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Chair: Mr. Halfaoui (Vice-Chair)..... (Morocco)

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In the absence of Mr. Ramírez Carreño (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela), Mr. Halfaoui (Morocco), Vice-Chair, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.

Agenda item 55: Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects (*continued*)

1. **Mr. Munir** (Pakistan) said that Pakistan was a leading troop- and police-contributing country that had provided over 172,000 personnel to United Nations peacekeeping missions since 1960; moreover, it still hosted the United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan, and had been one of the first countries to adopt the Peacekeeping Capability Readiness System.

2. The importance of promoting the primacy of politics, as had been emphasized during discussions on the reform of peacekeeping operations, could not be shouldered by peacekeepers alone, and peacekeeping must be strengthened by support for political solutions and mediation processes as well as by addressing the root causes of conflict. His delegation noted that the proposed reform of the peace and security architecture would eliminate the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and it hoped that the nature, coherence and effectiveness of peacekeeping efforts would not be negatively affected and that peacekeeping would not be transformed into peace enforcement. The Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations remained the most appropriate forum for discussing peacekeeping issues, and it should strive for consensus before designing a new policy framework.

3. In order to ensure agile, flexible and responsive peacekeeping missions, priorities must be clearly identified and sufficient human and financial resources must be provided. It was important to maintain the delicate balance between resources and performance through ongoing strategic reviews of missions. When the lives of both peacekeepers and civilians were at stake, needs must drive peacekeeping operations rather than narrow-minded cost considerations, as lack of adequate funds would result in failed mandates. There should be no across-the-board cuts to the peacekeeping budget. The reform of the peace and security architecture was an opportunity to pay greater attention to the concerns of troop- and police-contributing countries. Triangular cooperation was an effective means of designing policies and guidelines, but it remained underutilized with regard to peacekeeping. In an effort to come up with concrete, practical recommendations for improvement, Pakistan and the

United Kingdom had led informal consultations on triangular cooperation in 2017. Similarly, Pakistan had collaborated with Morocco to create an informal group of troop- and police-contributing countries.

4. Pakistan had been among the first troop-contributing countries to sign the Voluntary Compact on Preventing and Addressing Sexual Exploitation and Abuse launched by the Secretary-General. While taking its responsibilities in the matter very seriously, his delegation stressed the importance of consulting troop-contributing countries when developing guidelines and mechanisms to deal with sexual exploitation and abuse. It was important not to tarnish the image of peacekeeping operations globally by disproportionately focusing on allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse.

5. **Mr. Krasna** (Israel) said that, when analysing situations of asymmetric warfare, where conflicts were no longer limited to confrontations between State armies but were further compounded by the presence of non-State actors that often acted as proxies, the international community should not forget that non-State actors sometimes possessed more control than legitimate State actors, as well as more advanced weapons often supplied by a third country.

6. His delegation was grateful to the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the troop-contributing countries for maintaining the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) despite an unstable security situation and looked forward to its gradual redeployment to the area of separation as required by Security Council resolution [2294 \(2016\)](#). Redeployment must include the return to all UNDOF posts along the Israeli-Syrian border, which must not fall into the hands of violent actors. UNDOF must also help to achieve the full implementation of the 1974 Disengagement of Forces Agreement. While the mission was designed to prevent friction along the aforementioned border, the previous year had witnessed continual spillover fire from Syria into Israel. The active presence of UNDOF would be necessary to maintain a peaceful border between the two countries that was free of foreign forces and non-State actors seeking to provoke instability and conflict. Israel held the Government of Syria responsible for any and all actions emanating from Syrian territory.

7. Israel remained committed to Security Council resolution [1701 \(2006\)](#) and called on its neighbours to support its full implementation. The United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) played an important role in facilitating the tripartite mechanism and the liaison unit that were critical in preventing unnecessary friction and de-escalating possible regional

deterioration, and it needed to be visible, present, effective and proactive. UNIFIL must fully implement its mandate, as failure to do so would increase the possibility of escalation, provoke the resurgence of conflict and undermine the sovereignty of Lebanon. In the wake of continued illegal efforts by Hizbullah to bolster its military capabilities and expand its weapons arsenal, with the active support of Iran, UNIFIL should take all necessary actions to ensure that its area of operations was not used for hostile activities of any kind. The relative calm in southern Lebanon was deceptive, as Hizbullah continued to accumulate an unprecedented number of rockets and missiles, position them in populated areas, and use civilians as human shields. Israel was invested in the stability of Lebanon and saw the entrenchment of Hizbullah in the southern part of the country as an egregious violation of many Security Council resolutions. Concealing weapons within civilian populations was a heinous war crime, and his Government held the Lebanese Government responsible for any and all activities that occurred on Lebanese territory, as well as for the full implementation of Security Council resolution 1701 (2006).

