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Chairman: Mr. Hasmy (Malaysia)
later: Ms. Korpi (Vice-Chairman) (Finland)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.10 p.m.

Agenda item 90: Questions relating to information
(continued) (A/56/21 and Add.1, A/C.4/56/L.19)

Draft resolution A: Information in the service of humanity (contained in A/56/21, para. 70)

Draft resolution B: United Nations public information policies and activities (contained in A/56/21/Add.1, para. 9)

Draft decision: Increase in the membership of the Committee on Information (contained in A/56/21, para. 66)

1. **The Chairman** drew the attention of the Committee to draft resolutions A and B and the draft decision, which had been adopted by consensus by the Committee on Information, as well as to the programme budget implications of draft resolution B described in document A/C.4/56/L.19. If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee wished to take action on the draft resolutions and the draft decision jointly.

2. *It was so decided.*

3. **Mr. Traystman** (United States of America), supported by **Mr. Senior** (Canada) and **Mr. Motomura** (Japan), said that, although his delegation would join in the consensus on draft resolution B, it maintained its position that the measures envisioned in that draft resolution should be funded within existing parameters for the 2002-2003 biennium budget, through redeployment of resources.

4. **The Chairman** said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee wished to adopt draft resolutions A and B and the draft decision without a vote.

5. *It was so decided.*

Agenda item 89: Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects (A/55/1024 and Corr.1, A/C.5/55/46 and Corr.1 and Add.1, A/56/478)

6. **Mr. Guéhenno** (Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations) said that during recent months the Department of Peacekeeping Operations had been faced with the challenging but rewarding task

of beginning the so-called “Brahimi I” implementation process and completing recruitment formalities for the 93 new posts while at the same time conceptualizing and budgeting for implementation of “Brahimi II” and supporting 15 peacekeeping operations.

7. With regard to Brahimi I, 88 of the 93 posts approved had been filled, with most of the new recruits having already reported for duty. In cooperation with the Office of Human Resources Management (OHRM), the Department had created a staff induction programme to ensure rapid integration of the new colleagues into the peacekeeping team. The candidates had been selected in compliance with policies on recruitment and placement of staff, the views of the Special Committee as endorsed by the General Assembly, Article 101 of the Charter and the need for representation of troop-contributing countries, the number of which had been increased. Although women still represented only 32.1 per cent of Professional staff, that was in part a reflection of the fact that nearly 20 per cent of the Department’s staff were military or civilian police officers seconded from their respective Governments on a rotation basis, and many Member States faced the same difficulties as the Department in recruiting more women. During Brahimi II Member States would again be encouraged to make special efforts to propose qualified candidates and the Department would continue its efforts to ensure sound geographical representation and gender balance.

8. Turning to the Brahimi II budgetary and recruitment process, he welcomed the recommendation of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) to increase the Department of Peacekeeping Operations staff by 92 posts and said the Department would bear in mind the results-based approach recommended by the Advisory Committee for future budgetary proposals. Although certain budget requests linked to new initiatives had not been supported by the Advisory Committee, the 92 proposed posts would, for the first time since its creation in 1992, give the Department the capacity to build its managerial systems and processes while maintaining its obligations with regard to peacekeeping operations. Building on the Brahimi I recruitment experience, any new posts which were authorized would be filled swiftly, if possible with qualified applicants approved during the Brahimi I exercise. Vacancy announcements for many of the anticipated new positions would be circulated by the end of 2001,

although it would be made clear that those positions were being advertised subject to General Assembly approval. Announcements would also be circulated to Member States for secondment of active military and civilian police personnel, including for a number of normal rotational posts.

