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Chairperson: Mr. Windsor (Vice-Chairperson). (Australia)

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In the absence of Mr. Chipaziwa (Zimbabwe), Mr. Windsor (Australia), Vice-Chairperson, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

Agenda item 53: Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects (*continued*)

1. **Mr. Sabyeroop** (Thailand), speaking on behalf of the member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), said that peacekeeping was an important instrument in the maintenance of international peace and security. United Nations peacekeeping operations must be implemented in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and relevant Security Council resolutions, and adhere to the basic principles of United Nations peacekeeping operations, namely consent of the parties, impartiality, and non-use of force except in self-defence and defence of the mandate. They must also respect the principles of sovereignty, territorial integrity and non-intervention in domestic matters.

2. United Nations peacekeeping operations had become more complex in recent years. In that regard, ASEAN member States, as troop- and police-contributing countries, stressed the importance of clear and achievable mandates. Troop- and police-contributing countries should be involved and consulted from the outset and could provide the benefit of their experience in the field. Logistical field support must be provided with sufficient, predictable and reliable resources and in a timely manner. Troop- and police-contributing countries should receive frequent, up-to-date training, especially when they had to operate in hostile and volatile environments.

3. With regard to multidimensional peacekeeping operations, ASEAN members encouraged the holding of transparent and inclusive consultations with all relevant stakeholders, including host countries, troop- and police-contributing countries, civilian personnel contributing countries, as well as civil society and non-governmental organizations, in order to implement mandates effectively and in a coordinated manner. The Secretariat should provide clear operational guidelines with regard to security sector reform, disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, rule of law and the protection of civilians.

4. ASEAN commended the efforts by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Field Support to explore ways and means of enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of peacekeeping operations, in particular the development of the New Horizon Initiative and the Global Field Support Strategy. In that regard, it welcomed the first progress report of the New Horizon Initiative and looked forward to further progress and meaningful development of the concept of modularization, global and regional service centres, human resources management and procurement.

5. ASEAN reiterated its view that peacekeeping and peacebuilding were complementary in nature; to ensure a smooth transition, the foundations for peacebuilding in post-conflict societies should begin much earlier than the exit of peacekeeping operations. Sustainable development was also a crucial element in securing sustainable peace in post-conflict societies.

6. Enhanced cooperation in peacekeeping was one of the priority areas of the ASEAN Political-Security Community Blueprint. The ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting had developed a three-year workplan focusing on, inter alia, the use of military assets in humanitarian assistance and disaster relief. They hoped to develop expertise in those areas that could be shared in the future with United Nations peacekeepers, especially those in multidimensional operations with integrated mandates. A new body had recently been convened comprising the defence ministers of the ASEAN States and eight strategic partners — Australia, China, India, Japan, the Republic of Korea, New Zealand, the Russian Federation and the United States of America — which had identified peacekeeping, and humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, as two priority areas for cooperation. That framework should enhance ASEAN expertise and make it more easily adaptable to United Nations peacekeeping operations.

7. ASEAN member States currently contributed almost 4,000 peacekeepers to 14 United Nations peacekeeping operations and would be sending additional personnel and resources to a number of peacekeeping operations by the end of 2010; such contributions highlighted its commitment to international peace and security.

8. Speaking as the representative of Thailand, he recalled that the Foreign Minister of Thailand had made it clear during the general debate of the General

Assembly that Thailand stood ready to contribute to the maintenance of international peace and security. Over the past two decades, Thailand had contributed nearly 20,000 troops, police officers and civilian staff to United Nations peacekeeping operations. It had also recently sent a counter-piracy task group to assist international efforts in patrolling the Gulf of Aden and protecting ships and was in the process of sending an infantry battalion to assist the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID).

9. **Mr. Weissbrod** (Israel) said that peacekeeping missions continued to grow in size, scope and complexity to meet the range of threats to peace and stability around the globe. Those changes increasingly gave rise to shortages of personnel and resources on the ground; it was therefore important to prioritize the objectives of each peacekeeping mission and to look for new approaches to help them succeed.

10. The first progress report on the New Horizon Initiative highlighted the important work that was being done to improve the effectiveness of peacekeeping by strengthening partnerships between the various parties involved; that work was encouraging and should be continued and developed. Some progress had been made in implementing a few of the recommendations of the New Horizon Initiative and the Global Field Support Strategy. Israel supported the use of benchmarks to ensure progress in peacekeeping operations, but stressed that the process needed to be conducted carefully, taking into account the complexities on the ground and the role of peacekeeping missions in helping to maintain a level of stability in challenging environments.

11. Over the past three years, Israel had participated in the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia and had sent a police unit to participate in the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) following Haiti's tragic earthquake. That unit, the first deployment of its kind by Israel, consisted of 14 police officers with specialized capabilities in crowd control. Those officers were working under Italian command and therefore constituted the first international formed police unit to serve in a peacekeeping mission. Thus far, the unit's performance had been very positive; that model should be considered in other peacekeeping missions. Israel would continue to look for ways to enhance its contribution to peacekeeping missions by making available both police and civilian forces.

