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## Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee)

### Summary record of the 15th meeting

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Tuesday, 28 October 2014, at 10 a.m.

*Chair:* Mr. Bhattarai ..... (Nepal)

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Agenda item 52: Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects

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

**Agenda item 52: Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects**

1. **Mr. Ladsous** (Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations) said that United Nations peacekeeping operations were working with commitment and courage, operating in remote areas, across wide distances and in increasingly hostile environments; they supported sensitive political processes, shored up weak state institutions, and reached out to local communities caught in violence and conflict. Regional dimensions and factors such as terrorism, transnational crime and armed groups using sophisticated armaments and techniques, hindered the resolution of conflicts that, though fewer in number than in the past, were more deeply rooted, for example in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Darfur and South Sudan, which were in a second or third wave of conflict. Two thirds of peacekeepers were currently deployed in situations of ongoing conflict, where peace agreements were fragile or absent. The recent outbreak of the Ebola virus threatened to have devastating economic, social and security-related consequences for West Africa and must be tackled through coordinated international efforts.

2. In response to those situations, the Security Council had approved comprehensive and at times robust mandates for peacekeeping operations. It had also mandated the rehatting of African Union forces in Mali and the Central African Republic, which indicated a strategic shift in the way in which forces and capabilities were generated. Member States must collectively seek creative solutions to tackle the constantly evolving challenges faced by the 117,000 peacekeeping personnel currently serving in 16 missions.

3. The High-level Independent Panel on United Nations Peace Operations soon to be established by the Secretary-General to review all peacekeeping operations would work closely with troop- and police-contributing countries and ensure synergy with other review processes in order to shape recommendations that had a strong impact. The Secretary-General would prepare a report on those recommendations in advance of the seventieth session of the General Assembly; it would cover peacekeeping operations and special political missions.

4. The work of the Panel and the efforts of the international community should focus on three main challenges. The first challenge was safety and security. Peacekeepers had recently been the target of often deadly attacks in various countries, in flagrant violation of international law. For example, terrorist groups had laid mines and used improvised explosive devices (IEDs) to target checkpoints of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) and there had been carjackings in Darfur, kidnappings in the Golan Heights and a fatal ambush in Bangui. In just the first two weeks of October, 15 peacekeepers had been killed in hostile attacks. He strongly condemned all attacks against United Nations peacekeeping personnel and called on host countries to bring the perpetrators of such attacks to justice. He commended the recent swift response of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) to secure the release of all detained peacekeepers, noting that additional capabilities had been sought to provide improved situational awareness and that the mission's posture had been adjusted in response to potential new threats. Safety and security were the collective responsibility of host Governments, the United Nations and Member States; for its part, the United Nations must update its policies, strategies and techniques to address new types of threats, including IEDs, which would involve reinforcing its vehicles and its compounds and adapting pre-deployment training, all of which would have resource implications.

5. The second challenge was civilian protection, which was the main priority of peacekeeping operations, as highlighted by the Secretary-General's Human Rights Up Front initiative, and could not be achieved through presence alone. In addition to adequate resources and capabilities, factors such as determination, flexibility, timely decision-making and innovative solutions were required to address threats to civilian safety. Those qualities had recently been demonstrated in South Sudan, where peacekeeping camps and bases had been opened up to about 100,000 civilians; in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, where peacekeepers had refused to back down in the face of threats to vulnerable people and state authority was gaining ground over armed groups; and in the Central African Republic, where an innovative joint military and police task force was helping to secure and stabilize the capital. The mandate to protect civilians should be adjusted to take a more proactive

approach aimed at anticipating potential threats. Despite their best efforts, peacekeepers could not protect everyone; they must do their utmost in the field while insisting that host States meet their obligations to protect civilians.

6. The third challenge was to support reconciliation efforts through peacebuilding and the promotion of political dialogue, which had always been a key element of peacekeeping operations. However, without sufficient political will and a viable road map, peacebuilding efforts could be severely hindered, as had been demonstrated in the crisis in South Sudan. Reconciliation created the necessary conditions to ensure civilian protection and the safety and security of peacekeepers. Peacekeeping operations must support the good offices efforts of Special Representatives of the Secretary-General, remain impartial at all times and be prepared to make the most of every political opportunity to strengthen democracy, government functions and the rule of law and promote disarmament and security, in close cooperation with national and development partners.

7. In view of those challenges, he recommended a number of priorities to strengthen peacekeeping. First, the capabilities of peacekeepers must be strengthened to safeguard their safety and security. In that regard, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Field Support had recently created a medium-term strategic agenda for uniformed capability development to complement the ongoing work on United Nations standards for military units. Implementation of the strategic agenda, which was supported by 45 States, was due to begin in early 2015. The Office for Peacekeeping Strategic Partnership was now fully operational; it worked closely with troop- and police-contributing countries and made recommendations for improvements to peacekeeping operations, in particular to enhance the safety, security and welfare of uniformed personnel, incorporating lessons learned and best practices.