9. The increase in resources for his Department recommended by the Advisory Committee, if supported by the Fifth Committee, would represent a 50 per cent increase over pre-Brahimi staffing resources and the Department was fully mindful of the added responsibility that would imply. The additional support would for the first time put the Department in a position to greatly improve its operations. Much progress had already been made and he had laid down five strategic goals to underpin current reform efforts. Reforming the Department's management culture would, thanks to the increase in staff, allow a more proactive approach which would take advantage of the capacities of each component and improve intradepartmental coordination. Reorienting the Department's relationship with field missions would, by improving communication and coordination, delegate more authority to the field and stress headquarters' role in providing strategic guidance and improved support. Enhanced rapid deployment capability would be achieved by identifying the necessary resources and establishing systems to ensure their availability. Strengthening of relationships with Member States and legislative bodies was also essential to build capacity, ensure information sharing and develop a relationship of trust with Member States with a view to effective and rapid mobilization. Strengthening relationships with other parts of the United Nations system, by building partnerships and taking advantage of the expertise of peacekeeping partners and the United Nations system, would contribute to the success of increasingly complex peacekeeping operations, and ensure better integration and coordination.

10. By applying those strategies, the Department would improve not only its structural processes and procedures but also the quality of its work. For example, as a result of the comprehensive review exercises, and in order to improve management, a Change Management Team had been established, comprising staff from all areas of the Department, to guide both the area-specific and cross-cutting projects aimed at building a critical foundation for reform of the

Department's management culture. The Team was accountable directly to the Under-Secretary-General and, if approved by the General Assembly, the Director of Change Management would lead the Team in promoting sound management.

11. Another improvement had been the creation of two separate entities, the Military Division and the Civilian Police Division. With regard to the former, the arrival of personnel for the approved posts had allowed a reorganization into four areas: military planning; training and evaluation; force generation and military personnel; and current military operations. That would significantly improve the manner in which military advice was provided to the Department and support was provided to field missions and Member States. Furthermore, in order to improve planning and coordination support for missions, while maintaining the chain of command, elements which had daily and normal interaction had been relocated or "co-located"; police and military personnel worked in the same area and could support each other and develop integrated teams for better coordination at the working level. Regrettably, however, the Department's staff as a whole remained dispersed within the Secretariat building as well as at numerous external locations and he urged the Secretariat to address concerns regarding appropriate working conditions.

12. Two additional important steps taken in follow-up to the recommendations of the Brahimi Panel (A/55/305-S/2000/809): an integrated mission task force (IMTF) mechanism had been established and rapid deployment strategies had been developed. The Department was currently involved in a very active task force for Afghanistan and was also chairing task forces for East Timor and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. With regard to the integrated mission task force for Afghanistan, the Secretary-General and his Special Representative would put into practice two critical recommendations: the need to be frank in telling Member States what they needed to know, as well as the establishment of a formal IMTF mechanism comprising political, humanitarian, logistical, administrative, public information and security coordination specialists. The experience gained in Afghanistan, the first real case of implementation of the task force strategy, would contribute to further improvement in the Organization's ability to coordinate the management of crises.

13. Work was advancing on a strategic manual on multidimensional peacekeeping, which would give all field staff an overview of the main components and partners in multidimensional peacekeeping operations and the strategic rationale that linked them. A second volume would contain instructions on implementing the basic and recurrent tasks of peacekeeping operations in a given time frame, as well as a set of best practices and evaluation mechanisms. The Department was also making every effort to enhance the United Nations Standby Arrangements System (UNSAS) and, in that connection, to develop “on-call lists”. The response to the latter had been poor and yet the Standby Arrangements System could not function without sufficient contributions and up-to-date information. The Department’s successful Mission Training Cells, created in four missions — the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC), the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL), the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE) and the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET) — would be extended to other missions beginning in 2002. Progress had also been achieved in the gender and peacekeeping project. Its second phase, completed the previous week, had included a training package for field missions and a generic gender training package for use by Member States during pre-deployment training. Thus far, gender awareness training had been provided to 800 mission personnel. Six of the most important training publications would be distributed in all six official languages of the Organization to Member States and field missions. The introduction of standardized training packages represented a major shift in the Organization’s approach to peacekeeping training.