12. Since the adoption of Security Council resolution 1701 (2006), the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) had been an important force for stability along the Lebanese-Israeli border, working in challenging circumstances. Israel remained committed to the full implementation of that resolution and continued to offer its full support to the UNIFIL troops in southern Lebanon. However, there were still major challenges on the ground. Hizbollah continued to build up its military forces in south Lebanon, especially in civilian villages, using houses and public institutions to conceal weapons. Over the past 15 months, three Hizbollah weapons caches had exploded in Lebanon south of the Litani river, providing clear evidence that Hizbollah continued to rearm in direct violation of resolution 1701. Unfortunately, the Lebanese Armed Forces had not intervened in a timely or robust manner to any of those incidents and in all cases there was clear proof that Hizbollah had removed evidence from the sites and obstructed the arrival of UNIFIL to the scene. Israel called on the Lebanese Armed Forces and UNIFIL to take more significant action to halt the rearmament of that terrorist organization in the villages of southern Lebanon.

13. Another growing challenge that had been evident over the past year was the increasing obstruction of UNIFIL operations by so-called civilians. Such obstructions represented a coordinated effort by Hizbollah to purposefully and cynically use civilians to obstruct the work of UNIFIL. That dangerous tactic must be clearly denounced.

14. The presence of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) in the region since 1974 had played an essential role in stabilizing the Israeli-Syrian frontier. In addition to maintaining peace and stability, over the past three years, in coordination with both countries, it had served as a liaison in the implementation of a project to export apples from Druze farmers to Syria.

15. **Mr. Mohamed** (Sudan) said that the Sudan was currently finalizing implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, of which the most important element was the referendum to decide on the future of southern Sudan. Additionally, efforts were being made to reach a peace agreement on the issue of Darfur. The Sudan had discharged all its obligations to UNAMID and the United Nations Mission in Sudan (UNMIS) in terms of cooperation, coordination and dialogue. The Comprehensive Peace Agreement had

put an end to the war in southern Sudan; his Government was undertaking development projects and providing services in southern Sudan and had fulfilled its pledges to provide financial resources for those projects, whether from the national budget or in the form of grants and loans, as well as providing southern Sudan with its share of oil revenues. His Government affirmed its commitment to hold the referendum to determine the future of southern Sudan as scheduled, on 9 January 2011. The referendum must be free, impartial and a true expression of the will of the people of the South, leading to peace and stability. Some 80 per cent of the borders had been drawn and demarcation of the remaining borders was vital for a free and impartial referendum. A satisfactory solution to the dispute in the Abyei region was essential to ensure that the conflict was not renewed.

16. The Sudan affirmed that the use of force was permissible only in self-defence; respect for the sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of States and non-interference in their internal affairs were essential. It was important to define the peacekeeping mandates and provide sufficient resources to implement them. Consultation and coordination with troop-contributing countries were required. His delegation commended the tripartite mechanism between the Government of the Sudan, the United Nations and the African Union. As the ultimate goal of any peacekeeping mission was to bring about and maintain peace, there was a need to transition from a simple, clearly defined process to a multidimensional process that will drive economic and social development within a framework of respect for the host country's sovereignty, national choices and development priorities. In that regard, his delegation drew attention to the new strategy for achieving a comprehensive, peaceful settlement for the Darfur issue by focusing on five themes: security, sustainable development, encouraging the voluntary return of displaced persons and refugees, tribal reconciliation and the current peace talks in Qatar. African Union capabilities in Darfur should be supported as a regional arrangement, as provided for in Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations. The role of the General Assembly, acting through the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations, was pivotal. It was the appropriate body to formulate, monitor and evaluate peacekeeping operations.

17. The protection of civilians was indisputably a core responsibility of national authorities. Any attempt

to diminish or deny that responsibility would only undermine the peace process. Attempts to politicize the protection of civilians or use it as an excuse to interfere in the internal affairs of States would not serve peace. The concept of protection of civilians needed to be more clearly defined.

18. **Mr. Abdelaziz** (Egypt) said that United Nations peacekeeping was at a critical juncture, as a result of increased demand, the growing complexity of tasks and that fact that it was sometimes charged with responsibilities beyond its ability to carry them out. Concepts needed to be more clearly developed and partnership with the Secretariat must be strengthened to provide peacekeeping operations with proper political, financial and logistic support. It is important for peacekeeping operations to meet expectations and not become immobilized for long periods of time. An improved capacity to evaluate conflict situations, effective planning and rapid emergency response, as well as continued application of the guiding principles and agreed standards, in accordance with the Charter, were required so that peacekeeping did not become an alternative to addressing the root causes of conflict.

19. With regard to the New Horizon Initiative, his delegation stressed that the development of concepts, policies and field support strategies should advance in parallel with progress in capacity-building, planning and oversight. His delegation affirmed the importance of achieving consensus among Member States on policy development and of implementing only those policies which had been adopted. Peacekeeping missions should receive proper financial, human, military and civilian support, within a framework of respect for the host State. The duties of peacekeeping missions must not be changed without full consultation with and agreement of troop-contributing countries. The Security Council must formulate clear and achievable mandates. Policy formulation must be linked to implementation on the ground. Deterrence must be achieved without unjustified expansion of the use of force in order to avoid compromising the neutrality of peacekeeping operations and prevent peacekeeping from becoming peace enforcement. Continued consultation between Member States to counter violations of the safety and security of personnel was required. Greater attention should be paid to exit strategies; it was noteworthy that some States requested the early exit of peacekeeping forces because they felt that their mission had become one of

conflict management rather than settlement. Increased integration was needed between peacekeeping and peacebuilding, in coordination with the Peacebuilding Commission. Peacekeeping must be accompanied by economic development and capacity-building in the areas of security, rule of law and human rights, on the basis of national ownership. The proposals for the protection of civilians in conflict situations should be thoroughly studied. Protection of civilians should not be used as a pretext for United Nations military intervention. There were legal difficulties regarding the definition of civilians in armed conflicts. The role of the police in United Nations peacekeeping must be supported. Cooperation with regional organizations should be continued and the African Union in particular should receive United Nations financial and logistic support. Consultations on the implementation of the Global Field Support Strategy needed to be finalized in order to address the challenges of logistic and administrative support for peacekeeping operations.