8. Reimbursement frameworks for troops and contingency-owned equipment were being revised, including the introduction of a new premium for the accelerated deployment of enabling capabilities particularly for new missions, as well as new provisions for the rotation of ageing contingent-owned equipment and a new premium for peacekeepers who had shown exceptional performance in situations of risk. Modern technology, used appropriately, was a

critical tool for strengthening capability; for example, the recent introduction of unmanned aerial vehicles in the Democratic Republic of the Congo had helped peacekeeping forces to monitor the movements of armed groups and better protect vulnerable populations. The Department's high-level panel on technology and innovation of the Department for Peacekeeping Operations would share its findings by the end of the year.

9. More major contributors to peacekeeping were needed, in addition to increased engagement from existing contributors, to ensure that appropriate capabilities were available. In that respect, he said that 31 countries had announced new military and police contributions at the recent summit on strengthening international peace operations held as a side-event of the general debate. The summit would be followed up by additional meetings throughout 2015, including a gathering in February 2015 of the chiefs of defence staff of current and potential contributors.

10. A second, related priority was rapid deployment. While specialized expertise was already rapidly deployed through the Standing Police Capacity, the Justice and Corrections Standing Capacity and the Mine Action Service's rapid-response team, rapid deployment was proving more difficult to achieve in such areas as engineering, air and ground transport and medical support. The Department, which was working to improve its own internal processes, called on Member States to fully prepare peacekeeping troops for deployment in advance of the adoption of Security Council resolutions. It also urged Member States to support its efforts to establish a formed police standby capacity.

11. Thirdly, cooperation was needed to establish predictable standby arrangements with regional organizations, which played a vital role as partners for political engagement and many other elements of crisis response. To that end, he had dedicated much time to strengthening partnerships with organizations including the African Union, the Economic Community of Central African States, the Economic Community of West African States, the European Union, the National Counter-Terrorism and Security Office and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

12. A fourth priority was to improve intelligence and situational awareness; there was a need to enhance the collection and analysis of a range of intelligence

sources so as to ensure informed decision-making at the tactical, operational and strategic levels. In that endeavour, technology had great potential; for example, the all sources intelligence fusion unit (ASIFU) in Mali would soon be operational, providing unprecedented capacity for gathering information on threats to civilians and peacekeeping personnel. He thanked the Governments of Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, the Netherlands, Norway and Sweden for their provision of intelligence units to ASIFU and expressed the hope that other countries would consider providing similar enabling capacities in other missions.

13. A fifth priority was performance. The Department continued to implement the Secretary-General's zero-tolerance policy against sexual exploitation or abuse by peacekeepers and had also introduced new clear-cut and non-negotiable policies on personal conduct applicable to all persons who worked for the United Nations or were supported by it. He urged Member States to cooperate to ensure the full implementation of the distinct yet complementary human rights due diligence policy (HRDDP) and policy on human rights screening of United Nations personnel and thanked all Member States that had already done so.

14. The sixth priority was to help extend State authority in the form of police, courts, prisons and local authorities to enable countries to build and sustain peace themselves. That effort would require the enhancement of integrated planning, linked to appropriate financing arrangements, as well as the adjustment of mission postures in response to unfolding events. To improve coherence across United Nations country teams and missions, common funding pools could be created, perhaps with the participation of international financial institutions. The Global Focal Point for Police, Justice and Corrections had made notable progress in reinforcing the rule of law, for example by supporting a single rule of law framework in the Central African Republic and funding a project to support the rule of law aspects of the Ebola virus in Liberia. Ultimately, lasting peace in any country required functioning and legitimate local state institutions which could protect their own citizens and provide basic services.

15. United Nations peacekeeping resources must be managed effectively and efficiently. To that end, he had established a periodic review process to ensure optimal allocation of resources and civilian staffing reviews to ensure that civilian staffing was in line with evolving

mandates. Ultimately, peacekeeping was a political instrument which depended on international political support; systemic change was difficult to achieve, however, when faced with a diverse set of stakeholders and unrelenting demands on the ground. In conclusion, he paid tribute to the brave men and women who served as peacekeepers and expressed his condolences to the families and friends of the many peacekeepers who had lost their lives in service, including more than 100 over the past year, and pledged to continue their honourable work in the cause of peace.

16. **Ms. Haq** (Under-Secretary-General for Field Support) paid tribute to the 104 peacekeepers who had lost their lives in 2014. She acknowledged the commitments made at the recent Summit on Strengthening International Peace Operations, from new and returning contributors. She also recognized the commitments in the context of trilateral cooperation efforts involving troop contributors, the United Nations, and the providers of equipment and training.