14. Added staffing support would make it possible to implement the practical recommendations contained in the Brahimi Panel report, which had already had a transforming effect on a number of the larger peacekeeping operations. Further improvements would result from the IMTF mechanism, and from better planning, management systems and tools. Nonetheless, rapid deployment capabilities must be considerably strengthened; the good will, capabilities and support of Member States were vital to that end. At the July extraordinary session of the Special Committee, the Secretary-General had presented three options for meeting the 30/90-day deployment timelines set by the Brahimi Panel, and, in October, informal consultations

on strategic reserve options had been held with Member States. At those consultations, a general consensus had emerged on the need to establish a reliable capacity for rapid deployment, and Member States had reaffirmed their support for the Department’s technical expertise and the basic criteria applied in developing the proposed strategic deployment stocks (SDS) equipment list. In view of the time required for the procurement and delivery of goods and services, the Department recognized the need to store key mission start-up equipment items with long production times, while supplying its remaining needs through systems contracts. The United Nations Logistics Base (UNLB) in Brindisi would play a critical role in supporting strategic deployment stocks and its capacity in that regard was expected to be enhanced. He welcomed Member States’ recognition of the critical importance of an advance commitment authority to start up a mission prior to receiving formal Security Council authorization. Support for efforts to improve the rapid deployment capacity would become increasingly important in the weeks and months ahead.

15. **Mr. Al-Husseini** (Jordan), speaking on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, said that, in their communiqué adopted at the Ministerial Meeting held the previous week, the Non-Aligned Countries had expressed concern that their nationals held only 24 of the Department’s 93 posts approved under the emergency supplemental increase, and yet those countries constituted half the membership of the Organization. The Under-Secretary-General’s assurances concerning fuller compliance with the provisions of Article 101, paragraph 3, of the Charter of the United Nations on geographical balance were therefore heartening. Should a peacekeeping operation be established in Afghanistan, every effort should be made to ensure the broadest possible geographical distribution; limited geographical representation could prove very dangerous.

16. **Mr. Schelstraete** (Belgium), speaking on behalf of the European Union, asked whether the budgetary process for the United Nations Logistics Base in Brindisi included comparative cost analyses of systems contracts and stockpiling, and which option seemed more cost-effective. The European Union also wished to know about the impact of the ACABQ refusal to authorize a number of posts in the Department’s Peacekeeping Best Practices Unit. Lastly, he wondered whether the August consultations on eliminating

obstacles to the implementation of the “on-call” list should be followed up by further dialogue with Member States.

17. **Mr. Sinha** (India) inquired about military and logistical planning for the task force in Afghanistan.

18. **Mr. Hughes** (New Zealand) requested details on the underlying causes of the poor response to the “on-call” lists and on initiatives to ensure that information for the Standby Arrangements System was relevant and up to date. The question was of particular interest to his country, which would be signing a Memorandum of Understanding with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations regarding standby arrangements.

19. **Mr. Kanyemera** (Rwanda) enquired about current mechanisms to remedy mistakes. In Rwanda, peacekeeping operations had been ineffective; despite numerous warnings, genocide had occurred.

20. **Mr. Guéhenno** (Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations) informed the representative of Jordan that he would be providing detailed statistics on geographical distribution within the Department. Perhaps the best way to address inequalities was to adjust supply and demand very early in the recruitment process by ensuring that candidates from under-represented countries matched job descriptions. Efforts thus far had focused on increasing the representation of troop-contributing countries in the Department. In the Military and Civilian Police Divisions, all but one of the posts mentioned in the Brahimi report had been filled by nationals of troop-contributing countries. He agreed that very broad geographical representation would be highly desirable in an eventual peacekeeping operation in Afghanistan.

21. **Mr. Sheehan** (Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations), replying to the first question by the representative of Belgium, said that a comprehensive and detailed analysis, down to the smallest item of equipment, had been carried out, as well as cross-reviews among services and sections within the Field Administration and Logistics Division (FALD), in order to determine what was needed for new missions. The analysis had been carried out by experts with extensive experience in mission start-up and had included a review, for approximately 10 new missions, of each line item necessary for the stocks, the time that would be needed for mission start-up, procurement difficulties in terms of lead time, service contracts and vendor relations. Extensive discussions

with vendors had been held in order to ensure that items could be provided on short notice under the 30/90-day deployment scheme. In most cases, it made no financial sense to conclude contracts involving fees for equipment to be stored, since such fees could amount annually to as much as 20 to 30 per cent of the cost of the item. Following the August and October briefings outlining strategic reserve requirements, a budget had been prepared and the whole concept of strategic reserves had been reviewed in great detail. In addition, several Member States which engaged in strategic stockpiling had been consulted. It had been gratifying to learn that most of those Member States had reached the same conclusions as the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and had selected the same types of goods and services.

