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## Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee)

### Summary record of the 19th meeting

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Thursday, 1 November 2018, at 10 a.m.

*Chair:* Mr. O'Toole (Vice-Chair) ..... (Ireland)

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

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*In the absence of Mr. Kemayah, Sr. (Liberia), Mr. O'Toole (Ireland), Vice-Chair, took the Chair.*

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

**Agenda item 56: Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects (continued) (A/72/19)**

1. **Mr. Sinka** (Burkina Faso) said that, despite its pressing need for internal security, his country had deployed over 2,000 personnel to peacekeeping operations, including 80 women, and was ranked thirteenth among troop-contributing countries. Nevertheless, the Government faced logistical and technical difficulties in contributing troops, as was the case in many developing countries.

2. Peacekeeping missions operated in fragile and volatile security situations in which it was often difficult to distinguish the enemy from civilian populations. To improve their effectiveness, mandates should be adapted to the context of each mission. In addition, operations should be provided with the means to respond rapidly, effectively, efficiently and responsibly to challenges on the ground. In 2017, his Government had endorsed the Kigali Principles on the Protection of Civilians, and 97 per cent of uniformed peacekeeping personnel currently served in missions with protection of civilians mandates.

3. The eight peacekeeping operations in Africa were by far the most expensive, given that the continent faced multiple security challenges, particularly the rise of terrorism. Nevertheless, his delegation recognized that peacekeeping operations were not anti-terrorist units or peace enforcement forces. Support for the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) and the Group of Five for the Sahel, which operated in the most hostile terrain, would allow the region to regain stability, thereby improving living conditions and facilitating sustainable development.

4. Partnerships between the United Nations and regional peacekeeping mechanisms would strengthen peacekeeping operations, making them more reactive and efficient on the ground. Regional initiatives should receive appropriate political, financial and material support from the United Nations and other partners so that effective, preventive action could be taken when peace was threatened. The international community had a moral obligation to support peacekeeping operations where they were needed, and Burkina Faso would spare no effort in that regard.

5. **Mr. Saad** (Malaysia) said that security and development were not mutually exclusive. Without peace and security, countries were unable to focus resources on socioeconomic development programmes. Peacekeeping operations should therefore be comprehensive and strategic and should be developed with the involvement of all relevant stakeholders. In that regard his delegation supported the Action for Peacekeeping initiative and had endorsed the Declaration of Shared Commitments on United Nations Peacekeeping Operations. Additionally, the search for peace should not be focused solely on peacekeeping; instead, efforts should be aimed at achieving a comprehensive political process to maintain peace in post-conflict settings and promote sustainable community development in line with the Sustainable Development Goals. His delegation applauded the Organization's efforts to engage with regional and subregional organizations, host countries and financial institutions to improve peacekeeping.

6. His delegation supported the Secretary-General's efforts to address the issue of sexual exploitation and abuse by United Nations peacekeepers. The Prime Minister of Malaysia had joined the circle of leadership on the prevention of and response to sexual exploitation and abuse in United Nations operations, and his country had a zero-tolerance policy. Peacekeepers who were found guilty must be held accountable. Failure to address the issue would lead to a loss of confidence in United Nations peacekeeping operations and would jeopardize efforts to maintain international peace and security.

7. Malaysian peacekeepers were currently serving in six missions. His Government had recently deployed an additional battalion to the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), which included 30 personnel from the Royal Brunei Armed Forces. Female peacekeepers had made significant contributions to the success of missions, and his Government supported efforts to increase their numbers. It had deployed 40 female peacekeepers to UNIFIL and one female military observer to the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO). Inspired by United Nations efforts to increase access to quality education and leadership training programmes for women and young people, his delegation supported their participation as mediators.

8. **Ms. Andrianantoandro** (Madagascar) said that her country remained committed to United Nations efforts to maintain peace, which was a prerequisite for sustainable development, and had deployed police and gendarmerie officers, justice officials and corrections

officers to numerous peacekeeping operations in Africa. Regardless of the size of their contributions, all troop-contributing countries were to be commended for their commitment to international peace and security.

9. The new, complex challenges facing peacekeeping operations required tailored solutions. Her delegation therefore welcomed the Secretary-General's initiative to renew political support for peacekeeping operations and his reform of the peace and security pillar. Madagascar had endorsed the Declaration of Shared Commitments in September 2018 and called on all States to fulfil those commitments in order to bring about the necessary improvements.

10. With conflict prevention and, consequently, preventive diplomacy as primary considerations, it was vital to focus attention on constructive dialogue and mediation in an inclusive process aimed at finding political solutions, which should therefore be central to all decisions concerning deployment, particularly as peacekeeping operations were never an alternative to such solutions. It was furthermore important to have a built-in exit strategy involving such elements as peacebuilding, post-conflict reconstruction and national ownership of the peace process. Triangular cooperation among the Security Council, troop-contributing countries and the Secretariat should also be improved and strategic partnerships strengthened, in which context the relationship between the United Nations and the African Union pursuant to Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations offered an excellent example, bearing in mind that over half of peacekeeping missions were in Africa. In that connection, her delegation joined the call for more predictable funding for African Union peace support operations.

11. Praise was due both to the Secretariat for its willingness to provide additional support, including training, to developing countries wishing to contribute troops, and to Member States for the training grants. The protection of civilian and peacekeeping personnel, who were faced with an arduous task in increasingly hostile environments, must be a matter of priority, particularly as the acts of violence against them had more than doubled in recent years. Civilians must also be protected. Her delegation supported the zero-tolerance policy on sexual exploitation and abuse, as well as initiatives to increase women's involvement in peacekeeping operations and conflict prevention. Madagascar stood ready to cooperate with the United Nations and all partners in the noble enterprise of peacekeeping.