17. In 2010, the Department of Field Support had launched the Global Field Support Strategy in an effort to become more strategic, efficient and effective and provide higher-quality and more timely support. The Department would conclude that strategy by 1 July 2015, and would need to take stock of progress, draw lessons from experience and define the way forward. The Secretary-General's review of peacekeeping operations therefore came at an opportune moment for the Department in determining how fit it was for purpose, given the changes that had taken place in mandates, deployment and operating environments.

18. Peacekeeping conditions had grown more complex and dangerous the issuance of the report of the Panel on United Nations Peace Operations ([A/55/305-S/2000/809](#)) in 2000. Peacekeepers were now being asked to take on increasingly demanding tasks, such as sheltering civilians inside their bases and confronting civil breakdowns. Under the Secretary-General's Human Rights Up Front initiative, peacekeepers were at the forefront of preventing and stopping human rights violations and all too often, the United Nations itself was seen as a target. Those high-risk operating environments posed new challenges for mission support. Some 127,000 personnel were currently deployed in over 30 countries, including the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) and special political missions. In July 2014, the Department of Safety and Security assessed that over 40 per cent of

peacekeepers' areas of operation were substantially, highly or extremely dangerous compared with only 25 per cent three years previously. The threats had grown more diverse and included terrorism, transnational crime, natural disaster and epidemics. The past month had been one of the most difficult on record in terms of the number of peacekeepers lost. That reality significantly increased the need for fast and flexible support, while ensuring transparency and compliance with administrative rules and regulations. Reconciling the need for speed with the need for procedural compliance would require determination and creative thinking.

19. In recent years, under the Global Field Support Strategy, the Department's focus on innovation, reform and improvement had enabled it to make significant progress. In 2013-2014, the Department's operational costs across United Nations-led missions had been some \$500 million, or 20 per cent less than in 2009-2010, despite similar levels of uniformed deployment. Shared services had enabled it to create economies of scale in finance, human resources and transport. Through regular reviews of mission staffing, it had contained civilian personnel costs and eliminated more than 3,000 support jobs in United Nations-led missions since 2008-2009, in addition to similar reductions on the substantive side. As a result, spending per deployed peacekeeper had dropped 16 per cent in five years.

20. The Department had recently conducted a large-scale survey across its missions which had indicated that more than 60 per cent of civilian and uniformed personnel were generally satisfied with support services and most of them recognized recent improvements. Nevertheless, there were still areas where the Department could do better and it was committed to further increasing client satisfaction and delivering services that were faster and more flexible, more cost-efficient and effective, and more accountable and transparent. The Department remained fully committed to preventing and addressing misconduct by personnel deployed in field operations, bearing in mind the zero tolerance policy against sexual exploitation or abuse. It was also fully engaged in advancing the enhanced programme of action introduced by the Secretary-General in his latest report on special measures for protection from sexual exploitation and abuse. In the past two years, the number of overall allegations received had continued to decline. She and the Under-

Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations had recently issued a joint statement to uniformed and non-uniformed personnel reiterating the zero tolerance policy and reminding all those associated with United Nations peacekeeping of the high standards of conduct that they were expected to uphold.

21. Looking ahead, the Department would focus on the immediate priorities for peacekeeping, such as improving safety and security, enabling more rapid deployment, encouraging the use of appropriate technology and innovation and strengthening core internal processes. Peacekeepers needed capabilities to match the challenges they faced, including robust situational awareness, updated standards and manuals and effective equipment. As part of the capability development agenda that the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Field Support had embarked upon, peacekeepers needed to be prepared, trained and equipped, not only for IEDs and other terrorist threats, but also for natural disasters and epidemics such as Ebola. They must also be accompanied by key enablers such as engineering companies, medical services and air assets that would allow them to carry out their work. Too often, the imperative to deploy had taken priority without due regard for the equipment, self-sustainment, and training and capabilities that enabled troops to function effectively and safely.

22. The Department had learned from experiences in Mali and the Central African Republic, among other places, and, just over a month after the authorization of the United Nations Mission for Ebola Emergency Response (UNMEER), it already had dozens of staff on the ground in four countries actively coordinating aid efforts and assisting in the fight against Ebola. Regional organizations also had an important role to play in ensuring rapid deployment. While rehatting regional forces as blue helmets could well become more common in mission start-ups, much remained to be done to ensure that the transition was smooth and that those troops met United Nations standards. It was encouraging that Member States were increasingly trying to support troop- and police-contributing countries that did not have the requisite enablers. She advocated a strengthened triangular partnership between Member States that could provide troops, Member States that could provide enablers, and the United Nations.