22. **Mr. Guéhenno** (Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations), replying to the other question posed by the representative of Belgium, expressed disappointment that ACABQ had not approved certain posts in the Peacekeeping Best Practices Unit, no doubt because the request had not been sufficiently clear, particularly with regard to “entry points”, and because the Advisory Committee had feared that the Unit would duplicate the work of other parts of the United Nations system. The past 13 months’ experience had taught him, however, that a certain degree of interface was needed between the Department and other parts of the system in order to ensure effective communication and coordination. Regrettably, it would now be much more difficult to strengthen ties with other entities of the United Nations system.

23. **General Ford** (Military Adviser, Department of Peacekeeping Operations), replying to the questions posed by the representatives of Belgium and New Zealand, said that the “on-call” lists were designed to ensure that a coherent force could be put together on short notice, but that, despite several briefings, Member States had repeatedly failed to respond by the various deadlines set. While some Member States had provided names of standby personnel, others had said they could provide personnel for certain positions only, though not in advance, which would allow no time for training. The Department hoped to finalize a workable “on-call” list by early 2002 and, in the meantime, was still seeking Member States’ guidance on the initiative.

24. As for Department staffing, he said that explanations of vacancy announcements and job

descriptions had been provided for all posts referred to in the Brahimi Panel report, and for rotating posts which had become vacant. While at least five additional Member States were now represented in the Military Division, about half the States contributing troops to peacekeeping missions were not represented anywhere in the Department. He hoped that situation would be remedied within the year.

The meeting was suspended at 4.45 p.m. and resumed at 5 p.m.

25. **Mr. Gislesen** (Norway) said that it was necessary to mobilize political will to participate in peacekeeping operations and to improve their planning and conduct. The adoption of Security Council resolution 1353 (2001) had led to an improvement in consultations between the Security Council, which decided on mandates and rules of engagement, and the troop-contributing countries which were involved in implementing them. However, there was room for further improvement. The resolution did not address the need for an institutionalized partnership between the Council and the troop-contributing countries that would achieve an integrated approach to conflicts. Norway welcomed the proposals made by a number of troop-contributing countries. The credibility of the United Nations rested on its ability to carry out effective peacekeeping operations, one of its core mandatory tasks.

26. Lessons learned from each peacekeeping operation should be taken into account in ongoing and future missions. The mandate of the Peacekeeping Best Practices Unit needed to be strengthened and broadened, particularly in the areas of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, and gender. Norway was therefore disappointed that ACABQ had recommended against all but four posts in the unit (A/56/478, paras. 31 and 33).

27. Regional approaches to conflict management, while no substitute for national or global approaches, could play a crucial role in peacekeeping and should therefore be strengthened. Another fundamental challenge was the rapid and effective deployment of new field operations. Norway had recently taken over the chairmanship of the Multinational United Nations Stand-by Forces High Readiness Brigade (SHIRBRIG); its deployment in Ethiopia and Eritrea had demonstrated the benefits of a force that had developed a high degree of coherence by undergoing common

training. The priorities of the Norwegian chairmanship were to improve decision-making and force-generation processes; expand the force pool, the number of member nations and the geographical distribution; implement the lessons learned from the deployment of the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE); and make SHIRBRIG available to the United Nations from 1 January 2002.

28. HIV/AIDS posed a serious threat to international security and undermined capacity to resolve conflicts. A comprehensive strategy for addressing HIV/AIDS in peace operations was therefore urgently needed. Another important issue was that of improving coordination between military and civilian components in multifunctional peace operations. In that connection, Norway attached great importance to civilian police and security sector reform and welcomed the proposal to strengthen the Military Division of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations with civilian components.