20. As proof of its commitment to peacekeeping, Egypt ranked fifth on the list of troop-contributing countries, having contributed a total of 5,485 personnel to 10 peacekeeping missions; it would continue to contribute military, police and civilian personnel to United Nations peacekeeping operations.

21. **Mr. Sangqu** (South Africa) said that since the role of United Nations peacekeepers was broad and varied, expectations needed to be managed appropriately to ensure that they were realistic and implementable and peacekeeping mandates needed to be well-defined, coherent and clearly articulated and accompanied by clear operational guidelines. Many of the operational challenges confronting peacekeeping could be attributed to lack of adequate capabilities and resources, especially with regard to air assets. Effective peacekeeping required well-trained, well-resourced and well-equipped peacekeepers. The ongoing deliberations on the Global Field Support Strategy were therefore important in the effort to balance the demands for both operational effectiveness and efficiency. In that regard, continued collaboration and consultation between the Secretariat and troop-contributing countries was indispensable.

22. The protection of civilians was increasingly one of the mandates of peacekeeping operations and the perceived lack of such protection in missions in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and elsewhere had

been the source of much criticism. For peacekeepers to effectively carry out that mandate, they needed situational awareness and the capacity for information gathering. South Africa strongly supported the development of a strategic framework to guide the development of mission-wide strategies on the protection of civilians, the identification of resources and capability requirements for implementing protection mandates, and the development of training modules.

23. Peacekeeping could play an important role in establishing the foundations for sustainable peace, the rule of law and good governance. South Africa welcomed the growing consensus that peacekeeping and peacebuilding required an integrated approach, which incorporated early peacebuilding activities from the start of a peacekeeping mission. There should also be an emphasis on both security and development through the delivery of basic services, which were critical to ensuring long-term sustainability and peace.

24. His Government hoped that the United Nations would do more to strengthen the working relationship between the Security Council and the African Union Peace and Security Council. South Africa appreciated the ongoing cooperation between the Secretariat and the African Union Commission in terms of the 10-year capacity-building programme and on issues such as security sector reform, disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, and post-conflict peacebuilding. However, funding was a critical challenge; the United Nations must urgently review the situation and seek ways of ensuring predictable, flexible and sustainable financing for peacekeeping operations undertaken by the African Union on behalf of the international community.

25. While the success of the United Nations in conflict situations was largely measured through the lens of its peacekeeping operations, a more accurate measure would require a greater appreciation of its work in conflict prevention, mediation and peaceful resolution of disputes, and peacebuilding. To that end, greater resources needed to be placed at the disposal of the Organization to address the root causes of conflict, including the development and human rights dimension of conflicts. If that balance could be achieved, the organization would be better placed to “save succeeding generations from the scourge of war”.

26. **Mr. Mnisi** (Swaziland) said that peace and security were the Organization's primary responsibility; every Member State had an obligation to ensure the prevention, management and resolution of conflicts, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations. Swaziland valued the efforts of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Field Support, especially in Africa, where the bulk of United Nations peacekeepers were situated. The New Horizon Initiative would help ensure the free exchange of information between Member States and the United Nations in order to enable cohesive planning.

27. Although much had been done to support African Union peacekeeping operations, there were more challenges ahead. The need for predictable and capability-driven funding remained critical; funds needed to be provided through the regular budget for an indefinite period. Although there was some value in setting cyclical targets for peacekeeping, doing so was tantamount to putting a price on peace, a price that was being dearly paid by the millions of civilians bearing the brunt of conflict. Swaziland called upon all potential donors to contribute to the voluntary multi-donor trust fund focused on comprehensive capacity-building in order to meet the peace and security challenges facing the continent.

28. Swaziland paid tribute to the troop- and police-contributing countries, who filled a critical gap in the peacekeeping mandate, but noted that they typically lacked the equipment and funding to sustain their missions.

29. There should be a strong humanitarian dimension to peacekeeping and peace support; Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) had provided a concrete basis by focusing on the role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts. However, there needed to be more emphasis on capacity-building in order to ensure the implementation of international humanitarian and human rights law to protect women and girls, who were often targeted by combatants and armed elements. The creation of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) was a positive development in that regard, but more needed to be done to achieve gender balance in peacekeeping.

30. Swaziland condemned the attacks on peacekeepers that had recently been reported in the

Democratic Republic of the Congo and Darfur; it also condemned those peacekeepers who neglected their duties and indulged in wayward activities that created an element of distrust in the populations under their care.

31. **Mr. Tarawneh** (Jordan) said that United Nations peacekeeping operations were passing through an important and sensitive phase. Political developments within the international community over the past two decades, far-reaching changes in the international security environment and the unprecedented growth in the number and scale of peacekeeping operations had resulted in those operations losing their traditional military character and becoming multidimensional in nature, with increasingly complex mandates. The expertise of troop-contributing countries was an important factor in improving peacekeeping operations; those countries should therefore be involved in planning at all stages of peacekeeping operations. Jordan supported the proposal to increase dialogue and consultation between the Security Council, the Secretariat and troop-contributing countries.