23. The Department needed to make better use of technology to help its peacekeepers do their jobs more effectively. To that end, she and the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations had established an Expert Panel on Technology and Innovation to make recommendations on how peacekeeping could leverage technology and innovation to maximum effect. The Department was committed to exploring technologies that improved its ability to keep peacekeepers safe and protect civilians, including the deployment of unarmed unmanned aerial vehicles in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

24. The 2014 review of the personnel reimbursement framework had coincided with the triennial meeting of the Contingent-Owned Equipment Working Group; in addition to updating the reimbursement rates for both personnel and contingent-owned equipment to reflect the costs of Member States' participation in peacekeeping, the membership had agreed on a number of measures that would allow the Department to better respond to the challenges of peacekeeping. The General Assembly had authorised two premium payments for operational risk and the rapid deployment of important enabling capabilities and linked payment of personnel reimbursement to the existence of the contingent owned equipment (COE) that was essential to enable military and police units to carry out their work. She was confident that the new regime to cover COE transport costs to replace ageing items in the field would help the Department maintain capabilities. Thanks to the work of the COE Working Group, the General Assembly had also agreed to a number of important additions to the required COE which would enhance medical support for peacekeepers and strengthen the crowd control capabilities of police units.

25. Despite some challenges during its roll-out, the Department's enterprise resource planning system, Umoja, had already demonstrated its potential to help mission leadership manage operations on the basis of reliable, real-time data. The Department continued to work with its partners to bring about a seamless information management network linking field and Headquarters entities.

26. Looking ahead, she stressed the importance of appropriately delegating authority to empower mission leadership. The governance structures for peacekeeping operations must enable success in the field, particularly by ensuring speed and flexibility together with efficiency and accountability. Failure to align

accountability with the appropriate authority could create obstacles. She hoped that the High-level Independent Panel would consider that challenge.

27. **The Chair** said that the meeting would be suspended for an informal dialogue between Member States, the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations and the Under-Secretary-General for Field Support.

*The meeting was suspended at 11.05 a.m. and resumed at 11.20 a.m.*

28. **Mr. Hilale** (Morocco), speaking on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement, said that the role of troop-contributing countries in the overall peacekeeping process was a top priority for the Non-Aligned Movement. Those countries must participate fully in policy formulation and decision-making, if United Nations peacekeeping was to be effective. Moreover, the troop-contributing countries could no longer bear the burden of subsidizing United Nations peacekeeping operations.

29. United Nations peacekeeping was at a crucial juncture as a result of the growing demand for new missions and the increasing complexity of mandates that went beyond political and military responsibilities, thereby straining the capacities of the Organization and of the troop-contributing countries. The continuous increase in the activities of peacekeeping operations required, inter alia, improved capacity to assess conflict situations, effective planning based on accurate information, and rapid response to emergencies in keeping with the Charter of the United Nations. Peacekeeping operations should not be used as an alternative to addressing the root causes of a conflict or as a way of managing a conflict, but should be based on a comprehensive and coherent vision to be implemented through political, social and developmental tools in order to secure a smooth transition to lasting peace, security and sustainable development.

30. The Non-Aligned Movement encouraged the Secretariat to engage with Member States in order to define the scope, modalities and terms of reference of the comprehensive review of peacekeeping operations. Concepts, policies and strategies had to be developed at the intergovernmental level, in conjunction with stronger development, planning and oversight capacities, and the necessary resources for implementing peacekeeping mandates effectively must be assured. The Non-Aligned

Movement stressed its commitment to support all efforts aimed at achieving effective peacekeeping operations.

31. The establishment of any peacekeeping operation or the extension of the mandate of existing operations should strictly observe the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the basic principles of peacekeeping, namely the consent of the parties, non-use of force except in self-defence and impartiality. Respect for the principles of sovereign equality, political independence, territorial integrity of all States and non-intervention in matters that were essentially within their domestic jurisdiction should also be upheld.

32. It was important to ensure that only ideas, approaches and policies that had been adopted by Member States collectively were implemented; the Secretariat should refrain from working on streams of policy that had not been agreed upon in an intergovernmental process. The Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations was the sole body in charge of policymaking in peacekeeping.

33. It was essential to provide all necessary support, including financial and human resources, as well as military and civilian capabilities, to peacekeeping missions, which must carry out their tasks within a framework of full respect for the host country and its laws and regulations. It was also necessary to avoid changing the mandated tasks of peacekeeping missions without prior consultations with the troop-contributing countries.

34. Another requirement was for the Security Council to draft clear and achievable mandates, based on an objective assessment, and after ensuring that the mandates had the necessary political support and resources. Integrated planning and a consistent approach were key to success on the ground, as was effective triangular cooperation between troop-contributing countries, the Secretariat and the Security Council.

35. The Non-Aligned Movement reiterated its position on the use of force by peacekeeping operations and emphasized the need for further consultations with Member States on ways and means of protecting the safety of peacekeeping personnel, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and the basic principles; safety was becoming a major concern in view of the growing number of losses and casualties. More attention should be paid to exit strategies, through increased efforts to settle disputes as the primary goal of

such strategies. Integration between peacekeeping and peacebuilding should be enhanced, so that peacekeeping efforts were accompanied by economic recovery and capacity-building on the basis of national ownership. The Peacebuilding Commission and the Peacebuilding Fund had a significant role to play in that regard, by engaging at an early stage. The objective should not be peacekeeping cost-cutting, but rather enhancing the State's potential to avoid a relapse into conflict.