8. UNIFIL should report to the Security Council frequently and in a detailed and impartial manner, reflecting the realities on the ground in its reports and informing the Council of repeated violations by Hizbullah. It should also report on the challenges faced by the Lebanese Armed Forces in securing their territory and opposing Hizbullah, detailing the areas in southern Lebanon where UNIFIL was denied access or otherwise faced restrictions on its movement. Statements made by Hizbullah leaders had revealed the gap between what was reported and what was actually happening on the ground; Lebanon should support the establishment of an area free of armed personnel, assets and weapons other than those of the Lebanese Government or UNIFIL between the Blue Line and the Litani River. While Israel supported the United Nations forces serving on its borders, it would always defend itself from those who sought to harm its citizens.

9. His delegation strongly supported the involvement of women in peacekeeping, and reforms on gender equality were being realized in Israeli peacekeeping operations. Israel remained committed to cooperating with peacekeeping missions and had contributed to reform efforts in the field of emergency medicine by holding a first-aid training course for peacekeeping personnel in 2017. Such cooperation was crucial, given that United Nations peacekeepers frequently dealt with violent armed groups and often operated in areas lacking proper health infrastructure. While ensuring the safety of peacekeepers was important, it was also crucial to

protect local communities from being sexually exploited or abused. In that regard, Israel had signed the Voluntary Compact on Preventing and Addressing Sexual Exploitation and Abuse launched by the Secretary-General and believed that the zero-tolerance policy should apply to all peacekeeping workplaces.

10. **Mr. Akahori** (Japan) said that, as a donor country, a troop-contributing country and a member of the Security Council, Japan remained committed to improving the quality and capabilities of peacekeeping operations, and the 2017 United Nations Peacekeeping Defence Ministerial Conference in Vancouver would present an important opportunity in that regard. In that context, Japan had hosted a preparatory meeting on innovation in training and capacity-building which had illustrated the importance of post-training evaluation and assessment and the persistent need for greater medical capabilities and more female peacekeepers.

11. In order for peacekeeping missions to implement their mandates, they must be deployed with the right capabilities at the right time. Although the Secretariat had made progress in that regard, especially through the Strategic Force Generation and Capacity Planning Cell and the Peacekeeping Capability Readiness System, troop-contributing countries, potential donor countries and the Security Council must do more, and discussions in the Fourth Committee and the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations would be essential. Furthermore, innovation was required to make the best use of limited resources and to effectively fill capability gaps. The Secretariat should take concrete measures to expand triangular partnership arrangements and the Secretary-General should provide recommendations on a mechanism to fill existing capability gaps.

12. **Ms. Ng Chuin Song** (Singapore) said that as many States continued to face conflicts driven by latent tensions arising from history, ethnicity and ideological differences, as well as emerging transnational problems, a more holistic approach to sustaining peace was needed. United Nations peacekeeping missions must continue to be effective, efficient and relevant, their mandates must be correctly formulated and their personnel must be adequately trained.

13. Singapore took its international responsibilities towards international peace and security seriously. As a small country with limited resources, it participated where it felt it could make the most meaningful contribution. Since 1989, it had sent more than 2,000 members of its police and armed forces to United Nations peacekeeping missions. In collaboration with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, it had developed a software application to enhance the

efficiency of casualty reporting across all peacekeeping missions, and it had also helped to develop the United Nations Military Unit Manual for peacekeeping in 2014, with a view to improving peacekeeping standards and the safety of peacekeepers in the field.

14. Regional and subregional organizations such as the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) played an important role in fostering peace and development, and cooperation between such organizations and the United Nations should be enhanced. At the international level, sustaining peace and development required a strong, rule-based multilateral system upheld by the United Nations and based on the principles of mutual respect, mutual benefit and compliance with international law: a system where all Member States had a chance to prosper regardless of their size. In that regard, his delegation welcomed efforts to reform the United Nations, including its peace and security architecture. Peace operations must have clearer and stronger mandates to be fulfilled in strict compliance with the principles of the consent of the parties, impartiality and the non-use of force except in self-defence and defence of the mandate.

15. **Mr. Mohamed** (Maldives) said that, although peacekeeping was not explicitly mentioned in the Charter of the United Nations, it had become one of the most important activities undertaken by the Organization, with peacekeepers saving lives and facilitating humanitarian assistance. However, peacekeeping operations must be reformed by strengthening the rules of engagement, especially with regard to the protection of civilians, in order to ensure that interactions with the local population helped to achieve the mission's purpose. Such reform would require adequate training for peacekeepers and sufficient levels of supervision in compliance with international human rights law. Most importantly, reforms should ensure that peacekeeping operations could create the necessary conditions for sustainable peace by addressing the root causes of conflict.

16. State-building should be included as an objective in all peacekeeping operations dealing with inter-State conflicts, first by building State capacity to govern and then by fostering the principles of democracy, good governance and inclusive development. The most important legacy that peacekeepers could leave behind in an inter-State conflict was a set of institutions that could cultivate national unity and a culture of peace, respect and tolerance. The Maldives had signed a memorandum of understanding with the United Nations to contribute personnel to peacekeeping missions and it stood ready to cooperate with the relevant agencies to

implement the necessary reform of peacekeeping missions and equip troops with the relevant skills.

