



General Assembly

Fifty-eighth session

Official Records

Distr.: General
29 July 2004

Original: English

Fourth Committee

Summary record of the 26th meeting

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Wednesday, 23 June 2004, at 10 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. Loedel (Uruguay)

Contents

Agenda item 85: Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects (*continued*)

Completion of the Committee's work

This record is subject to correction. Corrections should be sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned *within one week of the date of publication* to the Chief of the Official Records Editing Section, room DC2-750, 2 United Nations Plaza, and incorporated in a copy of the record.

Corrections will be issued after the end of the session, in a separate corrigendum for each Committee.

04-39991 (E)

*** 0439991 ***

The meeting was called to order at 10.30 a.m.

Agenda item 85: Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects (*continued*) (A/58/19, A/58/694 and A/C.4/58/L.23)

1. **The Chairman** recalled that, by its resolution 57/336, the General Assembly had decided that the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations should continue its efforts for a comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects, and should review the implementation of its previous proposals and consider any new proposals so as to enhance the capacity of the United Nations to fulfil its responsibilities in that field. Those proposals were contained in paragraphs 29 to 177 of the Special Committee's report (A/58/19). He also drew the attention of the Committee to the report of the Secretary-General on implementation of the recommendations of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations (A/58/694).

2. **Mr. Berry** (Canada), speaking on behalf of the Rapporteur of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations, introduced the report of the Special Committee, and said that, as in previous years, the report emphasized the guiding principles that remained essential for peacekeeping operations.

3. Drawing attention to the recommendations contained in the report, he said that the Special Committee urged Member States to become parties to the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel and reiterated the need for enhanced coordination among the safety and security components of the United Nations. It welcomed the introduction of joint mission analysis cells, and would consider the request of the Secretary-General for a full-time safety and security focal point and a mission security management unit within the context of the overall review of the United Nations security management system.

4. The Special Committee stressed the need for increased consultations between the Security Council, the Secretariat and the troop-contributing countries, and looked forward to better information-sharing between them. If regional and subregional organizations were helped to strengthen their peacekeeping capacities, they and the United Nations would benefit. The Special Committee recommended

that the United Nations should expand its contacts with such organizations, and that bilateral and multilateral efforts to enhance African peacekeeping capacities should be coordinated.

5. The Special Committee stressed the need for strengthened cooperation and coordination among the specialized agencies, funds and programmes, the Bretton Woods institutions, donors, non-governmental organizations and civil society during implementation of comprehensive and coherent strategies for complex peacekeeping operations, including disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, rule of law, quick-impact projects and mine action. A similar level of cooperation and coordination was needed in the area of children and peacekeeping. The Special Committee encouraged interdepartmental coordination between the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Public Information.

6. The Organization's capacity to draw on lessons learned and best practices should be further enhanced. On the issue of rapid deployment, the Special Committee felt that the Standby Arrangements System, strategic deployment stocks and rapidly deployable headquarters should be used to the fullest possible extent.

7. Following an intensive discussion of discipline, recruitment and training of peacekeeping personnel, the Special Committee encouraged Member States to improve discipline in a preventive manner, but stressed that cases of alleged misconduct must be handled through cooperation between mission leadership and the troop-contributing countries concerned. It welcomed and encouraged the development of the standardized training modules.

8. The Special Committee supported the increasing integration of civilian police expertise in the integrated mission planning process, integrated mission task forces and mission assessment teams. It took note of the clarification from the Secretariat regarding the legal status of civilian police and corrections personnel, but continued to believe that their tasks required an adaptation of the current rules governing their legal status.

9. Sharing the Secretary-General's concern about the low representation of women in peacekeeping operations, the Special Committee wished to see more female candidates for senior civilian appointments and for military and civilian police positions at all levels

and recognized the need for a gender mainstreaming strategy for peacekeeping operations. It recommended that gender experts be included in pre-mandate assessment missions.

10. Recognizing that the current surge in peacekeeping operations would pose challenges in terms of financial and human resources, the Special Committee urged all Member States to pay their assessed contributions in full, on time and without conditions. It noted that delays in the payment of reimbursements and claims had continued to be addressed, and encouraged further progress, but it was concerned that the 2004 Working Group on Contingent-Owned Equipment had been unable to reach consensus.

11. Recognizing that HIV/AIDS was a major health concern for both peacekeepers and the local population, the Special Committee urged the Secretary-General to make the position of HIV/AIDS Policy Adviser a permanent one.

12. Emphasizing the importance of the International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers, declared by the General Assembly in resolution 57/129, the Special Committee welcomed the Memorial to the Fallen, and requested the Secretary-General to make recommendations on the permanent and public display of the Dag Hammarskjöld Medal.

Draft resolution A/C.4/58/L.23

13. **Mr. Berry** (Canada), speaking on behalf of the Rapporteur of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations, introduced the draft resolution entitled "Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects" (A/C.4/58/L.23), which, like the resolutions of previous years, welcomed the report of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations, endorsed its proposals, recommendations and conclusions, and urged Member States, the Secretariat and relevant organs of the United Nations to implement them. The draft resolution also reiterated the modalities for participation in the Special Committee, decided that it should continue its efforts for a comprehensive review of peacekeeping operations, and requested the Special Committee to submit a report on its work to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session.

14. **Mr. Zhang** (Secretary of the Committee), speaking on the programme budget implications of the

draft resolution, said that under paragraph 2 of the draft resolution, the General Assembly would endorse the proposals, recommendations and conclusions of the Special Committee, contained in paragraphs 29 to 177 of its report. If the General Assembly were to adopt the draft resolution, any costs associated with establishing a safety and security focal point within the Department of Peacekeeping Operations would be considered as part of the ongoing strategic review of overall United Nations security arrangements to be addressed in the report of the Secretary-General on strengthening the security and safety of United Nations operations, staff and premises to be presented to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session. The bilateral and group meetings referred to in the report of the Special Committee would be small and would not require significant conference services support or, therefore, additional resources.

15. **The Chairman** said that the sponsors of the draft resolution had requested that it should be adopted without a vote.

16. *Draft resolution A/C.4/58/L.23 was adopted.*

Completion of the Committee's work

17. **The Chairman** declared that the Special Political and Decolonization Committee had completed its work for the fifty-eighth session.

The meeting rose at 10.50 a.m.