36. Protection of civilians, where mandated, had to support national efforts, since the primary responsibility lay with States to protect their civilians. Such protection should not be used as a pretext for military intervention by the United Nations in conflicts. Particular attention should be paid to the current lack of resources for peacekeeping operations and the difficulty of providing troops and equipment for military operations. In addition, in the light of the growing role and responsibilities of police personnel in peacekeeping operations, care should be taken to avoid duplication of tasks between military and police components.

37. The Non-Aligned Movement strongly believed that the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security lay with the United Nations and that the role of regional arrangements should accord with Chapter VIII of the Charter. At the same time, the Non-Aligned Movement called for stronger United Nations support for African Union peacekeeping operations by ensuring predictable and sustainable funding for those missions.

38. There should be extensive consultations on the implementation of the Global Field Support Strategy, in order to address the challenges of logistical and administrative support for peacekeeping operations. Progress in the areas of modularization, human resources management, procurement and service centres would provide peacekeeping missions with high-quality field support.

39. Although the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations was the only body entitled to review United Nations peacekeeping operations in all their aspects, it was clear from the proceedings of its previous session that more political will was needed in order to ensure effectiveness and achieve the desired goals of the United Nations and troop-contributing countries. The adoption of the Special Committee's report by consensus remained a top priority for the Non-Aligned Movement.

40. The Non-Aligned Movement welcomed the increase in rates of reimbursement to troop-contributing countries. The members of the Non-Aligned Movement, which comprised most if not all the top troop- and police-contributing countries, were continuing to increase their contributions of military and police personnel, as well as civilian experts, thereby demonstrating their clear commitment to the maintenance of international peace and security. He paid tribute to the men and women of the United Nations who were performing peacekeeping activities, and in particular to those peacekeepers who had lost their lives in the field.

41. **Mr. Amarchgul** (Thailand), speaking on behalf of the members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), said that ASEAN paid tribute to the men and women serving in United Nations peacekeeping operations, which continued to play a key role in the maintenance of international peace and security and remained a beacon of hope for those suffering in armed conflicts. ASEAN was pleased that the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations had concluded its substantive session with the adoption of a report (A/68/19) which provided important policy guidance and addressed the new challenges faced by United Nations peacekeeping operations.

42. Peacekeepers' safety and security was an issue that needed to be urgently addressed. ASEAN strongly condemned any act of violence against peacekeepers and urged that intensified collective efforts should be made to address that challenge as a matter of urgency. As United Nations peacekeeping faced new challenges, the international community must ensure that field missions remained effective, well-equipped and adequately supported to address new challenges. It was crucial for peacekeepers to receive sufficient training and have access to protective equipment, and that field missions should have access to modern technology, on a case by case basis. The importance of information-sharing between Joint Operation Centres and Joint Mission Analysis Centres should not be underestimated. In addition, regular monitoring and reviews should be conducted to serve as the basis for future decision-making on peacekeeping matters. Peacekeepers must also be fairly and equitably compensated. ASEAN welcomed the Fifth Committee's agreement on increasing the reimbursement rate, but reiterated that it still fell short of the Senior Advisory Group's recommendations.

43. ASEAN reaffirmed its longstanding position that any peacekeeping mission must uphold the principles embodied in the Charter of the United Nations, particularly sovereignty and territorial integrity, as well as the basic principles of United Nations peacekeeping. The mandate of any peacekeeping mission must be clear, realistic and achievable, and missions must be provided with adequate resources to implement increasingly complex mandates. Inclusive and timely consultations between the Security Council, the Secretariat and troop- and police-contributing countries were critical to the success of peacekeeping operations. ASEAN encouraged the Secretariat to inform Member States about progress made in the comprehensive review of peace operations announced by the Secretary-General. Field experience was invaluable to understanding the situation on the ground; ASEAN therefore appreciated the practice of inviting force commanders to brief and interact with troop-contributing countries.

44. The success of peacekeeping operations was measured by their ability not only to end a conflict, but also to establish and maintain sustainable peace. Peacekeepers therefore needed to have relevant peacebuilding training on civilian capacities and institution-building to ensure a successful transition to sustainable peace.

45. ASEAN was committed to working closely with United Nations peacekeeping. Almost 4,000 ASEAN peacekeepers were currently taking part in various peacekeeping missions around the world. ASEAN welcomed Viet Nam as the latest member of the community of troop-contributing countries, following the deployment of Vietnamese peacekeepers in South Sudan in June 2014. Peacekeeping was also one of the key elements of regional cooperation under the ASEAN Political-Security Community. Good progress had been made in the establishment of the ASEAN Peacekeeping Centres Network, which would serve as a focal point for coordination among ASEAN national authorities on peacekeeping. The ASEAN Regional Forum and the ASEAN Defence Minister's Meeting Plus continued to be vital forums for discussing peace and security issues at the policy level, as well as peacekeeping operations. The continued participation of ASEAN in the Association of Asia-Pacific Peace Operations Training Centres enhanced dialogue between peacekeeping practitioners in the region on the issues of training and standards.