32. Jordan currently chaired the country-specific configuration on peacebuilding in Liberia. Its experience showed that partnership between civilian, military and police peacekeepers was important in the early stages of the peacebuilding process. Peacekeeping and peacebuilding were mutually supportive and peacebuilding at an early stage was very important. The role of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations was a key factor in that respect.

33. Primary responsibility for protecting civilians fell on national Governments but peacekeeping operations could play a role in helping to support host States ensure such protection, if sufficient resources were available. Jordan welcomed Security Council resolution 1894 (2009), which affirmed the importance of addressing the protection of civilians in the mandates of peacekeeping operations.

34. The process of the reform and development of peacekeeping operations must be continued. The Special Committee had a fundamental role to play in this regard, and its effectiveness should be enhanced. States' pledges and commitments must be monitored. The focus of the New Horizon Initiative on building a global partnership and strengthening coordination

between stakeholders was fundamental to the further development and strengthening of peacekeeping operations. Jordan affirmed the importance of the Global Field Support Strategy, which was essential to strengthening human resource management, providing peacekeepers with logistic support and increasing the number of service centres; as well as the importance of training and capacity-building; regional centres, and national training centres, in troop-contributing countries, should receive increased support.

35. **Mr. Belkheir** (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) said that peacekeeping had developed from ceasefire monitoring to complex and multidimensional operations; however, peacekeeping operations could not be an alternative to a final settlement of the roots of conflicts, which could only come from a diplomatic process endorsed by the United Nations; that would save the lives of civilians and peacekeepers and the vast amounts spent on weapons, ammunition and materiel. Libya expressed concern at the widening gap between the regular budget of the United Nations and its peacekeeping budget. At the same time, the slow pace of development in poor nations, inability to achieve the Millennium Development Goals in States where conflict was endemic and the failure of developed countries to meet their commitments towards development could not be ignored.

36. The guiding principles and sole guarantee of the impartiality, integrity and credibility of peacekeeping forces were neutrality and the use of force only in self-defence, in addition to maintaining the national sovereignty and territorial integrity of host States and non-interference in their internal affairs. His delegation affirmed the importance of continued liaison between troop-contributing countries on the one hand, and the Security Council and Secretariat on the other, including cooperation with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Field Service at the planning, implementation and withdrawal phases of peacekeeping operations. It stressed the need for cooperation with regional organizations, including the African Union, which was assuming growing responsibilities for the safeguarding of international peace and security, in accordance with Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations.

37. The General Assembly was the appropriate body to formulate and evaluate the policies and principles of peacekeeping operations. The role of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations should be

strengthened. Peacekeeping missions must increase consultations with host States and must be provided with the necessary training and logistical support. Robust peacekeeping must be consistent with the principle of the use of force only in self-defence. Increasing the use of armed force to make the United Nations a party to the conflict and give the warring parties a reason to target peacekeeping forces must be avoided. The United Nations should consider the concept of reconstruction more carefully because it was an important element in a mission's exit strategy and in ensuring that a country did not slide back into violence.

38. **Mr. Tharoor** (India) said that as a country that had contributed more than 100,000 peacekeepers to virtually every United Nations peacekeeping operation in the past six decades, India was conscious that much had changed since the first peacekeeping mission had been launched in 1956. The geopolitical environment was completely different. Conflicts predominantly involved intra-State issues and peacekeeping had acquired new dimensions. The Organization's initiatives on peacebuilding had also made it necessary to review the entire enterprise of peacekeeping. The increasing talk of partnership and capabilities reflected the changes that had occurred and the need for them to be accommodated in the global division of labour in the maintenance of international peace and security.

39. His delegation firmly believed in the need for more meaningful consultations with the Special Committee and troop contributors. It acknowledged that improvements had been made in the timing of the triangular meetings convened by the Security Council, but had suggested a number of changes to make the meetings more useful and relevant, including predictability in terms of timing and the advance circulation of agendas. The system of consultations must also be extended to cover all stages of the mission cycle.

40. A perennial issue was the need for the mandate and the mission to be better aligned. The drafting and adoption of a credible mission mandate should logically be the starting point of an operation; too often in the past, mandates had been ruined and unrealistic, and the resources committed had not been commensurate with the declared objectives. As a peacekeeping operation gathered momentum, it required more resources, not less; the military component had to be supplemented, and not

supplanted, by police and other institutions to promote the rule of law and a capacity for development administration.

41. The Security Council and the Secretariat must listen more carefully to Governments. There was no substitute for national capacities; the United Nations needed to help create the conditions where those capacities could be exercised. Support to the national authorities in security sector reform and in the area of socio-economic development was significant for a mission's success. Security sector reform, in particular, needed far greater coordination, cohesiveness and unity of purpose. The training, equipment and working methods of national police and other rule-of-law institutions must be structured in a manner that was consonant with the wishes of national authorities and not the priorities of donors. In the case of economic development, national authorities, as the experience of the Peacebuilding Commission indicated, were capable of developing strategies and plans; what they needed was resources and social investment.

42. Peacekeeping had a substantial budget by United Nations standards, but it amounted to less than 0.5 per cent of worldwide military expenditure. In relation to the needs, the resources available for peacekeeping were utterly inadequate. An increase in the number of high-quality, well-trained and properly equipped troops was the first requirement. The deployment of police and rule-of-law capacities needed to be increased. The current composition of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations did not provide the capacity to plan for the nation-building activities that were central to peacebuilding. That capacity needed to be developed and would require a multidisciplinary approach involving the development pillars of the United Nations and greater cooperation with countries in the global South.