29. **Mr. Maquieira** (Chile), speaking on behalf of the Rio Group, welcomed the work of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations in considering the recommendations in the report of the Brahimi Panel and defining priorities for the United Nations in order to strengthen the Department of Peacekeeping Operations. The recommendations of the Special Committee should be put into practice as quickly as possible. The structure and functioning of peacekeeping mechanisms should be continuously evaluated to ensure their effectiveness.

30. It was vital for Member States, particularly troop-contributing countries, to be involved in the decision-making process for peacekeeping operations, although the Security Council's resolutions were of paramount importance. Resolution 1353 (2001), which was now being implemented, acknowledged that the participation of troop-contributing countries — which were involved in the riskiest phase of peacekeeping operations — was a significant factor in the success of those operations.

31. Conflict prevention was the most important part of the United Nations mandate for maintaining international peace and security. It was therefore vital to institutionalize a mechanism for maintaining peace even where open conflict had not broken out. Although conflict prevention was primarily the responsibility of Member States, it was also essential for the United Nations to be involved. It was to be hoped that the

Special Committee would devote particular attention to that issue at its next session.

32. The Rio Group also attached great importance to the safety of personnel, which could be improved through cooperation between the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Office of the United Nations Security Coordinator. The safety of personnel depended on three main elements: planning, training and the provision of reliable equipment that reduced the risk of accidents. The Rio Group would support all efforts in those areas. It also expressed its appreciation of all United Nations personnel who had given their lives in the cause of peace.

33. **Mr. Musambachime** (Zambia) associated his delegation with the statement made by the representative of Jordan on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries and said that Zambia advocated the provision of adequate committed resources to the Department of Peacekeeping Operations for addressing gender issues. The Windhoek Declaration and the Namibia Plan of Action on Mainstreaming a Gender Perspective in Multidimensional Peace Support Operations (A/55/138-S/2000/693), Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) and the report of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations (A/C.4/55/6, para. 41) all called for urgent attention to the issue of mainstreaming a gender perspective in peacekeeping operations. It was therefore particularly disappointing to note that the Secretary-General had not been given the resources he had requested. Women and children constituted the largest number of victims in conflicts and the necessary focus on their rights and needs could only be achieved by employing gender experts in the field and at Headquarters. It was also disappointing that, although the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations had recommended that experts on disarmament, demobilization and reintegration should be appointed to the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, the relevant legislative organs had refused to provide them. His delegation requested that those organs reconsider their decision.

34. His delegation welcomed the efforts to improve the process of consultation between the Security Council and troop-contributing countries. However, more remained to be done. Troop contributors should be able to participate in the decision-making process of the Security Council when it considered the possible use of force, as stipulated in Articles 43 and 44 of the Charter of the United Nations. Another area of concern

was the inequitable distribution of Professional posts in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations. Two regions were still providing over 50 per cent of the Department's staff — the same situation as one year previously — and most developing countries, which were regular contributors of formed units, were not represented at all. His delegation would like to know what measures were being taken by the Secretariat to redress the balance.

35. His delegation was also concerned about the issue of air safety. A helicopter had recently crashed in Sierra Leone, resulting in the deaths of all those on board, including two Zambian lieutenant colonels. It was to be hoped that the bodies of the victims would soon be recovered and that the cause of the accident would be determined as quickly as possible.

36. **Mr. Chowdhury** (Bangladesh) said that Bangladesh had long been a substantial contributor of troops to United Nations peacekeeping operations and was ready to contribute further. It welcomed all initiatives designed to enhance the United Nations peacekeeping capacity, as recommended in the Brahimi report. The Department of Peacekeeping Operations should be strengthened in order to cope with the increasing number and complexity of operations. In addition, care should be taken to avoid a proliferation of structures with overlapping remits. Efficiency was not necessarily improved by increasing the number of posts, but could be improved through other measures such as streamlining procedure, reforming working methods and rotating personnel. His delegation was confident that the Secretariat would take the action required to make the best use of available resources.

37. The Movement of Non-Aligned Countries had long emphasized the need for equitable distribution of posts both at Headquarters and in the field. It was to be hoped that the Secretariat would ensure that developing countries, particularly those which were troop contributors, were properly represented when the proposed posts were filled. The success of peacekeeping operations was also dependent on genuine consensus and coordination among all the parties involved. Peacekeeping operations needed to have a clear direction, a precise mandate, an effective command and control structure and clearly defined rules of engagement.