12. **Ms. Badjie** (Gambia) said that her Government remained strongly committed to maintaining

international peace and security and had contributed troops and police to 11 peacekeeping missions around the world over the previous two decades, during which time Gambian personnel had demonstrated a high level of professionalism, dedication and good conduct. Her delegation welcomed the Secretary-General's Action for Peacekeeping initiative and called on all stakeholders to comply with the Declaration of Shared Commitments, which her country had endorsed. In order for peacekeeping operations to be effective, there must be sustained political processes to address the root causes of conflict through active political dialogue, laying the foundations for sustainable peace and conflict resolution. Her delegation supported the Secretary-General's reform of the peace and security architecture and welcomed the emphasis on conflict prevention, mediation and peacebuilding.

13. Field missions must have realistic and achievable mandates to attain desired outcomes, and peace operations required more funding to respond effectively and efficiently to conflict situations. A lack of equipment impacted the ability of troops from developing countries to participate effectively in peacekeeping operations. Capacity gaps could be addressed by promoting strategic partnerships between troop-contributing countries and equipment-owning countries, thereby meeting the operational needs of field missions and improving overall performance. Troop- and police-contributing countries should be involved in policymaking and decision-making processes, particularly through the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations.

14. Her Government strongly condemned all forms of sexual exploitation and abuse committed by United Nations personnel in peace operations and reiterated its full commitment to the Secretary-General's zero-tolerance policy. Those terrible acts compromised the credibility and integrity of peacekeeping operations and could create mistrust. In that connection, Gambian officers nominated for deployment to peacekeeping missions underwent gender-sensitive training prior to deployment. Such training opportunities could complement United Nations efforts to end sexual exploitation and abuse.

15. While the Security Council had the primary responsibility for maintaining peace and security, her delegation encouraged the ongoing partnership with the African Union to improve the performance of peacekeeping operations. Regional organizations had a better understanding of the geopolitical context in which peacekeeping operations were conducted and could respond more effectively to emergency situations. African Union peace operations should therefore be

supported with predictable, sustainable and flexible financing, in accordance with Security Council resolutions 2320 (2016) and 2378 (2017). Lastly, she paid tribute to the brave men and women who carried out the daunting task of fostering peace in conflict situations around the world and to those peacekeepers who had paid the ultimate price in service to humanity.

16. **Mr. Dang Dinh Quy** (Viet Nam) said that peacekeeping operations must be able to respond to changing situations in a timely and effective manner. His delegation therefore welcomed the Secretary-General's proposals to restructure the peace and security pillar and his Action for Peacekeeping initiative. Viet Nam had also endorsed the Declaration of Shared Commitments. There must be broad, inclusive and transparent consultations among the Security Council, the Secretariat and troop- and police-contributing countries. His delegation also stressed the importance of regional solutions to conflicts and enhanced cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations under Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations.

17. While the multidimensional aspect of peacekeeping operations should be emphasized, they must be carried out in accordance with international law; the Charter; and the principles of consent of the parties, impartiality, non-use of force except in self-defence and in defence of the mandate, and non-intervention in the internal affairs of sovereign States. His Government supported the Secretary-General's zero-tolerance policy on sexual exploitation and abuse, as well as his efforts to prevent any misconduct by United Nations personnel on duty. In that connection, Viet Nam had signed the voluntary compact on preventing and addressing sexual exploitation and abuse. Comprehensive policies, commitments and predeployment training were necessary to ensure the good conduct and discipline of peacekeeping personnel.

18. Viet Nam actively participated in peacekeeping operations and had recently dispatched a level-two field hospital to South Sudan. Together with other States members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, Viet Nam would be hosting a training programme under the Triangular Partnership Project for Rapid Deployment of Enabling Capabilities for Peacekeeping in 2018. Recognizing the critical role of women in peacekeeping and peacebuilding, his Government was committed to increasing their involvement. The Department of Peacekeeping Operations had approved the deployment of the first-ever female officer from Viet Nam to the United Nations Mission in the Republic of South Sudan (UNMISS), and an additional ten women were working at the field hospital. In closing, he

stressed that political solutions should remain at the heart of peace operations and conflict-resolution efforts. His delegation strongly supported the use of good offices, mediation and preventive diplomacy in conflict management and stood ready to engage in further discussions on peacekeeping reform.

19. **Mr. Namazu** (Japan) said that his country supported the Secretary-General's Action for Peacekeeping initiative and his reforms of the peace and security pillar and had endorsed the Declaration of Shared Commitments. As a member of the Bureau of the Special Committee, Japan stood ready to lead discussions on implementing the initiative in the forthcoming session.

20. Medical and engineering capacity was vital to ensuring the safety and security of peacekeepers, which was, in turn, a prerequisite for high performance. Triangular partnerships provided an excellent template for improving performance and could help fill existing gaps and build capacity among troop-contributing countries. To meet engineering needs, Japan offered training on the United Nations Peacekeeping Missions Military Engineer Unit Manual through a triangular partnership project in which over 200 personnel from African countries had participated. It welcomed the expansion of engineering training into Asia and the surrounding regions and had sent instructors to conduct a pilot training session on heavy engineering equipment in Viet Nam. His delegation would also oversee the forthcoming revision of the Manual. It welcomed the launch of triangular partnership projects in medical training and would assist in drafting those manuals.

21. Increasing the participation of women in peacekeeping missions was critical to improving performance on issues such as the protection of women and children, the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse and support for victims. In 2018, his Government had begun dispatching female instructors to engineering training courses to serve as role models for future peacekeepers and to demonstrate the importance of female participation in peacekeeping. It would also continue to appoint talented female officers to future peacekeeping missions.