43. There were no shortcuts to peacekeeping, which often had to deal with elements that had a stake in continuing instability; peacekeeping needed to be committed for the long haul. Transition and exit strategies needed to be approached accordingly. Peacekeeping would remain the major United Nations activity for the next few years and it would need more partners and more capabilities. The tendency in some quarters, in the name of expediency, to avoid intergovernmental discussions on the subject, was counterproductive. There was no shortage of capacities in the world; the United Nations needed to harness

those capacities. Greater involvement of Member States, not less, was the best way to obtain those capacities for the common benefit of all.

44. It was very difficult to use objective parameters to determine an exit point from complex peacekeeping operation. A peacekeeping operation would have succeeded if there was durable peace; durable peace could only follow from a successful peace agreement. The conditions that could lead to a successful peace agreement were also difficult, if not impossible, to define. The Security Council was not bound by benchmarks on when and where it decided to intervene. Each decision was unique, and subjective judgements were involved. Similar subjective judgements should be involved as to when an operation could be wound up.

45. Two thirds of United Nations peacekeeping resources were currently devoted to operations that were at least five years old. The international community must find the capabilities that were required to ensure that the gains that had been painfully accrued by peacekeepers in those mature operations were not squandered while facing the challenges of an altered operating environment. Peacekeeping and peacebuilding were not mutually exclusive enterprises; both needed to continue simultaneously over extended periods of time. A premature withdrawal of peacekeepers was a recipe for disaster; too many conflicts had resumed after peacekeepers had departed.

46. Eighty per cent of United Nations peacekeeping resources were devoted to areas with a legacy of colonialism. Since the problems that they faced had been confronted in many nations in Asia and Africa, successful post-colonial nation-building experience was clearly relevant in planning and administering peacekeeping missions. Peacebuilding initiatives must also take into account the experience and insights of countries that had undergone successful post-colonial nation-building exercises.

47. India firmly believed in women's role in conflict resolution and the attainment of peace and welcomed the initiative to enhance the role of women peacekeepers. India had deployed the first all-women fully formed police unit in Liberia in 2007. Their effectiveness was testimony to the power of example in empowering the weak and the vulnerable. His delegation therefore encouraged the Department of

Peacekeeping Operations to integrate the gender dimension in all its peacekeeping missions.

48. Public support for peacekeeping was indispensable in all troop-contributing countries. The Department of Public Information, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Field Support should therefore work closely in highlighting peacekeeping success stories and should facilitate, at United Nations expense, itinerant journalism seminars to bring to the attention of the world, and particularly of the populations of troop-contributing countries, stories of the goodwill, commitment and extraordinary courage of the men and women who represented the human face of United Nations peacekeeping; that would help maintain public and parliamentary support for peacekeeping.

49. **Ms. Blum** (Colombia) said that her delegation attached great importance to addressing the challenges faced by peacekeeping operations and reaffirmed the basic principles of peacekeeping, namely consent of the parties, impartiality and the use of force only in self-defence or defence of the mandate, which could not be ignored when alternative ways of addressing challenges were being considered. The institutional structure was just as important and all the United Nations bodies concerned, within their respective mandates, must maintain timely and constant coordination to ensure better and more effective results and apply lessons learned.

50. The effectiveness and efficiency of peacekeeping operations depended on an adequate and realistic correlation between mandates and available resources. Full operational capacity must be guaranteed; technological resources and troop training played a key role in that regard.

51. The earthquake in Haiti had revealed some of the vulnerabilities faced by peacekeeping operations and the need for adequate contingency measures to ensure the continued functioning of operations in emergencies. In addition, that experience had shown how peacekeeping operations could bolster the capacity to respond to emergencies by providing security and logistical support. As a police-contributing country to MINUSTAH, Colombia was following the work of the Economic and Social Council to achieve comprehensive development in that country, to which it was committed, and it welcomed the extension of the mandate by the Security Council.

52. Colombia was willing to share its experience in areas in which it had developed a strong technical and operational capacity such as security; combating terrorism, trafficking and the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons, the eradication of anti-personnel mines, humanitarian assistance and the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of illegal armed groups; always within the framework of the protection of human rights.

53. **Mr. Haroon** (Pakistan) said Pakistan was host to one of the oldest peacekeeping missions and had been one of the largest contributors of peacekeeping personnel for several years; currently it had over 10,000 personnel deployed in 11 peacekeeping missions. It had maintained that level of deployment despite increased domestic pressures caused by the fight against terrorism and the recent devastating floods. The success of peacekeeping was therefore of vital importance to Pakistan, which had been actively engaged in all initiatives to reform peacekeeping and make it more effective.

54. The multiplicity and complexity of conflict situations around the world had led to an increased demand for peacekeeping, but the absence of matching resources had adversely affected the effectiveness of peacekeeping operations. United Nations peacekeeping faced multiple challenges. Those challenges included developing responses to complex crises, evolving a comprehensive approach that addressed the root causes of conflicts, formulating clear, realistic and achievable mandates that corresponded to the realities on the ground, ensuring greater efficiency and effectiveness in the implementation of mission mandates, providing adequate resources, commensurate with mandates, adapting peacekeeping to changing requirements and strengthening capacities both in the field and at headquarters, promoting genuine partnership between the Security Council, the Secretariat and troop-contributing countries, creating an interface between peacekeeping and peacebuilding and, most crucially, securing the political support and commitment of Member States.