17. **Mr. Kamau** (Kenya), expressing his country's longstanding commitment to United Nations peacekeeping operations, said that it was essential to respect the principles of sovereign equality, political independence and territorial integrity. New global threats called for a greater understanding of the operational environment and for strategic partnerships with regional security mechanisms. His delegation welcomed the adoption of Security Council resolution [2327 \(2016\)](#) on the situation in South Sudan and the revitalization of the Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan, but was concerned at the continued structural dysfunctionality of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS), which severely hindered its ability to fulfil its mandate and would likely affect the deployment of the regional protection force. The overall mandate of UNMISS should be reviewed, with a view to improving the effectiveness of regional forces and facilitating greater cooperation with the Transitional Government of National Unity in the Republic of South Sudan. UNMISS should create the necessary conditions for inclusive participation in the peace process, especially since the legitimacy of any peacekeeping mission was derived from the political consent of its host Government and local population. Direct engagement, coordination and meaningful partnerships with the African Union, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development and the host Government were imperative to create a conducive political environment.

18. The security situation in Somalia remained a matter of grave concern, in particular the terrorist threat posed by Al-Shabaab; his delegation welcomed the extension of the mandate of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) but feared that its additional workload with reduced troop levels would risk the resurgence of Al-Shabaab. Contrary to popular belief, Al-Shabaab still had the capacity to launch large-scale terrorist attacks, as evidenced by the massive attack in Mogadishu in October 2017, and his delegation urged the Security Council to rethink the drawdown strategy currently being implemented. The international community should partner with the African Union and provide predictable and sustainable financial support to ensure the achievement of the AMISOM mandate.

19. At the national level, Kenya continued to host engineering capability training in the context of a triangular partnership project and it had exceeded the threshold of deploying at least 15 per cent women in peacekeeping operations. Kenya had not had a single case of sexual exploitation or abuse in peacekeeping

operations and remained fully committed to the eradication of that scourge.

20. **Mr. Hattrem** (Norway) said that, although the peaceful elections in Liberia and the successful completion of the United Nations operation in Côte d'Ivoire in 2017 were grounds for optimism regarding the future of United Nations peace operations, developments in other countries were less positive. Every peace operation must be steered by a clear political strategy and involve cooperation between the Security Council members, the host Government and the parties to the conflict. Changes must be made to how peace operations were planned, managed and supported, and his delegation welcomed the establishment of joint regional divisions that could ensure joint analysis and strategic direction, as well as the ongoing review of various missions.

21. The safety and security of peacekeepers was vital for effective implementation of mandates. All missions should have rigorous contingency plans for crisis management that were regularly updated and rehearsed. Missions should also be equipped with the appropriate tools and technology, including peacekeeping intelligence, to increase operability and better ensure the safety and security of personnel. Efforts to strengthen the capacity of peacekeepers to address conflict-related sexual violence must continue given that such violence jeopardized stabilization efforts, undermined social cohesion and negatively affected victims for life. Norway was collaborating with the Organization to develop a handbook on that topic.

22. The system-wide strategy on gender parity launched by the Secretary-General must be appropriated nationally if it was to strengthen operational effectiveness and productivity. To ensure a better gender balance in its armed forces and police service, Norway had introduced compulsory military service for women in 2015, which had resulted in women accounting for 25 per cent of conscripts and 11 per cent of officers. Norway welcomed the appointment of the first woman as the head of the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO) and hoped that would encourage other Member States to nominate women to leadership positions in peacekeeping.

23. The role of the United Nations police must be strengthened, in particular by establishing core functions and a minimum level of capacity within the criminal justice chain. The increased prevalence of transnational organized crime and terrorism required enhanced local expertise. The specialized team concept which had been pioneered in Haiti should be further developed as a capacity-building tool, as it allowed

Member States to deploy groups of experts to provide focused support in areas demanding specialized competences. The Strategic Guidance Framework for International Police Peacekeeping should be finalized as soon as possible. Norway would continue to support such efforts, in particular by financing the development of thematic manuals. The United Nations must strengthen its relationship with regional organizations, especially the African Union, and United Nations support for operations led by the African Union must receive more predictable funding, in part through joint planning and mandating processes.

24. **Mr. Gebrehiwot** (Ethiopia) said that unprecedented challenges to peace and security worldwide had made the role of United Nations peacekeeping more indispensable than ever; strengthening its operations was therefore critical. While his delegation appreciated the steps taken by the Secretary-General to implement the recommendations of the High-level Independent Panel on Peace Operations, the structure and working methods of the peace and security pillar must be further adjusted to make the Organization more fit for purpose, in particular by prioritizing prevention and sustaining peace and enhancing the effectiveness and coherence of peacekeeping operations. Reducing bureaucratic barriers, ensuring transparency and accountability, and shifting the focus from Headquarters to the field would strengthen the ability of the United Nations to quickly respond to the rapidly evolving global security landscape. Given that the Secretary-General required the approval of Member States to move forward on certain important issues regarding structures and finance, his delegation looked forward to engaging with him in the appropriate intergovernmental committees.