38. A capacity for rapid deployment was also vital and depended on the political commitment of Member

States. The medium strategic reserve was the most economical and practical of the options for a rapid reaction force presented in the report of the Secretary-General on implementation of the recommendations of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations and the Panel on United Nations Peace Operations (A/55/977, para. 124). Cooperation between the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Public Information was also important, as the provision of accurate information was crucial to the success of peacekeeping missions.

39. Peacekeeping should be designed not only to separate warring factions but also to identify the root causes of conflict and work towards a resolution, and should incorporate disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes. His delegation was also concerned at the non-payment by certain countries of their assessed contributions to the peacekeeping budget, which made it difficult to reimburse troop contributors, placing a particularly heavy burden on developing countries. His delegation called on all Member States to pay their contributions in full and on time.

40. It was extremely important that troops and civilian police involved in peacekeeping operations were properly trained, as had been emphasized in the Brahimi report. Training was primarily the responsibility of Member States, although the United Nations could also play an important role. Bangladesh had made efforts to ensure that its troop capacity met the requirements of United Nations peacekeeping. Lastly, he paid tribute to all those who had dedicated themselves to the cause of global peacekeeping.

41. **Mr. Cappagli** (Argentina) said that the report of the Brahimi Panel had stimulated an unprecedented process of reform of all stages of peacekeeping. Argentina welcomed the recommendations of the comprehensive review and subsequent action taken with respect to the setting of priorities, identification of capabilities to be strengthened, rapid deployment and coordination.

42. Given the unpredictable nature of emerging conflicts, priority should be given to the development of an effective rapid deployment capacity. Argentina was therefore grateful for the ongoing consultations between the Secretariat and Member States on a strategic reserve of equipment.

43. The need to increase the level of safety and security of peacekeeping and humanitarian personnel was a matter of great concern requiring a series of measures including mission planning, public information, provision of reliable equipment and training. It was hoped that additional resources would be allocated in order to support efforts in that area.

44. As far as consultation with troop-contributing countries was concerned, Argentina supported dialogue with the Security Council and the Secretariat as a means of achieving real cooperation. Such cooperation, rather than being construed as interference with the competence of the Security Council, would in fact enhance the work of the Council. Argentina was pleased with the process of consultations established within the context of the Working Group of the Security Council. However, the resistance of some permanent members of the Security Council had been surprising, and Argentina wished to encourage the Working Group to complete its examination of the various possibilities to create an institutionalized consultative mechanism that would allow greater participation of the troop-contributing countries.

45. **Mr. Shen** Guofang (China) said that because peacekeeping operations, conflict prevention and peace-building activities had become increasingly intertwined, improved coordination and the setting of clear priorities were crucial. While commending the level of cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations, particularly in Western Africa and Central Asia, he stressed the need for equal attention to be given to conflicts in all regions.

46. The success of United Nations peacekeeping operations largely depended on the political support and contribution of resources from Member States. Consequently, it was essential to strengthen coordination between the Security Council and troop-contributing countries, both in terms of cooperation and making use of the untapped potential of existing Security Council mechanisms.

47. China actively supported the DPKO reform process, and looked forward to the results of its institutional readjustment. The Government was particularly interested in the creation of new posts, and hoped that transparency and the principles of equitable geographic distribution and balance between developed and developing countries would be faithfully observed.

Special attention should be paid to the concerns of countries which were currently under-represented .

48. *Ms. Korpi (Finland), Vice-Chairman, took the Chair.*

49. **Mr. Motomura** (Japan) said that peacekeeping was one of the most useful tools available to the United Nations in its pursuit of peace and security, as had been demonstrated by the success of the operation in East Timor. However, the Organization's peacekeeping missions had become more multifaceted in recent years and the total budget required for them had also increased sharply. For example, Japan's assessed contribution to peacekeeping for the current year was approximately \$600 million. In that light, greater accountability was necessary in the establishment and management of peacekeeping operations.