55. In order to meet those challenges, troop-contributing countries must participate in the design of mandates, and must be represented in operational and managerial positions in the Secretariat and in the field. The formulation of mandates must be guided by an analysis of the realities on the ground, through partnership between the Security Council, the

Secretariat and troop-contributing countries. Peacekeeping missions must be provided with adequate resources; more countries needed to share the burden of peacekeeping and contribute personnel. Peacekeeping must be backed by greater political will to ensure long-term success; greater reliance needed to be made on conflict prevention and the pacific settlement of disputes to address the underlying causes of conflicts. There must be an interface between peacekeeping and peacebuilding that laid the foundations for sustainable peace and development. It was important to maintain the centrality of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations as the only decision-making body in the United Nations system in matters pertaining to peacekeeping. The protection of civilians was very important in peacekeeping operations; it must be borne in mind, however, that national authorities were responsible for maintaining peaceful and secure environments. While undertaking reform, it was important to ensure that United Nations peacekeeping was guided by the principles of the Charter.

56. Troop-contributing countries must be reimbursed by the Secretariat expeditiously; and death and disability benefits must be paid to all those deployed in peacekeeping missions, pursuant to the rules. His delegation considered that the rate of compensation for troops needed to be revised in line with current economic realities.

57. **Mr. Bame** (Ethiopia) said that the United Nations was facing enormous challenges in the area of peacekeeping as a result of the surge of demand and the multidimensional and complex mandates of peacekeeping operations. The evolution of the role of peacekeeping missions as a result of the nature and scope of contemporary conflicts necessitated a pragmatic approach to peacekeeping, including early peacebuilding, the deployment of an unprecedented number of civilians and the allocation of enormous resources. His delegation stressed that all peacekeeping operations must be conducted in line with the purposes and principles of the Charter and relevant Security Council resolutions, and in strict conformity with the principles of sovereign equality, political independence, territorial integrity and non-intervention in internal affairs; and that the guiding principles of United Nations peacekeeping must be observed in all missions without exception.

58. The effective implementation of mandates depended on cooperation between the Security Council, troop- and police-contributing countries, the Secretariat and host countries. All those actors must have a shared vision and meaningful partnership in order to bring lasting peace and stability to countries where peacekeepers were deployed. His delegation firmly believed that troop-contributing countries should be involved in policymaking processes and consulted at all phases of operations.

59. Although primary responsibility for maintaining international peace and security lay with the United Nations, cooperation with regional organizations had become more important. His delegation commended the progress made by the United Nations and the African Union in alleviating conflict in Africa through mediation, peacekeeping and peace enforcement mechanisms and appreciated the logistical support provided to the African Union in Somalia through the United Nations support office.

60. His delegation shared the frequently voiced concern about the recurring problems of incomplete or late reimbursement to troop-contributing countries, which hampered their ability to prepare and deploy further personnel. Moreover, families of peacekeepers who had been injured or killed must receive compensation without delay.

61. Ensuring the safety and security of peacekeeping personnel and of their premises was critical, not only to maintain the morale of troops and support staff but also to ensure the successful implementation of mission mandates. The United Nations safety and security system must be strengthened in order to preserve the Organization's credibility and authority.

62. As a troop-contributing country with a long history of active participation in United Nations peacekeeping, Ethiopia believed that all nations, irrespective of their size or level of development, had an obligation to contribute to the maintenance of international peace and security.

63. **Mr. Benmehidi** (Algeria) welcomed the progress report on the New Horizon Initiative. Algeria attached great importance to the improvement of peacekeeping operations and the strengthening of their capacities at Headquarters and in the field and would support any proposal designed to ensure a transparent and inclusive review of that question. His delegation welcomed the

adoption by the General Assembly of the Global Field Support Strategy.

64. Notwithstanding the progress made in implementing the recommendations of the Brahimi report, the international community must continue its efforts to address the many obstacles that continued to undermine the effectiveness of peacekeeping operations. After unprecedented expansion over the past decade and with their capacities stretched to the limit, those operations were subjected to ever greater constraints at both the quantitative and qualitative levels. Member States must provide policy guidance and strengthen capacities, while improving dialogue and information-sharing and ensuring accountability at all levels.

65. Given the shared responsibility for that collective effort, the Security Council must remain committed to missions until their conclusion, regardless of the complexity of the conflict or the difficulties faced, particularly since the credibility and legitimacy of such missions, and of the Security Council itself, were at stake. Similarly, troop-contributing countries had a role to play in the implementation of the mandates emanating from the Security Council. The success of peacekeeping operations depended on close and meaningful consultation.

66. Concerning the protection of civilians, his delegation believed that while all States shared that moral imperative, agreed definitions were lacking. The protection of civilians was an integral part of the tasks of all peacekeeping missions; the establishment of adequate capacity must be considered in the light of that imperative and of the situation in each individual operation. As for robust missions, his country believed that robustness must be a factor in all aspects of a mission, starting with its mandate, the capacities and resources to be made available to it, and the commitment of the Security Council and troop-contributing countries. Those principles were clearly defined in Security Council resolution 1327 (2000).