46. Speaking in his national capacity, he said that, since the deployment of the first United Nations peacekeeping mission, Thailand had supported that important work of the United Nations by sending its peacekeepers to over 20 peacekeeping missions. Currently, Thai peacekeepers were deployed in Sudan, South Sudan, Kashmir, Liberia, Haiti and Côte d'Ivoire and his country was always looking for opportunities to increase its presence in and contribution to peacekeeping operations. Thailand's understanding that peace and security, and human rights and development, were interconnected had always informed its approach to peacekeeping. Its peacekeepers were trained to respect and understand other cultures and values. Through interaction with local people, Thai peacekeepers provided assistance in local and community development by sharing best practices in agriculture, water and land management, health care and sufficiency economy. They had served successfully in many United Nations peacekeeping operations, including in Timor-Leste, Haiti and Darfur.

47. Experience had shown that female peacekeepers could gain the trust and confidence of local women and communities, particularly in areas where violence against and exploitation of women and children were prevalent. Thailand fully supported the call in Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) and subsequent resolutions for integrating a gender perspective in all United Nations peacekeeping operations and firmly believed that women were instrumental to the success of peacekeeping and post-conflict rebuilding.

48. **Mr. Mendoza-García** (Costa Rica), speaking on behalf of the member States of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), said that CELAC considered that a thorough and systematic analysis was needed to improve the effectiveness of peacekeeping operations and to maintain the credibility of the United Nations. As United Nations peacekeeping played a central role in the maintenance of international peace and security, its operational capacity and organizational structure must be strengthened. In addition, when establishing any peacekeeping operation or extending any mission mandate, the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations must be strictly observed, especially respect for the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of States and non-interference in their internal affairs; as well as the guiding principles of peacekeeping operations.

49. To be truly effective, peacekeeping operations required, from the start, political support, sufficient human, financial and logistical resources, and clearly defined and feasible mandates. A clear exit strategy even before the approval and deployment of any mission was indispensable, bearing in mind that the evaluation of the deadlines for the transition and withdrawal of peacekeeping missions depended on an objective and progressive assessment of whether the national capacities of the host States were developed enough to allow for a sustainable transition and ultimately a long-term sustainable development strategy.

50. CELAC, stressing once again the importance of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations as the sole and irreplaceable intergovernmental body authorized to make a comprehensive review of the whole question of United Nations peacekeeping operations in all its aspects, reiterated its strong commitment to the revitalization of that Committee. The CELAC member countries would make every effort to ensure that the Special Committee's report continued to be a relevant, analytical and substantive tool for strengthening the global peacekeeping partnership. That was all the more important in view of recent complex developments such as the establishment, on an exceptional basis, of an Intervention Brigade with an offensive mandate under the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO). The effect such a mandate could have on future United Nations operations needed to be carefully considered, taking into account the possible impact on United Nations peacekeeping, including its basic principles, in particular the principle of impartiality, safety and security of peacekeepers and protection of civilians. CELAC supported the growing interaction of the Special Committee with the Security Council, the Peacebuilding Commission, the Fifth Committee, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Field Support, and believed it should be expanded to other bodies such as the Department of Political Affairs.

51. CELAC supported the request to the Security Council to continue to meet privately with troop- and police-contributing countries prior to holding its own consultations; the Council should also take into account the views of those countries when considering the renewal of mission mandates, as they needed to participate in the formulation of policies and in

decision-making on matters such as deployment, transition and other major changes in an operation.

52. Considering the increasing number and complexity of special political missions, particularly those with a field presence, and their relationship to peacekeeping operations, CELAC awaited the debate on the report requested from the Secretary-General in paragraph 4 of General Assembly resolution 68/85, with a view to making special political missions more transparent, accountable and efficient.

53. It was essential to ensure the highest level of ethical conduct on the part of peacekeeping personnel; CELAC reiterated its deep commitment to the United Nations zero tolerance policy against sexual exploitation and abuse, and to the prompt investigation of all acts of misconduct and full accountability, in accordance with due process of law and the relevant memorandums of understanding. CELAC welcomed the systematic steps taken to eliminate and prevent misconduct, including the registration and follow-up of all complaints of misconduct. Given the vital role that women played in conflict prevention and resolution, their full participation in the maintenance and promotion of peace and security should be encouraged.