22. **Mr. Alhadi** (Iraq) said that peacekeeping operations played an important role in ending conflicts, creating environments conducive to lasting peace agreements and facilitating the establishment of stable, democratic Governments. Since their introduction, peacekeeping operations had evolved. In line with Sustainable Development Goal 16, peacekeepers now also played a role in peacebuilding, namely through

improving the capacity of State institutions to respond to new challenges and meet the basic needs of citizens.

23. Peacekeeping operations must observe the basic principles of peacekeeping, namely, consent of the parties, impartiality and the non-use of force except in situations self-defence and in defence of the mandate. In addition, the Security Council should ensure that peacekeeping mandates reflected the comprehensive, objective tasks regularly assigned to peacekeeping operations in accordance with its resolutions, in particular resolutions 1325 (2000), 1612 (2005) and 1674 (2006).

24. His delegation welcomed the Secretary-General's strategy to increase the participation of women in peacekeeping operations and supported the efforts of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to continuously review peacekeeping practices and mechanisms to ensure their integrity and prevent misconduct, in particular sexual exploitation and abuse.

25. Although it was currently focused on rebuilding areas destroyed by terrorism, the Iraqi Government always paid its contributions to the peacekeeping budget on time. It supported the Secretary-General's Action for Peacekeeping initiative and had endorsed the Declaration of Shared Commitments. His delegation called for all necessary measures to be taken to ensure that United Nations peacekeepers were able to fulfil their mandates.

26. **Mr. Kafle** (Nepal) said that successful peacekeeping missions complemented peaceful political processes in addressing the root causes of conflicts. Efforts to prevent conflict and sustain peace should be reinforced with reliable resources for the timely achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. Peacekeeping efforts should also be directed towards building national capacity to protect and strengthen inclusive peace, and impartiality and credibility should be ensured. Operations should undergo continuous modernization and renewal to align them with evolving realities on the ground, and reforms should focus on strengthening and enhancing mission capabilities. In that connection, his delegation commended the Secretary-General's Action for Peacekeeping initiative and his reform of the peace and security pillar.

27. Since 1958, Nepal had been a credible and reliable partner in United Nations peacekeeping endeavours, having contributed over 136,000 peacekeepers to 58 peace missions on 4 continents, 76 of whom had sacrificed their lives for the noble cause of world peace. It had deployed troops, police and civilian personnel to peacekeeping operations without national caveats, even in asymmetric threat environments. However, at no time

should the absence of national caveats cause any contingent to be prone to unreasonable tasking, deployments, rotations or scapegoating; performance should be the primary basis for rotating contingents from different troop- and police-contributing countries.

28. Peacekeeping mandates should be clear, credible, achievable and adequately resourced. Training and capacity development should be provided to define the roles and responsibilities of all key actors. Nepal recognized the importance of partnership in addressing capacity gaps and offered the services of its world-class peacekeeping training centre to new and established troop- and police-contributing countries.

29. His Government remained committed to protecting civilians in armed conflict, particularly women, children and young people. Peacekeepers must earn the trust and confidence of civilians and could do so by fostering harmonious relations and helping local communities improve living conditions. Furthermore, women played an indispensable role as agents of change and provided innovative perspectives to sustaining peace. Their active engagement in conflict prevention and peace negotiations and their compassionate protection of civilians could not be overemphasized. In the spirit of moving from zero tolerance to a "zero case" scenario, Nepal had endorsed the Kigali Principles and signed the voluntary compact on preventing and addressing sexual exploitation and abuse. United Nations policies regarding sexual exploitation and abuse and the protection of human rights had also been incorporated into national predeployment training courses.

30. Sustained, focused and meaningful dialogue among the Security Council, the Secretariat and troop- and police-contributing countries was a prerequisite for the successful implementation of mandates. In order to guarantee the safety and security of peacekeepers, a mechanism should be developed to provide missions with timely support and reinforcements when needed. Furthermore, balanced, fair and equitable opportunities to serve in senior positions for all troop- and police-contributing countries would enhance the inclusive nature of the Secretariat and the field missions and boost the morale of peacekeepers. The Government of Nepal pledged its full, sustained support in strengthening the operational capabilities of United Nations peacekeeping operations as part of its broader, unwavering commitment to international peace and security.

31. **Mr. Biang** (Gabon) said that peacekeeping operations were essential to the maintenance of international peace and security. The proposed reforms would improve coherence and efficiency on the ground,

close gaps and strengthen the role of women. The United Nations must have a comprehensive strategy that considered all aspects of peace, including conflict prevention and resolution, peacekeeping and sustainable development. Moreover, the number of permanent bases and the duration of temporary bases should be reduced, as disparities between sites could affect contingent performance, particularly with respect to reserve troops like his country's battalion.

32. Gabon intended to play a full-fledged role in peacekeeping missions, particularly as part of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA). The Government had implemented a new strategy that relied on partnerships with the United Nations and Member States to improve training and provide better equipment for its contingents, thereby increasing their success. Gabon fully supported the zero-tolerance policy on sexual exploitation and abuse, had signed the voluntary compact, had increased the number of provost marshals in each battalion and would cooperate fully with the United Nations in preventing such crimes in the future.

33. His delegation welcomed the increasing dialogue between the United Nations and regional organizations, given that such partnerships were essential to achieving the desired results. African Union peace operations should be provided with predictable, stable and adequate financing through assessed contributions. There was also a need to scale up financing for the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of former combatants in the Central African Republic, with a view to achieving sustainable peace in that country. Furthermore, multilingualism must be given consideration in peacekeeping operations, particularly when choosing force commanders, in order to establish constructive dialogue with host countries and achieve better results on the ground. Lastly, he recognized the dedication of peacekeepers and paid homage to those who had lost their lives in recent years.