67. On the question of partnership with regional organizations, more particularly the African Union, his delegation welcomed the Security Council's review of the Secretary-General's report on support for African Union peacekeeping missions (A/65/510-S/2010/514). The significant efforts made by the African Union to set capacity targets, adopt a strategic vision and ensure military capacities capable of taking over United

Nations peacekeeping operations demonstrated the clear commitment of African leaders and their determination to back the decisions taken at summit meetings with operational measures that would accelerate the implementation of those decisions on the ground. However, the African Union still faced a shortage of resources and capacity; a strengthening of African initiatives, in particular through predictable, viable and flexible financing, would guarantee the capacities it needed and would promote the success of its missions deployed on the basis of Security Council mandates.

68. **Ms. Bagarić** (Serbia) said that her delegation considered participation in peacekeeping operations to be an important international obligation of Member States. Her country was committed to making a concrete contribution to safeguarding international peace and security and protecting human rights at the regional and global levels.

69. The United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo had been deployed in the autonomous province of Kosovo and Metohija, a part of the territory of Serbia, under Security Council resolution 1244 (1999). By taking part in maintaining peace in other parts of the world, Serbia indirectly supported the achievement of the goals of peacekeeping missions, including the one in its own territory. Serbia's participation in peacekeeping operations accorded with its intention to complete the process of European integration and become a member of the European Union, and to intensify its cooperation with European Union member States and with States participating in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization's programme of Partnership for Peace.

70. Serbia was continuing the long tradition of Yugoslavia's participation in United Nations peacekeeping missions and, over the past decade, within its modest possibilities, had participated in a number of United Nations missions. It had been encouraged to participate more actively in multinational operations by their greater efficiency and better use of resources, and by the growing commitment of Member States to United Nations efforts in the area of peace.

71. The success of peacekeeping operations depended on cooperation between the United Nations and troop-contributing countries, as well as with host countries. Such cooperation should extend to other issues such as

terrorism and drug and human trafficking. She reiterated her Government's position that peacekeeping missions must not get involved in the causes of conflicts and must be carried out with strict respect for the principles of sovereignty and territorial integrity.

72. **Mr. Chipaziwa** (Zimbabwe) stressed that in order to be successful, peacekeeping operations must continue to adhere to the basic principles of United Nations peacekeeping operations, namely, consent of the parties concerned, neutrality and non-use of force except in self-defence. They must also adhere to the purposes and principles of the Charter, namely, respect for State sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of States, as well as non-interference in the internal affairs of host countries. His delegation shared the view that peacekeeping operations should be provided with political support and clear, credible and attainable mandates, matched with adequate human and financial resources. Peacebuilding programmes should go hand-in-hand with peacekeeping and should support recovery efforts. Clear rules of engagement, lines of accountability and unity of command for peacekeeping missions were essential.

73. It was important to continue to strengthen cooperation between the Security Council, the Secretariat and troop- and police-contributing countries in all aspects and stages of peacekeeping operations; such cooperation would contribute to their effectiveness. Cooperation and partnerships with regional and subregional organizations, particularly the African Union, should also be enhanced. His delegation underscored the importance of expediting the implementation of the United Nations-African Union ten-year capacity-building programme; it looked forward to the Secretariat's proposal to support African Union peacekeeping operations with financial resources. The provision of well-equipped, well-trained and disciplined military and police personnel to peacekeeping operations was a collective responsibility of all Member States. Clearly, the burden fell most heavily on the more developed countries.

74. The safety and security of United Nations peacekeeping personnel remained an issue of great concern to most troop- and police-contributing countries. In that regard, his delegation called upon the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to formulate measures to strengthen United Nations field security arrangements and improve the safety and security of all

military contingents, police officers, military observers and civilian personnel.

75. Zimbabwe stressed the importance of observing gender equality in United Nations peacekeeping operations. There should be equal participation and full involvement of women peacekeepers in United Nations peacekeeping operations, including in decision-making processes. The gender guidelines for peacekeeping operations must be implemented.

76. While his delegation commended the Department of Field Support for improving the rate at which it was processing death and disability claims, it joined the call for the process to be carried out promptly and to the satisfaction of all parties. His delegation also called for more transparency in the processing of compensation.

77. Protection of civilians was a primary responsibility of the host nation. While United Nations peacekeepers should support host Governments in that regard, he urged the Security Council to give clear and achievable mandates to peacekeepers. He also urged the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to complete the drafting of the guidelines relating to the protection of civilians for consideration by the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations.

78. **Mr. Ko Ko Shein** (Myanmar) said that peacekeeping missions must observe the principles of consent of the parties, impartiality and use of force only in self-defence or in defence of a mandate authorized by the Security Council. They also needed to observe the purposes and principles of sovereign equality, political independence and territorial integrity of all States and non-intervention in internal affairs, as enshrined in the Charter. Since the adoption of the Brahimi report, many complex issues had arisen in the area of peacekeeping operations. His Government believed that the Security Council, the General Assembly and the Secretariat needed to align their policy framework with the operational status on the ground of the troop- and police-contributing countries and other stakeholders. The host country's readiness and willingness to achieve sustainable peace, security and development should also be taken into account.

79. Troop- and police-contributing countries and other stakeholders needed to participate fully in the preparatory stage of peacekeeping missions along with the Security Council and other relevant United Nations entities so as to lay a sound foundation for the successful completion of the peacekeeping mandate.

That mandate should be based on achievable and concrete results, effective planning and management of peacekeeping operations, quick and effective responses to conflicts and fair assessment of conflict situations. A strong peacekeeping partnership and political process were closely related, and mobilizing and maintaining the political and operational support of all stakeholders would pave the way for the success of operations. The protection of civilians was of crucial importance; training modules, resources and capability requirements for peacekeepers should also be well coordinated.