54. There could not be sustainable peace without efforts to fight poverty, hunger and inequality. For that reason, there was a need for better coordination between peacekeeping operations and the United Nations peacebuilding architecture, including the agencies, funds and programmes, as well as the Peacebuilding Commission, acting in close coordination with national authorities. It was important that peacebuilding tasks, especially early peacebuilding, should be properly included in peacekeeping mandates, since they constituted a critical pillar of mission success, not only helping missions to engage with the local population but also serving as a key tool in conflict prevention. Because the long-term sustainability of the peacekeeping system depended on ensuring that countries wishing to contribute to missions had the capacity to do so, reimbursements must be made in an efficient and timely manner.

55. CELAC reaffirmed its solidarity with the Government and people of Haiti and reiterated its commitment to continue to contribute troops and police personnel to the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH). It reaffirmed the importance of adequate planning for a responsible transition of the

Mission, with the full participation of the Haitian Government in the process and in close contact with troop- and police-contributing countries. The international efforts to help Haiti must be part of a sustainable and comprehensive long-term strategy, under the guidance and leadership of the Government of Haiti, and with full respect for its sovereignty.

56. **Mr. Griffin** (Australia), speaking on behalf of the CANZ group of countries, said that CANZ welcomed the Secretary-General's call for a strategic review of United Nations peacekeeping and looked forward to specific and realistic recommendations for tangible change. It was essential to ensure that the United Nations and Member States were able to generate and mobilize capabilities adequately prepared to respond to crises quickly, to conduct mandated operations effectively and efficiently, and to play a constructive role in laying the groundwork for sustainable peace.

57. As consistent standards and adequate guidance were critical to generating properly prepared forces, CANZ strongly supported the ongoing development of military unit manuals as an element of the United Nations operational readiness assurance framework. Effective oversight mechanisms must be in place to support the new standards in order to ensure their consistent application. CANZ also strongly supported the role of the Office for Peacekeeping Strategic Partnership in providing the vital oversight needed to ensure that deployed military and police forces were meeting the operational needs of missions and encouraged a strong partnership between that Office, peacekeeping missions and troop- and police-contributing countries, with open and regular communication to improve the effectiveness of deployed military and police units.

58. Consistent and coherent training of peacekeepers to United Nations standards, particularly during the predeployment phase, was a critical component of operational effectiveness. The increased integration of e-learning into training efforts would be of significant benefit. For some training topics, e-learning could offer the advantage of easy access to low-cost, standardized training materials for a widely dispersed population of military, police and civilian peacekeepers. CANZ therefore welcomed further Secretariat efforts to develop the peacekeeping training architecture, including a coherent allocation of resources to better support training needs.

59. The evolution of modern peacekeeping had led to an increased demand for United Nations police. At the same time, United Nations police required an increasingly sophisticated and broader range of capabilities, including to counter transnational organized crime and terrorism, to be able to successfully carry out their mandated tasks. CANZ welcomed the efforts made by the United Nations police division to advance the strategic guidance framework, providing contemporary policy and training for core police operational functions. It also recognized the significant work undertaken by the police division on the development of its multi-year strategic plan to provide a clear road map for United Nations police both at Headquarters and in the field. Noting the increasingly important role played by policing in peacekeeping and post-conflict peacebuilding, in November 2014, Australia would convene the first ever dedicated Security Council meeting with heads of United Nations police components, which it hoped would become an annual event.

60. As recent crises in Nigeria, Syria, Iraq, and South Sudan had demonstrated, sexual violence in conflict remained a dreadful reality. In addition to being disproportionately the victims of sexual violence, women were all too often side-lined from the peace and security process. CANZ welcomed the recent publication of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations/Department of Field Support Gender Forward Looking Strategy 2014-2018 and called for timely implementation of that strategy, as well as relevant Security Council resolutions on conflict-related sexual violence and on strengthening women's participation and leadership to resolve conflict and promote sustainable peace and security. CANZ continued to call for increased appointments of women in United Nations missions, and further mainstreaming of gender perspectives across budgeting, planning, and operations.

61. CANZ was pleased that the General Assembly had reached a consensus on the 2014/15 peacekeeping budget; it also welcomed the ongoing implementation of General Assembly resolution 67/261. It hoped that new and strengthened measures to maximize operational efficiency and effectiveness would emerge from the Secretary-General's review.

62. Protection of civilians remained central to the credibility and overall effectiveness of multidimensional peacekeeping missions. The expectations in Chapter VII

missions were clear: intervention without hesitation when civilians were under attack, and the use of force when necessary. While the primary responsibility to protect civilians lay with host Governments, United Nations missions with a protection of civilians mandate must have proactive and preventive strategies and a common understanding of their obligations for both prevention and intervention. CANZ encouraged further analysis and guidance for peacekeeping missions, particularly on flexible mission-wide early-warning capabilities, and on the support to be provided to host Governments to exercise their responsibilities. Moreover, resourcing of the protection of civilians coordination unit within the Secretariat should be prioritized to appropriately reflect the centrality of that imperative to peacekeeping. More staff should be dedicated to protection advice and coordination within missions.