34. **Mr. Ahidjo** (Cameroon) said that modern peacekeeping missions were increasingly complex and multidimensional and had to adapt to new realities and recurring asymmetric threats. In addition to monitoring ceasefires, they now consolidated peace processes and contributed to the recovery of failed States, often in the aftermath of conflicts that had lasted for decades. As a result, people living in host countries had higher expectations with regard to their immediate physical safety and capacity-building for local institutions and authorities. The international community must therefore adopt a coherent vision for peacekeeping operations encompassing those complexities. His delegation

welcomed the reform of the peace and security architecture and looked forward to the implementation of the Action for Peacekeeping initiative to promote efficiency and effectiveness in managing and deploying peacekeeping operations. A formal agreement must be reached without delay to renew effective partnership among all peacekeeping actors.

35. Partnerships between the United Nations and regional organizations should be strengthened, and adequate assistance should be given to troop-contributing countries to improve the training and preparedness of peacekeepers. In addition to the traditional military field, capacity-building should focus on the development of civilian aptitudes in areas such as mediation, crisis management and knowledge of host countries and the United Nations. Such an approach would improve the efficiency of personnel in the field and, in turn, the success of the mission. Furthermore, the increasing efforts of developing countries should be recognized, as their troops constituted the backbone of peacekeeping forces. While Member States had agreed to increase death and disability payments and reimbursement rates for troops during the seventy-second session of the General Assembly, the evolving costs and the sacrifices made by troop-contributing countries should receive greater consideration.

36. Since the 1990s, Cameroon had supplied military observers and contingents to peacekeeping operations conducted by the United Nations, the African Union and the Economic Community of Central African States. Over 1,400 personnel from its national defence and security forces were currently serving in the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Haiti, Mali and Sudan, among other countries. In 2008, Cameroon had established the International School for Security Forces in order to train national security forces from African countries to participate in peacekeeping missions or address post-crisis situations. Hundreds of personnel had been trained in law enforcement and policing. His Government thanked its development partners and looked forward to even greater support in the future. Cameroon was committed to fostering peace and participating in the global effort for collective security insofar as its capacities would allow.

37. **Ms. Gilmutdinova** (Russian Federation) said that peacekeepers risked their lives to work in difficult and sometimes dangerous conditions. The international community must learn from experiences in the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Mali and other hotspots in which peacekeepers had died, in order to avoid any repetition of such tragedies in the future. The Russian Federation had



always sought to improve the effectiveness of peacekeeping missions and preserve the safety of peacekeepers, and it welcomed the Secretary-General's efforts in that regard. Political solutions must be paramount in resolving conflicts, and there must be absolute respect for the Charter of the United Nations and the basic principles of peacekeeping, which must govern all aspects of missions, including the protection of civilians.

38. Host countries bore the primary responsibility for providing security, protecting their people from terrorist attacks, establishing political processes and addressing the root causes of conflicts. The international community, in turn, must provide assistance to those Governments. However, peacekeeping missions should not be used to combat terrorism or violent extremism. Their effectiveness depended on clear, achievable mandates, which must be tailored to the specific situation of each individual mission, and the views of the host countries and troop-contributing countries must be taken into consideration. Drawdown strategies should also be considered, particularly in the context of making the best possible use of the financial resources available. Robust peacekeeping was not a panacea. The only way to achieve a successful outcome was by improving the equipment, technical support and professional training available to peacekeepers.

39. Member States played a decisive role in reforming peacekeeping, particularly within the Special Committee. Any attempt to push through approaches or initiatives in the Security Council that had not already been agreed to in the Special Committee would be counterproductive, as would any attempt to create alternative forums for such purposes. Respect for consensus was the only way to ensure trust among all parties. With regard to intelligence in peacekeeping, the international community must use appropriate, recognized methods to collect data and ensure that such data were stored and processed safely and could not be used for special political missions or humanitarian operations.

40. The partnership between the United Nations and the African Union was an example of positive interaction with regional and subregional organizations. There should also be more interaction between the United Nations and the Collective Security Treaty Organization.

41. Russian peacekeepers served in a number of peacekeeping operations, primarily in Africa and the Middle East, and her Government provided air transport services to missions. Since 2000, it had trained police components of peacekeeping operations at its United

Nations-certified training centre. It also provided services through its international demining centre.

42. **Mr. Amde** (Ethiopia) said that it had never been more urgent and critical to strengthen United Nations peacekeeping operations, which continued to be the most important tool for maintaining international peace and security. His delegation welcomed the reforms to the peace and security architecture and the Declaration of Shared Commitments, as well as the steps taken by the Secretary-General to implement the recommendations of the High-level Independent Panel on Peace Operations. It was clear that United Nations peacekeeping was a shared responsibility.

43. The performance and effectiveness of peacekeeping operations must be enhanced. The successful implementation of mandates was the responsibility of all stakeholders, including Member States, the Security Council, host countries, troop-contributing countries, donors and regional partners. Every possible effort must be made to ensure that civilian and uniformed personnel had the skills, training, resources and capabilities necessary for the operational environment. Given that failure to establish well-defined, realistic and achievable mandates had led to poor implementation, his delegation looked forward to the completion of the Secretariat's comprehensive and integrated performance policy framework.