25. The challenges to peace and security faced by the global community could not be handled by the United Nations alone, and it was therefore crucial to enhance the strategic partnerships between the Organization and regional and subregional organizations, especially the African Union. The signing of the Joint United Nations-African Union Framework for an Enhanced Partnership in Peace and Security was proof of that growing cooperation; there had also been modest progress towards ensuring predictable, sustainable and flexible financial and logistical support for peace support operations led by the African Union and authorized by the Security Council. In that regard, his delegation welcomed Security Council resolution [2378 \(2017\)](#) which envisioned the possibility of peace support operations led by the African Union being partly financed through United Nations assessed contributions, on a case-by-case basis.

26. **Mr. Ouedraogo** (Burkina Faso) said that Burkina Faso was a significant troop-contributing country, with approximately 3,000 personnel deployed in seven different peacekeeping missions. Its military contingent had been withdrawn from Darfur following the end of that mission in August 2017, and efforts were now focused on strengthening the national defence and security forces engaged in counter-terrorism efforts. However, his country continued to face difficulties in its rapid deployment activities due to a lack of materiel, training infrastructure and, above all, because of security issues. Despite security measures imposed along its border with Mali since 2012, Burkina Faso had suffered from terrorist attacks since 2015, in particular in the western and northern parts of the country. Deadly terrorist attacks in January 2016 and August 2017 had led to the strengthening of the Groupement des Forces Anti-Terroristes to account for the new terrorist threat.

27. His delegation welcomed the efforts of the international community to deploy peacekeeping missions on the African continent and stressed that African countries often faced multiple security challenges which required the intervention of regional peacekeeping mechanisms, especially when the United Nations system was slow to respond. The rise of terrorism had led to the large-scale mobilization of African States by means of the Liptako-Gourma Development Authority and the Group of Five for the Sahel, with a view to establishing a multinational counter-terrorism force. Regional organizations must receive political, financial and material support from the United Nations and European partners in order to be fully prepared to act preventively and effectively when peace was threatened in any Member State.

28. Believing that peacekeeping officers must protect themselves as well as local civilians, his delegation welcomed the initiative to strengthen mission mandates in order to protect civilians and to rapidly and effectively respond to any difficulties on the ground. All Member States should strictly adhere to Security Council resolution 2370 (2017) in order to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons. The international community should also provide more troops, funding and materiel to achieve better efficiency in peacekeeping operations.

29. **Mr. Bazatoha** (Rwanda) said that all Member States had a role to play in reforming United Nations peacekeeping operations, which needed to be more nimble, adaptable and fit for purpose. Departments, regional divisions and support offices needed to work together to ensure integrated decision-making and to reduce fragmentation and redundancy. Conflict should be addressed through a cross-sectoral approach, and

politics must have primacy in the design and deployment of peace operations. The Security Council should provide clear, coherent and realistic mandates when planning peacekeeping missions. Consultation with troop- and police-contributing countries before the renewal of mandates was becoming the norm, but inputs should be embedded in the language of mandates. In addition, in-depth consultations should be held with mission leadership, particularly with force commanders and police commissioners.

30. Regional and subregional organizations played a vital role in rapid, strategic responses to conflict and should therefore receive the necessary support and resources. United Nations peacekeeping had increased its reliance on the African Union in addressing the most challenging threats to peace and security without increasing its financial support to that regional organization. A deliberate approach to preventive efforts was of the essence, particularly in ensuring the participation of such key stakeholders as women, whose presence and engagement contributed significantly to change and progress.

31. As a major troop- and police-contributing country and as a nation that had witnessed first-hand the grave shortcomings of the United Nations, Rwanda had a profound awareness of the actions that should be taken when the lives of civilians were threatened by conflict. First, troops should be trained to a high level of preparedness and made to understand their responsibilities during the predeployment phase. Second, peacekeepers must be fully aware of the needs of civilians in real time. Third, civilians must be protected at all costs, without caveats, and fourth, peacekeepers must be held to the highest standards of conduct. Lastly, all stakeholders should implement the necessary reforms aimed at improving the collective effort to maintain peace and security through peacekeeping; that effort was not a zero-sum game, and its fruits would ultimately be reaped by all.

32. **Mr. Ciss** (Senegal) said that, in the light of the challenges of adapting peacekeeping operations to new global realities, his delegation commended the Secretary-General for his unwavering determination to promote peacekeeping reform and his initiative to restructure the peace and security pillar of the Organization's work. Member States and the United Nations system as a whole owed those initiatives their full support.

33. Given that peace operations deployed in hostile environments would face greater difficulty in fulfilling their mandates, the Security Council must pursue political engagement prior to deployment and

throughout the duration of mandates in support of political solutions, in addition to strengthening cooperation with neighbouring States and regional and subregional organizations, particularly the African Union. In that connection, his delegation welcomed the eleventh joint consultations between the Security Council and the African Union Peace and Security Council, and the signing of a common framework for strengthened partnership between the two organizations.