63. Operational efficiency and effectiveness also depended on ensuring that appropriate technologies were brought into United Nations peacekeeping. Technological advances were already enabling some missions to improve situational awareness, decision-making and the performance of mandated tasks, thus saving lives. CANZ welcomed the successful use of unmanned unarmed aerial vehicles in MONUSCO and strongly supported their use in MINUSMA, the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS), the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA) and other missions. It hoped that the outcomes of the Expert Panel on Technology and Innovation in United Nations Peacekeeping would provide innovative approaches to contemporary operational challenges.

64. Recent changes in strategies and equipment, such as the establishment of the quick reaction force and efforts to counter the growing threat from IEDs, had proved indispensable in the face of a changing security environment. However, shortfalls in critical enablers such as helicopters hindered the operational mobility of missions, impeded mandate implementation and impacted on the safety and security of peacekeepers. CANZ reiterated its requests to the Secretariat to review and improve processes governing the deployment, utilization and operation of military helicopters in missions. As the safety and security of United Nations troops, police and civilians were threatened more than ever before by insurrection,

insurgency and terrorism, further support was needed to assist peacekeepers in tracking and managing illicit weapons flows and implementing arms embargoes.

65. In order to achieve a stable and sustainable peace, security sector reform efforts must be supported throughout the United Nations system. CANZ welcomed the adoption of the first-ever stand-alone Security Council resolution on security sector reform, resolution 2151 (2014), and the progress made in developing a comprehensive, coherent and coordinated normative framework. The 2015 review of the peacebuilding architecture was an opportunity for the United Nations to assess its approach to peacebuilding in post-conflict countries, focusing on local ownership and the prevention of a relapse into conflict.

66. Supporting stronger partnerships with regional and subregional organizations in United Nations peace and security efforts was crucial, as those organizations often had a better understanding of the issues; knew the parties concerned; could generate a force rapidly; and could use all those attributes to help set and implement mandates which complemented regional political efforts. More could be done to improve support to, and partnership with, regional organizations across the whole spectrum of the United Nations peacekeeping agenda.

67. CANZ commended the service of the men and women deployed in peacekeeping operations, and paid special tribute to those who had made the ultimate sacrifice in the name of peace.

68. **Mr. Vrailas** (Observer for the European Union), speaking also on behalf of the candidate countries Albania, Iceland, Montenegro, Serbia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia; the stabilization and association process country Bosnia and Herzegovina; and, in addition, Georgia, Liechtenstein, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine, acknowledged the demanding conditions faced by peacekeepers and paid tribute to those who had lost their lives in service; the European Union would lead efforts to reach agreement on a resolution on the safety and security of humanitarian personnel and the protection of United Nations personnel.

69. Peacekeeping was in continuous evolution as the international community had to adapt to ever changing crises that were complex and increasingly involved a large number of non-State actors, necessitating proactive and multidimensional operations. In view of

the new challenges, the European Union welcomed the announcement of the review to be conducted by the High-level Independent Panel, which should be ambitious and not limited to existing tools, and should take lessons from past failures and shortcomings. Peacekeeping operations needed to be equipped with robust mandates that put protection of civilians at their core.

70. Prevention of atrocities began with full respect for human rights. The European Union reiterated its appreciation for the Human Rights Up Front initiative as an important element for strengthening early warning and preventing atrocities against civilians. Accountability for those crimes was crucial to deter and prevent future atrocities. The European Union was committed to helping States to strengthen their judicial systems to enable them to investigate and prosecute perpetrators of those crimes. While States held the primary responsibility for bringing offenders to justice, the International Criminal Court should exercise its jurisdiction where national authorities were unable or unwilling to genuinely prosecute the most serious crimes.

71. The European Union supported increased efforts to achieve gender mainstreaming in all peacekeeping operations, starting by increasing the number of women peacekeepers; it encouraged ongoing work to fully implement the Security Council resolutions on women, peace and security, as well as integration of a gender perspective in the training of military, police and civilian staff in peacekeeping operations and welcomed the resolve of the United Nations to prevent and combat sexual exploitation and abuse, emphasizing the key role played by peacekeeping mission leaders in ensuring accountability.

72. The results of any assessment of peacekeeping operations must be linked to the decision-making process and used to improve flexibility and adaptability to developments in the field. There was a need to ensure that resources were used effectively, efficiently and in a transparent manner, and the use of modern technology should be encouraged. Additional efforts should be made to ensure the security of United Nations peacekeepers, in view of the rising number of attacks on peacekeeping troops.

73. The European Union not only supported United Nations peacekeeping operations but also deployed its own missions within the framework of its Common

Security and Defence Policy. One such mission was EUFOR CAR, in the Central African Republic, a bridging military operation currently preparing for the transfer of military authority to the United Nations which had been extended until MINUSCA became fully operational. Similar cooperation arrangements with both the European Union and other regional organizations should be encouraged in future.

*The meeting rose at 12.25 p.m.*