44. The current peace and security challenges could not be handled by the United Nations alone; strategic partnerships with regional and subregional organizations were vital. The partnership between the United Nations and the African Union had been characterized by closer collaboration through a regular exchange of information, deeper consultations and increasingly coordinated action. Furthermore, there was a need to enhance the predictability, sustainability and flexibility of financing for African Union-led peace support operations, as noted in Security Council resolution [2378 \(2017\)](#). Much work had been done to strengthen the mandates, management, oversight and accountability of those operations and to finalize conduct, discipline and human rights frameworks, which were critical to achieve greater accountability, transparency and compliance with international human rights law and United Nations standards. As a result, his delegation hoped that discussions on financing those operations would move forward.

45. **Ms. Rodríguez Silva** (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) said that her delegation fully supported the Declaration of Shared Commitments, which would improve the effectiveness of peacekeeping operations, clarify their role and strengthen the Organization's

capacity to respond with peaceful solutions and address the root causes of conflict. Peacekeeping mandates must be based on achievable political goals, in strict accordance with the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations. In order to improve efficiency, transparency and support for personnel in the field, mandates must preserve and firmly adhere to the criteria established by Member States, as defined in the relevant Security Council resolutions. Peacekeeping operations must also be governed by the basic principles of peacekeeping. They should be established following an analysis to assess whether a situation required a peacekeeping operation and bearing in mind that their fundamental goal was to provide a political solution to conflict.

46. Many conflicts could have been prevented if the underlying causes had not been linked to the geopolitical interests of certain States. While developing countries were strictly adhering to the Charter, other powerful countries with neo-colonialist aspirations had committed unilateral acts of aggression in their constant desire to control natural resources. Peacekeeping operations must not be used to infringe upon the sovereignty of States or to arbitrate conflicts. The proposal put forth by some States to make peacekeeping operations responsible for combating terrorism and transnational organized crime gave cause for concern, as peacekeepers could become embroiled in conflict and depart from their political role to facilitate peace processes.

47. Her Government supported a zero-tolerance policy on sexual exploitation and abuse by peacekeepers, for which perpetrators must be held accountable. Furthermore, the number of women in leadership positions in peacekeeping missions should be increased. Her delegation reiterated its support for the Special Committee, which was the ideal body to formulate related policies and doctrine, and for all United Nations initiatives to defend, preserve and promote international peace and security for all people in the world.

48. **Mr. Umar** (Nigeria) said that his delegation welcomed the Secretary-General's Action for Peacekeeping initiative and the Declaration of Shared Commitments, which his Government had endorsed. The Secretariat and Member States had made tremendous efforts in recent years to reform peacekeeping operations and the implementation of those reforms would be central to achieving success on the ground.

49. Peacekeeping was a collective endeavour that demanded strong collaboration and partnership between the United Nations and its many partners, including

troop- and police-contributing countries, host nations and regional organizations. The Security Council must set clear, achievable mandates, while Member States must commit to providing well-trained and well-equipped forces to implement them. His delegation acknowledged the primacy of politics in resolving conflicts and the need to strengthen national political and socioeconomic institutions to prevent relapse. In that connection, it welcomed the Secretary-General's report on strengthening the partnership between the United Nations and the African Union on issues of peace and security in Africa, including on the work of the United Nations Office to the African Union (S/2018/678), as well as Security Council resolutions 2320 (2016) and 2378 (2017), which mentioned the need for sustainable, predictable and flexible funding for African Union-led peace support operations.

50. His delegation recognized the increasingly important role of women in resolving conflicts and building stable communities. They brought a critical skill set to peacekeeping, particularly in addressing gender-based issues. As a result, the Government had increased the number of women serving as United Nations experts in missions. His delegation strongly condemned sexual exploitation and abuse in peacekeeping operations and would continue to provide support to end that abhorrent practice in all its forms. The President had joined the Secretary-General's circle of leadership in 2017, and the Government had contributed to the trust fund in support of victims of sexual exploitation and abuse. The international community must also continue to hold perpetrators accountable. His delegation remained committed to discussing prevention and response measures in support of the Secretary-General's strategy on that issue.

51. Peacekeepers continued to be targets of armed groups with increasing regularity and ferocity. Those attacks undermined their ability to protect others, particularly the most vulnerable, and threatened the often-fragile peace processes that they supported. His delegation urged the Secretariat to take adequate measures to enhance the safety and security of peacekeepers and called for continued implementation of the recommendations in the report on improving the security of United Nations peacekeepers. Offering his delegation's deepest condolences to their families, friends and Governments, he paid tribute to those peacekeepers who had made the supreme sacrifice and saluted the courage of those who continued to put themselves in harm's way to serve the global cause for peace.

52. **Mr. Mavros** (Cyprus) said that his delegation unequivocally supported the review of peacekeeping



operations to improve their effectiveness and efficiency in responding to contemporary challenges. It also supported the Declaration of Shared Commitments and the Secretary-General's vision for reforming the peace and security pillar to improve the ability of peacekeeping operations to deliver on their mandates, with a stronger focus on performance.

53. As the host country to the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) since 1964, Cyprus was deeply indebted to the United Nations and all Member States for their invaluable support. UNFICYP was a successful model for peacekeeping operations and had been a pioneer in implementing new policies, having appointed the first female force commander in 2014.

54. The size of the peacekeeping budget required the international community to review operations, rationalize costs, develop a performance culture and ensure that all funds and resources were spent prudently. However, the particularities of each conflict and operation should always be taken into account. Performance could not be jeopardized by undue weakening or early withdrawal where the situation on the ground did not warrant such action. UNFICYP was already a lean peacekeeping operation that struggled to execute its functions. In view of the prevailing conditions in Cyprus, which had remained unchanged since 1974, it was crucial to retain the presence of UNFICYP in its current configuration until a settlement had been reached. His delegation welcomed the Secretary-General's decision to instruct Ms. Jane Holl Lute to continue discussions, as well as the unanimous support of the Security Council for the ongoing work. His Government would continue to engage constructively in efforts to revive the negotiating process and reach a lasting solution.