34. The Security Council should continue to work to formulate clearer, more realistic peacekeeping mandates, taking into account difficult operational environments. To that end, mandates should be formulated on the basis of objective information, which should in turn be derived from a frank, clear assessment of the situation. As Chair of the Working Group on Peacekeeping Operations, Senegal would be organizing a meeting of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations on strengthening the triangular dialogue among the Security Council, troop- and police-contributing countries and the Secretariat in November 2017. His Government recalled the importance of the follow-up to the implementation of Security Council resolution [2320 \(2016\)](#) on cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union, and thanked the Secretary-General and the Chair of the African Union Commission for their reports submitted pursuant to that resolution.

35. **Mr. Giacomelli Da Silva** (Brazil) said that his Government welcomed the Secretary-General's proposals on restructuring the peace and security pillar of the Organization's work. In that connection, steps should be taken to ensure that peacekeeping truly contributed to sustaining peace. To that end, Brazil favoured integrated approaches to peacekeeping mandates. Furthermore, efforts to improve troop performance must be redoubled. Establishing baseline standards for peacekeepers would contribute to a clearer understanding of what was expected of them. Ensuring that peacekeeping operations had the necessary budgetary and other means to carry out their mandates was also vital, as peacekeepers could not be asked to do more with less. Furthermore, consultations should be held between the Secretariat, the Security Council and troop- and police-contributing countries prior to the establishment or renewal of peacekeeping mandates. Such coordination was particularly important in guaranteeing the safety of troops at a time when drastic budget cuts were being made.

36. His Government fully supported the participation of women in peacekeeping operations and remained committed to the United Nations zero-tolerance policy on sexual exploitation and abuse by United Nations

personnel. The Brazilian president was a member of the Circle of Leadership on the prevention of and response to sexual exploitation and abuse in United Nations operations. Lastly, Brazil continued to advocate for the establishment of a separate account for the financing of special political missions as a means of alleviating budgetary pressures on other essential United Nations activities, such as development and human rights.

37. **Mr. Meza-Cuadra** (Peru) said that peacekeeping operations were constantly adapting to the changing nature of conflicts and to the evolving international system, and were becoming increasingly complex. The Organization's efforts to restructure peacekeeping must be undertaken in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and the guiding principles of peacekeeping, namely, consent of the parties, impartiality and non-use of force except in self-defence or defence of the mandate. Given the multidimensional nature of modern peacekeeping operations, which encompassed development, strengthening the rule of law, protection of civilians and other aspects, any peace agenda should incorporate comprehensive action in support of an array of structures involved in consolidating peace. His delegation welcomed the recommendations made by the High-level Independent Panel on Peace Operations and the Advisory Group of Experts on the United Nations Peacebuilding Architecture, including the need to focus on conflict prevention, promote closer coordination among the Security Council, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and troop-contributing countries, and establish more clearly defined mandates.

38. Peacekeeping operations played a vital role in achieving sustainable development by creating a climate of peace conducive to more fruitful development efforts and respect for human rights. Successful communication strategies would help foster trust in United Nations contingents among local communities and build a closer relationship with those communities, enabling peacekeepers to protect civilians in conflict areas more effectively. Ensuring through such strategies that peace operations were perceived as impartial would also bolster their legitimacy on the ground, making troops both safer and more effective. Peru supported the Organization's zero-tolerance policy on sexual abuse and exploitation and strongly condemned the behaviour of United Nations personnel who participated in any inappropriate or immoral conduct. His Government welcomed the incorporation of guidance regarding sexual violence in conflict into military doctrine and endorsed all measures taken to hold accountable those involved in such unjustifiable acts.

39. Given the increasingly volatile security situations in which peacekeeping forces were deployed, peacekeeping operations must be equipped with a wide range of resources, ranging from enhanced intelligence capacities and modern medical support systems to strategic deployment and evacuation plans. Moreover, military personnel must receive rigorous training prior to and during deployment. As a troop-contributing country since 1958, Peru would continue to support United Nations peacekeeping operations by deploying competent, disciplined personnel with high standards of conduct.

40. **Mr. Saad** (Malaysia), paying tribute to the sacrifices of peacekeepers, said that the Organization played a central role in maintaining international peace and security. In the face of continuous security threats and conflicts, United Nations peacekeeping operations had evolved dramatically into more complex missions that assisted in political processes, established transitional authority, provided humanitarian aid and relief, reintegrated former combatants and prevented human rights violations.

41. Collective efforts to enhance the performance of peacekeeping missions must take into account each mission's distinctive components, environment and challenges, eschewing a one-size-fits-all approach. Peacekeeping operations must be developed in a more comprehensive manner, bearing in mind the mutually reinforcing relationship between security and development. The success of any mission hinged on the active participation of the host country, hence the need for the Organization to work closely with host countries, which should aim to guarantee the well-being of their citizens. In that regard, his Government stood ready to share its experience in peacekeeping training focused on winning the hearts and minds of the local population. To date, Malaysia had participated in 36 United Nations peacekeeping missions, deploying over 31,000 military and police personnel. Malaysian peacekeepers currently served in six missions and had deployed seven individual police officers to a seventh mission, the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) in July 2017. The Malaysian standby battalion had been upgraded to level two under the Peacekeeping Capability Readiness System, and Malaysia was working with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to prepare for future deployment upon request.