50. His delegation welcomed the recent dialogue between Member States and the Secretariat on the issue of rapid deployment and supported the concept of strategic deployment stocks as a means of enabling the United Nations to deploy peacekeeping missions more rapidly. It was important for the stock levels to be based on a realistic estimate of the amount needed so that stocks were not left unused.

51. Despite its own recent financial difficulties, Japan favoured strengthening the Secretariat, particularly the Department of Peacekeeping Operations. The additional posts should be filled swiftly and in such a way as to remedy the under-representation of certain Member States. The problems relating to management culture, as pointed out in the Secretary-General's report (A/55/977, para. 35), and the mobility of personnel, particularly between Headquarters and the field, as highlighted by the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations (A/55/1024, para. 75), should be addressed as a package.

52. Continued attention should be paid to the safety and security of United Nations and associated personnel. Although peacekeeping was not risk-free, much more could be done to minimize casualties and accidents. The Special Committee had recommended measures to improve the safety and security of personnel (A/C.4/55/6); they should be put into practice. His delegation requested the Secretary-General to provide information on implementation in his next report.

53. Consultations between the Security Council and troop-contributing countries were important, but they should not be limited to those countries alone. In accordance with the spirit of Article 31 of the Charter of the United Nations and rule 37 of the provisional rules of procedure of the Security Council, consultations should also include countries such as Japan which provided other equally important resources. Japan's commitment to peacekeeping operations would be demonstrated once again by the dispatch to East Timor of a self-defence force engineer group by spring 2002. It was to be hoped that the group would contribute to the stability of East Timor and the peace and security of the entire region.

54. **Mr. Schelstraete** (Belgium), speaking on behalf of the European Union, the associated countries Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia, the associated countries Cyprus and Malta and the European Free Trade Association country member of the European Economic Area, Iceland, said the European Union had been heartened by the spirit of cooperation during the proceedings of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations. The active participation of the European Union was a measure of the importance it attached to the settlement of conflicts, and above all, to the victims of such conflicts.

55. In reaffirming its commitment, the European Union looked forward to continued support of peacekeeping operations, in terms of both personnel and resources. European Union members had contributed almost 40 per cent of the United Nations peacekeeping budget and vast numbers of European nationals had served as military and civilian police under the United Nations flag.

56. The European Union welcomed the outcome of the discussion on the comprehensive review and the most recent report of the Special Committee. Improved coordination at all levels and an integrated management and training approach were needed in order to carry out the peacekeeping mandate. The European Union further hoped that the relevant United Nations bodies would release the resources necessary to achieve the stated goals. For its part, the European Union was prepared to increase its contribution to peacekeeping operations but expected its investment to produce tangible improvements. In that connection, it was necessary for the Secretariat, in particular the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, to apply new

working methods, adopt a new management culture and become a true meritocracy. The European Union also strongly favoured a larger increase in human resources for the Peacekeeping Best Practices Unit. The Union regretted the lack of tangible progress in information management and strategic analysis and felt it was unfortunate that the issue should have been postponed, especially since most delegations had concurred that such capability was crucial to the conduct of peacekeeping operations.

57. One striking conclusion of the comprehensive review was the need for continued support of DPKO by other departments and agencies, in terms of resources and cooperation. Clearly, the factors influencing the success of peacekeeping operations, such as adequate and well-trained staff, realistic mandates and resources, must be reinforced by close and efficient partnership between the Security Council, the Secretariat and troop-contributing countries. Having called for a global logistics support strategy for several years, the European Union urged the Secretariat to continue to work towards developing rapid and effective deployment capacity, as proposed by the report of the Panel on United Nations Peace Operations. The attention to safety and security of United Nations and associated personnel on the part of the Secretary-General was especially welcome in the present circumstances.

58. The European Union was actively engaged in strengthening cooperation with the United Nations and other international organizations on conflict prevention, crisis management, humanitarian aid, post-conflict reconstruction and long-term development. Moreover, it was establishing a crisis-management capability in order to better respond to future United Nations peacekeeping needs.

The meeting rose at 6.10 p.m.