55. **Mr. González Vivas** (Uruguay) said that the international community must continue its collective efforts to adapt peacekeeping operations to the current, complex realities of conflicts. The United Nations bodies involved in peacekeeping operations, including the Fourth Committee, the Special Committee, the Fifth Committee and the Security Council, must translate the political momentum from the Declaration of Shared Commitments into concrete action. Uruguay was working with other States to develop a monitoring and evaluation mechanism under which stakeholders could report their progress and difficulties in implementing each commitment.

56. Member States should support the Secretary-General and the Secretariat in operationalizing reforms to the Organization, particularly with regard to the peace

and security pillar and the management structure, to ensure that those changes were implemented in the best possible way. They should also honour their commitments to peacekeeping by providing missions with sufficient resources. It was important to maintain a constructive, good-faith dialogue when discussing the peacekeeping budget and assessments for Member States.

57. Cooperation among various actors should be improved, particularly by developing different kinds of triangular cooperation between Member States and the Secretariat. In that connection, his delegation looked forward to the forthcoming meeting of defence ministers, which would be held in 2019. In that connection, Uruguay, together with the United Kingdom, would be hosting a preparatory meeting on training and capacity-building in December 2018 in Montevideo, and he invited all Member States to attend. Lastly, he paid homage to the men and women of all countries who had served and continued to serve in United Nations peacekeeping operations and acknowledged the enormous debt of gratitude to peacekeepers who had lost their lives in service to the United Nations.

58. **Mr. Ghorbanpour** (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that, while peacekeeping operations remained a powerful tool for promoting and maintaining international peace and security, any deployment of troops or mandate extension must rigorously observe the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the basic principles of peacekeeping, as well as the principles of sovereign equality, political independence, the territorial integrity of all States and non-intervention in the internal affairs of States. The Special Committee was the sole intergovernmental forum mandated to comprehensively review the whole question of United Nations peacekeeping operations and provided all Member States with the opportunity to participate in policymaking and decision-making processes in all areas and dimensions and at all stages of peacekeeping operations. His delegation noted the Secretary-General's Action for Peace initiative, which called for a shared commitment from Member States to enhance their engagement in peacekeeping.

59. The protection of civilians was primarily the responsibility of host countries, which should receive support when necessary. Any military intervention by the United Nations or by any foreign forces under the pretext of protection of civilians should be avoided. Moreover, modern technology and intelligence in peacekeeping missions should be used for increasing the safety and security of United Nations personnel, including peacekeepers. The legal aspects of such use

should be defined in appropriate intergovernmental processes.

60. United Nations personnel, including peacekeepers, must be held to the highest standards of conduct and discipline. The zero-tolerance policy on misconduct, especially sexual exploitation and abuse, should be fully implemented. In addition, the participation of regional organizations in peacekeeping operations in accordance with Chapter VIII of the Charter should in no way disengage the United Nations from its primary responsibility in maintaining international peace and security.

61. The rule of law played a vital role in building lasting peace and justice and in extending State authority in countries in conflict or emerging from conflict. Cultural diversity, national ownership and the situation of host countries should be taken into account when extending support to restore the rule of law. Troop-contributing countries must actively participate in policy formulation and decision-making processes at all stages of peacekeeping operations, particularly through effective triangular cooperation among troop-contributing countries, the Secretariat and the Security Council. Furthermore, the principle of equitable geographical distribution should be given full consideration in staffing Headquarters and field agencies at all levels. His Government stood ready to increase its contribution to peacekeeping operations by deploying troops, military observers, police and civilians.

62. **Ms. Thinn** (Myanmar) said that maintaining peace was the most critical task of the Organization, and her country would continue to support efforts to improve peacekeeping operations, which included advancing gender equality and empowering women and youth. The international community must work closely to address the increasingly complex global security challenges and uphold the basic principles of peacekeeping to maintain trust and credibility.

63. As a troop-contributing country, Myanmar supported every effort to strengthen United Nations peacekeeping operations, including the Secretary-General's Action for Peacekeeping initiative. It had endorsed the Declaration of Shared Commitments, and the Union Minister for International Cooperation had attended the high-level meeting on action for peacekeeping convened by the Secretary-General in September 2018.

64. Given their increasing complexity, peacekeeping mandates must be based on timely assessment and sound intelligence. Troops should be provided with the capabilities and resources necessary to fulfil those

mandates and ensure their own safety and security. Timely coordination and information-sharing among stakeholders would also contribute greatly to the prevention and resolution of future conflicts. Strategies implemented by missions to protect civilians should be routinely assessed. Moreover, there should be close interaction among host Governments, local authorities, local populations and relevant organizations, including community-based organizations and women and youth groups. It was also important to raise awareness and understanding of protection of civilians mandates, assess threats to civilians and help build trust and protective environments. Her delegation welcomed the publication of the 2018 military aide-memoire entitled "United Nations measures against sexual exploitation and abuse" and supported the Secretary-General's zero-tolerance policy.

65. Her Government had placed peace and national reconciliation at the heart of nation-building efforts and had made significant progress. The third session of the Union Peace Conference had been held in July 2018, during which an additional 14 basic principles had been adopted and added to the Union Accord. To commemorate the third anniversary of the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement, the Government and leaders of ethnic armed organizations had held a special meeting in Nay Pyi Taw in October 2018. Military personnel from Myanmar were currently serving in UNMISS, and Myanmar had joined the Special Committee in 2015. Her Government recognized the importance of financial and logistical support for peacekeeping operations and was fulfilling its obligations by paying its assessed contribution in full and on time.