42. Providing peacekeepers with continuous capacity-building and training was crucial in order to maintain the highest professional standards and a high level of readiness. In line with the Secretary-General's efforts to address the issue of sexual exploitation and abuse by

United Nations peacekeepers, the Malaysian Armed Forces, the United Kingdom and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations had organized a course on combating the phenomenon in August 2017 at the Malaysian Peacekeeping Centre. To ensure their safety, military and civilian personnel deployed in perilous locations must be given the necessary skills through a common training module prior to their deployment, particularly in the light of the more comprehensive peacekeeping mandates they were expected to fulfil.

43. **Ms. Cerrato** (Honduras) said that the 15 current peacekeeping missions with troops from 120 countries attested to the global commitment to peacekeeping. Nevertheless, reform towards more integrated and interdisciplinary approaches to peacekeeping was necessary in order to adapt to the changing face of conflict. Her delegation called for swift resolution of all ongoing conflicts and for displaced populations to be supported rather than criminalized.

44. Honduras had been a proud contributor to peacekeeping operations since the 1990s and currently provided peacekeeping experts. In the light of the need to increase effectiveness, her Government supported the Secretary-General's reform proposals and was willing to increase its peacekeeping presence, while advocating the importance of preventive diplomacy in the attainment of sustainable peace. Honduras had signed the Secretary-General's Voluntary Compact on Preventing and Addressing Sexual Exploitation and Abuse, thus confirming its support for the zero-tolerance policy. Her Government also strongly supported the efforts made by the Secretariat to increase the number of female staff officers and military observers to 15 per cent.

45. Peace and development were interlinked since the Sustainable Development Goals could not be achieved in unstable, conflict-ridden areas. Consequently, to achieve those Goals, all Member States should work together to find peaceful solutions to disputes, on the basis of equality and mutual benefit, while acting with restraint and avoiding threats of violence.

46. **Ms. Nguyen** Phoung Nga (Viet Nam) said that peacekeeping operations required reform in order to be capable of responding to rapidly changing situations in a timely and effective manner. Her delegation welcomed the Secretary-General's recommendations on restructuring the peace and security pillar. Each mission mandate must be clearly defined, taking into account the situation on the ground and the available resources. Missions should be empowered to strengthen their accountability and streamline their decision-making. Capacity building, predeployment training and use of

advanced technologies would enable missions to carry out their respective mandates effectively and efficiently.

47. While the multidimensional aspect of peacekeeping operations should be emphasized in future reform measures, all peacekeeping operations must be carried out in accordance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations and in compliance with the basic principles of peacekeeping. Furthermore, a comprehensive policy and predeployment training must be employed to guarantee the safety and security of United Nations personnel and to enforce appropriate disciplinary and conduct standards among them. Her delegation supported the Secretary-General's zero-tolerance policy against sexual exploitation and abuse.

48. There was a need for broader, transparent consultations between the Security Council, the Secretariat and troop- and police-contributing countries and to favour regional solutions to conflicts and enhanced cooperation between the Organization and regional and subregional organizations under Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations. Viet Nam had been participating in peacekeeping operations over the previous few years. Her Government was preparing to dispatch a level-two hospital to South Sudan, and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations had approved the deployment to UNMISS of the first-ever woman officer from Viet Nam, with an additional nine women preparing to work at the hospital. In closing, she stressed that political solutions and preventive diplomacy should remain at the heart of United Nations peace operations and conflict resolution.

49. **Mr. Diarra** (Mali) said that Mali was the host country for the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA), one of the largest and deadliest peacekeeping missions, presently operating in a volatile security situation marked by repeated and indiscriminate asymmetrical attacks. Several MINUSMA peacekeepers had been killed or injured in the line of duty, the targets of ambushes, attacks and anti-personnel and anti-tank landmine detonations. His Government deeply regretted the loss of civilian, military and police lives in the service of the United Nations in his country.

50. Mali welcomed the adoption of Security Council resolution [2364 \(2017\)](#). The resolution renewed the mandate of MINUSMA and called for strengthened cooperation among peacekeepers, the G5 Sahel Joint Force formed by Burkina Faso, Mali, Mauritania, Niger and Chad to combat terrorism, organized crime and trafficking, and the French Barkhane counter-terrorism forces that would be deployed in the near future. His Government appreciated the contribution by a number

of countries of troops and materiel to strengthen the Mission's operational capacities and encouraged those countries that had not yet confirmed their pledges to do so in order to enable MINUSMA to respond to the significant security challenges it faced.

51. Malian defence and security forces would ultimately be responsible for maintaining the country's security and stability over the long term. His Government was working to build and strengthen their operational capacities in order to enable the reformed and reconstituted national forces to re-establish and extend the State's authority over the entire national territory. In closing, he paid tribute to all the victims of the Malian crisis and hailed the tireless efforts of the women and men of MINUSMA and Operation Barkhane to bring that crisis to an end.