80. The global field support strategy would enhance the ability of peacekeepers to fulfil their duties effectively. His delegation was encouraged by the information that the financial framework for the start-up or expansion of peacekeeping missions had been strengthened through the approval of access to up to \$100 million from the Peacekeeping Reserve Fund. It was also pleased to note that the human resources dimension of global field support was closely aligned with the human resource reform process, building on the measures adopted by the General Assembly.

81. Peacekeeping operations should not be used as a substitute for addressing the root causes of conflict in a comprehensive manner. They must be provided with clearly defined mandates, objectives and command structures, adequate resources based on a realistic assessment of the situation, and secure financing. It was essential to streamline communications with Member States, particularly troop- and police-contributing countries. The success of reform measures depended on the principles of unity of command and integration of efforts at all levels, in the field and at Headquarters. There was still a need for clarification regarding the roles, function and composition of integrated operational teams, including the division of labour and responsibilities in the Secretariat.

82. Myanmar attached great importance to the zero tolerance policy towards sexual exploitation and abuse, acts of misconduct or serious misconduct of uniformed personnel in peacekeeping operations. The security and safety of international civil servants was paramount in ensuring the success of peacekeeping missions.

83. **Ms. Haile** (Eritrea) said that political developments and related changes in the international security environment over the past decade had created new challenges for peacekeeping operations, which had

ceased to be purely military in nature. Peacekeepers had to operate in hostile environments, and sometimes in situations where there was no peace to keep. Her delegation stressed the need for peacekeeping operations to adhere to the principles of consent of the parties, impartiality and non-use of force except in self-defence.

84. Her delegation wished to reiterate that the primary responsibility for maintenance of international peace and security remained with the United Nations. Regional arrangements must comply with the provisions of Chapter VIII of the Charter and could neither replace the role of the United Nations nor be exempted from implementing the guiding principles of United Nations peacekeeping operations. The concerns and realities of the host country must be taken fully into account to ensure the success of the partnership between the United Nations and regional organizations.

85. While the need for financial and logistical support from the larger United Nations membership was clear, efforts to prevent conflicts must also be boosted. Peacekeeping should not be regarded as the only tool available to the international community for the attainment of peace and stability. More efforts should be exerted towards averting conflicts rather than managing them. A strategy for an early warning system and early response system would be helpful in the maintenance of international peace and security.

86. Eritrea was committed to a zero tolerance policy towards all forms of misconduct, including sexual exploitation and abuse by peacekeepers and associated personnel. Her delegation took note of the decline in allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse; it was, however, deeply concerned that allegations relating to the most serious types of offences, such as rape or sexual relationships with minors, remained high as compared to the total number of allegations received.

87. **Mr. Ramadan** (Lebanon), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that the representative of the Israeli occupation had expressed the commitment of his Government to Security Council resolution 1701 (2006) and to UNIFIL; however, the occupation Government should match its actions with its words by withdrawing its troops from the remaining Lebanese lands it continued to occupy in the Shaba'a farm lands, Kafarshuba hills and Al-Ghajjar village and the adjacent area in south Lebanon. Unfortunately, none of the Israeli actions proved the claims of its

representative in the Committee. Israel continued to criticize UNIFIL and had in the past criticized its commander for his proposals to end the Israeli occupation of Al-Ghajjar. In addition, Israel over the years had threatened the safety and security of UNIFIL and United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO) troops and positions, demonstrating its lack of respect for international law and Security Council resolutions. In 1996, the Israeli occupation army had attacked the quarters of UNIFIL in Qana, south Lebanon, killing hundreds of Lebanese civilians, mostly children and the elderly, who had been seeking refuge at the United Nations post from the Israeli "grapes of wrath" campaign. Also in 2006, the same army had attacked a UNTSO post in south Lebanon, killing truce observers. More recently, after the adoption of Security Council resolution 1701 (2006), Israel and its army had been intimidating UNIFIL troops.

88. His delegation reiterated the full support of the Lebanese Government and the Lebanese people, specifically in south Lebanon, to UNIFIL. Lebanon was fully committed to the implementation of Security Council resolution 1701 (2006) in its entirety. Lebanon highly appreciated the important role that UNIFIL played in south Lebanon and fully recognized the grave sacrifices it had suffered. UNIFIL had been steadfast in its support for the Lebanese people in their efforts to liberate their lands from the Israeli occupation for more than 30 years. It was also a partner in mine clearance and in development efforts in south Lebanon.

89. All incidents of explosions south of the Litani river in south Lebanon were investigated jointly by UNIFIL and the Lebanese Armed Forces. The high level of cooperation extended by the Lebanese Armed Forces to UNIFIL had been recognized by several United Nations officials and in the reports of the Secretary-General on the implementation of Security Council resolution 1701 (2006).

90. The Israeli representative had also mentioned Hizbullah, which was part of the National Unity Government of Lebanon. He wished to remind the Committee that Hizbullah had not existed in 1978 when Israel had invaded Lebanon on a large scale, nor had it existed in 1982 when the Israeli occupation had reached Beirut. Hizbullah was a popular grass-roots resistance movement in defence of its country and a natural response to the Israeli occupation, just like other national resistance movements during times of

occupation. Those who levelled accusations of terrorism needed to be reminded of the history of the Israeli terror groups that had committed massacres in Palestine and the highest level Israeli officials who had been the subject of international arrest warrants as terrorists.

The meeting rose at 12.40 p.m.