66. **Mr. Anyanah** (Ghana) said that his delegation fully supported the Secretary-General's review of the peace and security architecture, particularly the importance given to conflict prevention and sustainable peace and development. International peacekeeping must evolve to better respond to the dramatic change in the nature and scale of armed conflicts. Intra-State conflicts had been compounded by organized crime, terrorism and gender-based violence and remained a major source of concern.

67. The deliberate targeting of peacekeepers had resulted in the highest number of fatalities in the history of peacekeeping operations. His delegation paid tribute to those who had paid the ultimate price in the line of duty and commended the selfless contributions of all peacekeepers. It supported the Secretary-General's call to redesign peacekeeping tools and mechanisms, as well as the rules of engagement, in order to address current threats. Troop- and police-contributing countries should receive technical assistance to enhance the capacity of

peacekeepers, and adequate and predictable financing would allow missions to better respond to evolving situations on the ground.

68. Sustainable peace required the commitment of all peacekeeping actors. There must be regular dialogue among the Secretariat, troop- and police-contributing countries, host countries, partners and other stakeholders. The Declaration of Shared Commitments set out a clear agenda that would hopefully guide the actions of all stakeholders to achieve excellence in peacekeeping.

69. As a pioneering troop-contributing country, Ghana had contributed approximately 100,000 uniformed personnel and civilians in various capacities to over 35 missions around the world since the 1960s. His delegation recognized the indispensable role of women in peacekeeping and supported the Secretariat's efforts to increase their participation in areas such as conflict prevention and resolution, mediation and mitigation. Since 1985, Ghana had increasingly deployed more women from both military and police formed units, and efforts were being made to improve gender parity and integration. The Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre in Ghana continued to build the capacities of uniformed and civilian personnel within the Economic Community of West African States by offering short courses on conflict management, conflict resolution and peacekeeping techniques. Since 2017, 56 members of the Ghana Armed Forces had received training on heavy engineering equipment, training of trainers and engineering project management under a triangular cooperation initiative with the United Nations and Japan. Ghana also continued to benefit from a bilateral training assistance programme on peacekeeping techniques with the United States of America.

70. The complexity of global security threats and the rise of intra-State conflicts had prompted a regional approach to security management. There must be stronger partnerships between the United Nations and regional and subregional bodies, which provided a forum for actors to address conflict. Effective peacekeeping on the African continent required additional resources for capacity-building and state-of-the-art equipment, as well as predictable and sustainable financing for peace operations.

71. **Ms. Plakalovic** (Serbia) said that the international community must strengthen multilateralism and the role of the United Nations in order to respond to current peacekeeping demands. Since 2002, Serbia had invested significant efforts to improve its engagement in peacekeeping. In 2015, the United Nations had certified

the United Nations Staff Officers Course offered by the Peacekeeping Operations Centre in Belgrade. In 2017, additional courses for military observers and the protection of civilians had been certified. Currently, 278 members of the Serbian Armed Forces were deployed in five United Nations missions and four European Union missions. Serbia was the largest troop-contributing country in South-Eastern Europe and ranked eleventh among European countries. Given its expertise and capacities in the field, it was represented most extensively in multinational operations by military medical personnel. Serbia had concluded a memorandum of understanding with the United Nations to contribute to the Peacekeeping Capability Readiness System, standing ready to deploy an aeromedical evacuation team, staff officers and military observers on short notice when needed. Furthermore, the Government was firmly committed to the implementation of Security Council resolution [1325 \(2000\)](#) and had increased the participation of women in international cooperation and multinational operations. As a result, women now represented over 11 per cent of Serbian soldiers and officers currently deployed.

72. Serbia was host to the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK), which played a pivotal role in promoting peace, security and respect for human rights for local communities in Kosovo and Metohija. UNMIK remained the only acceptable framework in which the international community could work together to improve the lives of ordinary people. In view of the complex political and security situation in the province, as well as the trust that the mission had garnered with the local population, UNMIK should remain engaged in the implementation of Security Council resolution [1244 \(1999\)](#). However, it would require the appropriate level of human and financial resources to address current and emerging challenges.

73. The Special Committee played an important role in determining the way forward for United Nations peacekeeping policy and would hopefully continue to provide strategic guidance on peacekeeping operations based on consensus and within the timeline set for its yearly activities. She commended all United Nations peacekeepers who risked their lives daily for peace and security and paid tribute to those who had made the ultimate sacrifice for those noble goals.

74. **Mr. Barro** (Senegal) said that his delegation appreciated the Secretary-General's Action for Peacekeeping initiative. Improving the efficiency of peacekeeping missions would require the mobilization of all actors, including the Secretariat, the Security Council, troop- and police-contributing countries, donor

countries, host countries and neighbouring States. Senegal had endorsed the Declaration of Shared Commitments, which would revitalize efforts to improve the inclusivity and performance of missions by prioritizing conflict prevention, mediation and regional and international early-warning systems. His Government reaffirmed its commitment to contribute to the success of operations in deploying well-trained, well-equipped men and women who maintained the highest standards of conduct.

75. The national training centre, built to United Nations standards, provided contingents with predeployment training that was based on lessons learned and tailored to the environment. It also raised awareness on the issue of sexual exploitation and abuse. In that connection, the President was a member of the circle of leadership and fully supported the zero-tolerance policy. Furthermore, the Government supported increasing the role of women in conflict prevention, management and resolution and had implemented a national policy to integrate women in defence and security forces. Missions must also have a strong political strategy that emphasized prevention and peacebuilding throughout their lifespans. In addition to the military and operational aspects of peacekeeping operations, efforts to ensure the success of political processes should also be given due consideration when measuring performance.