52. **Mr. Cheon Kyeongjin** (Republic of Korea) said that significant strides had been made in improving peacekeeping operations, but many challenges remained. Global demand for peacekeeping was at its peak and would remain high for the foreseeable future. His Government fully supported the measures taken by the Secretariat to enhance the efficiency of peacekeeping operations. In that regard, three specific considerations would contribute significantly to that effort. First, comprehensive and long-term operational mandates must be formulated for missions, taking local situations into consideration and aiming to establish sustainable peace in the host country instead of temporarily settling disputes. The successes of past missions with long-term mandates aimed at ending conflict and sustaining peace should be analysed carefully in order to derive lessons that could be applied to current missions. Second, achievable mandates should be provided in a sequential manner, as overly ambitious mandates could hamper cooperation between the Security Council, troop-contributing countries, the Security Council and host countries. Continuous interaction among all parties was vital from the outset to the mission drawdown phase and would make it possible to formulate a feasible mandate and respond to early warning alerts. Third, Member States should contribute troops, equipment, training and technology in support of successful and efficient mandate implementation.

53. Pessimism about the effectiveness of missions in South Sudan, Mali and the Central African Republic was unwarranted, in the light of their relatively brief history and the successes of older, more established missions. The Secretariat's Peacekeeping Capability Readiness System was expected to facilitate a prompt and effective response to crises by making troops available in a timely manner. In keeping with United Nations efforts to strengthen peacekeeping capabilities, the Republic of

Korea was working to diversify its contribution to training and information and communications technology and would be hosting a training of trainers course on the protection of civilians in November 2017. As a Member State which had received support from United Nations forces more than six decades earlier, the Republic of Korea was fully committed to maintaining international peace and security and would continue cooperating with the United Nations and other partners towards that end.

54. **Mr. Biang** (Gabon) said that peacekeeping operations were essential to the maintenance of international peace and security and the proposed reforms would improve future coherence and efficiency. Sustainable peace would be the only way to achieve sustainable development; therefore, moving forward, it would be imperative to strengthen mechanisms for prevention and settlement of conflicts through mediation.

55. 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). To that end, in 2016, his Government had introduced a new strategy for preparation of Gabonese Blue Helmet troops: strict training in accordance with United Nations values, updated training manuals including the latest international rules and modernization of military equipment. In that manner, Gabon was striving to make its forces more successful and avoid misconduct. His country fully supported the zero-tolerance approach to sexual abuse and exploitation and had signed the Secretary General's Voluntary Compact in that regard. An illustration of its commitment was the fact that a number of cases of sexual abuse were being examined by the country's judicial authorities and Gabon would cooperate fully with the United Nations in preventing such crimes in the future.

56. It was important to strengthen cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations in order to leverage their local knowledge when planning effective strategies. It was also vital to support African Union operations with appropriate and predictable financing. Lastly, it was hoped that the introduction of multilingualism at all levels of the chain of command would contribute to better results on the ground and a more fruitful cooperation with host countries.

57. **Ms. Nikodijevic** (Serbia) said that the United Nations must strengthen multilateralism to ensure that it could respond to the ever more complex peacekeeping

demands of the time. In that respect, the prospective reforms of the United Nations peacekeeping architecture would provide a solid basis for future activities. Serbia welcomed the more diversified peacekeeping mandate which, in addition to conflict prevention and resolution, also covered post-conflict reconstruction and long-term development.

58. Serbia was firmly committed to participating in collective security and was currently contributing over 350 peacekeepers in eight United Nations and four European Union missions. Furthermore, the Government remained committed to the implementation of Security Council resolution [1325 \(2000\)](#) and, through its second national action plan, had increased Serbian women's participation in peacekeeping operations to 12 per cent of the overall number of civilian and military personnel serving in United Nations operations. Serbia was host to the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK), which played a pivotal role in preserving and promoting stability in Kosovo and Metohija. In view of the complex political and security situation in that province, as well as the trust the mission had garnered with the local population, it was important for UNMIK to remain engaged in the implementation of Security Council resolution [1244 \(1999\)](#). However, to address current and emerging challenges, the mission would require the appropriate level of human and financial resources.

59. **Mr. Zambrano Ortiz** (Ecuador) said that United Nations peacekeeping operations played a key role in the maintenance of international peace and security. One of the main concerns with regard to peacekeeping was the heightened complexity of mandates and the consequent deployment of peacekeepers in increasingly difficult and dangerous circumstances. The report of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations ([A/69/19](#)) had underscored the value of a productive relationship among those who mandated, planned, managed and implemented United Nations peacekeeping operations and had called for enhanced triangular cooperation between the Security Council, troop- and police-contributing countries and the Secretariat.

