeping personnel. There should be dedicated resources to counter improvised explosive devices for missions facing such threats, as well as concerted efforts to upgrade the security infrastructure of camps. It was the responsibility of the Secretariat to ensure troops had met basic minimum training standards, which should be confirmed during the assessment and advisory visits and pre-deployment visits.

122. Peacekeeping operations should focus on supporting a viable process towards the achievement of a political solution to conflict; as such, it was the collective responsibility of all stakeholders to ensure peacekeeping activities were adapted to modern needs.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.