76. At the regional and subregional levels, Senegal would continue working with other actors, including the United Nations, the African Union and the Economic Community of Central African States, to prioritize prevention and mediation in the search for lasting peace. In that connection, his Government would host the fifth Dakar International Forum on Peace and Security in Africa in November 2018. The United Nations should continue to engage in discussions with the African Union, which was indispensable in seeking solutions to disputes in Africa, and should focus on the issue of predictable, sustainable financing for African Union peace support operations, pursuant to Security Council resolution 2320 (2016). Given the growing involvement of Francophone countries in peacekeeping operations, it was imperative to promote multilingualism. Lastly, his delegation strongly condemned any attack against United Nations personnel and paid homage to those men and women who had fallen in service to the Organization.

77. **Mr. Luzende** (Zambia) said that, as Chair of the Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation of the Southern African Development Community and as a member of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union, Zambia reaffirmed its commitment to

maintain peace and security at the regional, continental and international levels through enhanced participation in peacekeeping initiatives. It continued to play an active role in United Nations peacekeeping operations and had deployed over 1,000 troops and police, including a significant number of women, to four peacekeeping missions. The most recent deployment had been in September 2018 to the Central African Republic.

78. The United Nations continued to face various modern challenges, including the scope and complexity of demands and an increasingly difficult operational environment. His delegation reiterated its commitment to support United Nations efforts to increase the efficiency and operability of peacekeeping missions, the use of modern technology, protection for peacekeepers in the field and the participation of women in all phases of peacekeeping and peacebuilding. The Special Committee was to be commended for its important role in charting the way forward for peacekeeping policy and would hopefully continue to provide strategic guidance on peacekeeping operations based on consensus and within the timeline set for its yearly activities. In addition, the international community should step up its efforts to eliminate sexual exploitation by United Nations peacekeepers.

79. His Government was committed to fulfilling its current leadership role in the Southern African Development Community to the best of its capabilities. It sought to enhance the role of regional organizations in peacekeeping missions and increase partnership between global and regional organizations. Lastly, his delegation saluted all United Nations peacekeepers who selflessly risked their lives every day for the noble causes of peacekeeping and security.

80. **Mr. Hussar** (Romania) said that Romanian military, police and close protection officers had served in 25 United Nations missions since 1991. The international community must move beyond discussions and implement peacekeeping reforms so that operations could adapt to modern challenges and deliver quick, effective responses. Efforts must be focused on mobilizing greater support for high standards, real accountability and well-equipped and well-trained forces in the field. Despite the efforts of Member States to provide personnel, equipment and financial support, peacekeeping operations still faced difficulties that undermined their ability to deliver on their mandates. They must be more efficient on the ground; have a stronger focus on primacy of politics and diplomacy; encourage coherence among all stakeholders; enhance performance and accountability; improve the safety and security of peacekeepers; and implement the women,

peace and security agenda. In that connection, Romania strongly supported the Secretary-General's Action for Peacekeeping initiative and had endorsed the Declaration of Shared Commitments.

81. The Government was fully committed to the Secretary-General's strategy to prevent and end sexual exploitation and abuse by United Nations personnel and firmly supported the zero-tolerance policy. The President was also a member of the Secretary-General's circle of leadership, and Romania had signed the voluntary compact. Policies must be implemented in a consistent and coordinated manner to prevent sexual exploitation and abuse across the United Nations system, and perpetrators must be held accountable. His delegation would continue to support the activities of the Special Coordinator on Improving the United Nations Response to Sexual Exploitation and Abuse.

82. The participation of women in peacekeeping and peacebuilding processes was essential and had a direct impact on achieving sustainable peace, as women made significant contributions in reconstructing societies affected by armed conflict. Women peacekeepers had proven that they could perform the same tasks in the same difficult conditions as their male counterparts, while also improving operational efficiency by engaging with local female communities. Moreover, their presence in sensitive areas could encourage local women to become involved in decision-making at all levels.

83. **Mr. Charters** (Observer for the Holy See) said that conflict prevention and mediation must be brought to the fore in peace operations. All sectors of society must be involved in peacebuilding processes, as broad consultations and participatory mechanisms strengthened the legitimacy of the State and fostered trust among citizens. By establishing inclusive partnerships at all levels, conflict prevention, peacekeeping and peacebuilding became community efforts, thereby contributing to lasting peace and stability. The full participation of women in peace and security and their contributions to United Nations peacekeeping missions could not be overemphasized. They were agents of change on the ground and had a particular capacity to forgive and take the first steps in the healing and reconciliation process. Moreover, the root causes of conflicts must be addressed meaningfully and objectively. Development, security and human rights were closely interrelated. Given that injustices gave rise to violence, inclusive and sustainable development was not only an end in itself but also the best defence against violent conflicts.

84. The use of forced displacement as a military tactic by States and non-State actors gave cause for concern, as it had particularly disastrous consequences for minority populations, including religious minorities. The values expressed in the Charter of the United Nations, particularly respect for fundamental human rights and the dignity and worth of the human person, must be at the heart of the international response to address the plight of millions of refugees and forcibly displaced persons. On various occasions, Pope Francis had urged everyone to welcome, protect, promote and integrate them in the spirit of compassion and solidarity.

85. His delegation commended the United Nations peacekeeping missions and the sacrifices made by peacekeepers who, in many instances, had made the ultimate self-offering in the interest of peace. The Holy See reiterated its commitment to collaborate on conflict prevention and resolution, post-conflict stabilization and peace consolidation.

*The meeting rose at 12.40 p.m.*