60. Building long-lasting peace was vital since without peace, stability and effective governance based on the rule of law it would be impossible to achieve sustainable development. Some regions underwent permanent cycles of conflict; yet that was not unavoidable and had to be addressed. In that regard, the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations carried out important work as the only United Nations body mandated to recommend strategies, concepts and policies on peacekeeping while observing the basic

principles of peacekeeping. Peacekeeping operations required clear mandates and should implement sustainable peace processes. Ecuador supported civilian-protection mandates provided that they were clearly formulated and adhered to the principles of sovereignty, territorial integrity and non-intervention in the domestic affairs of States. Furthermore, in order to be successful, peacekeeping operations needed increased political, financial and logistical support and adequate human resources.

61. Ecuador attached great importance to the role of women in peacekeeping operations and had increased female participation as a means towards greater gender equality. Peacekeeping personnel must behave ethically and in line with their mandate, and any accusations of misconduct should be investigated in accordance with the rule of law. In that context, his delegation fully supported the zero-tolerance policy against sexual exploitation and abuse.

62. **Mr. Fajardo Jr.** (Philippines) said that several recommendations of the High-level Independent Panel on Peacekeeping Operations and Security Council resolution [1325 \(2000\)](#) had been implemented in recent years. The introduction of the Peacekeeping Capability Readiness System had enabled the deployment of capable peacekeeping units within one to three months and many troop- and police-contributing countries, including the Philippines, had registered with the system. His country's armed forces were developing small teams with specialized capabilities to meet niche requirements. However, like many developing countries, the Philippines needed further training and capacity-building for its troops since the performance of peacekeepers deployed under the United Nations flag was as important as, if not more important than, the number of peacekeepers available for rapid deployment. Appropriate equipment, intelligence capacities and clear mandates were required to better prepare peacekeepers for an increasingly complex environment.

63. The Philippines fully supported the Secretary-General's new approach to end impunity in relation to sexual exploitation and abuse and regain the trust of the people that peacekeepers were mandated to protect. His delegation also supported the efforts to increase the participation of women in peacekeeping operations and the Philippines was currently training 15 female officers. The Philippines was committed to the cause of peace and supported the proposed reforms to peacekeeping operations. However, for such reforms to be successful there must be greater coordination between Member States, the Security Council, the Secretariat and troop- and police-contributing countries in order to develop clearer mandates and strategies.

Partnerships between the United Nations and regional organizations were also important given that regional organizations were closer to the problems and could assist in the delivery of solutions. Lastly, peacekeeping missions must be provided with adequate resources to implement their mandates.

64. **Mr. Naouali** (Tunisia) said that his Government was firmly committed to United Nations peacekeeping and was working to increase its contribution to missions. Tunisian troops were currently serving in five of the 15 active peacekeeping operations. In the light of the escalating wars of recent years, it was crucial to strengthen the Organization's capacity to respond to conflicts and make the Department of Field Support more effective. Tunisia stood ready to support the Secretary-General's efforts to restructure the peace and security pillar of the work of the United Nations.

65. Coordination among the Secretariat, the Security Council and troop-contributing countries must be reinforced, particularly concerning the design and implementation of mission mandates. In addition, peacekeeping operations must be provided with the necessary resources and equipment. During the post-conflict phase, the capacities of conflict-affected countries must be strengthened so as to secure a sustainable peace. The Organization must redouble its efforts to protect mission staff, taking into account the threats and challenges faced by many missions deployed in conflict areas. Increasing women's participation in peacekeeping operations and conflict resolution, in line with Security Council resolution [1325 \(2000\)](#) on women, peace and security, would play a vital role in supporting sustainable peace processes. United Nations forces must comply with all international instruments on the preservation of human dignity and the physical integrity of the individual. Lastly, his delegation welcomed the partnership between the United Nations and the African Union on peaceful settlement of disputes and peacekeeping in Africa, and called for increased financial support for joint measures to achieve sustainable peace and security in the continent's conflict areas.

66. **Mr. Ceylan** (Turkey) said that United Nations peacekeeping operations played a vital role in sustaining political solutions to crises and stabilizing conflicts, but the increasingly complex and unpredictable nature of modern conflicts, asymmetric threats and deteriorating security and humanitarian conditions posed increasing risks to the safety of peacekeepers. Terrorist attacks against United Nations peacekeepers were on the rise, as was the number of casualties. Amid such developments, the United Nations must ensure the

protection of civilians and needed to improve the performance of its peacekeeping missions.

67. Peacekeeping operations were more likely to succeed when the international community was united. Consensus within responsible organs would generate genuine political support for peacekeeping, and triangular cooperation between the Security Council, the Secretariat and troop- and police-contributing countries would ensure mutual trust. Peacekeeping was not an end in itself and the United Nations should aim at preventing conflicts rather than managing them. Turkey supported the Secretary-General's vision to develop the Organization's preventive role given that peacekeeping could not substitute political solutions.

68. The 2015 report of the High-level Independent Panel on Peace Operations and other reviews on peace operations had yielded recommendations concerning the primacy of political solutions, the need to prioritize conflict prevention and mediation, and the importance of developing partnerships with regional and subregional organizations. Those recommendations had been incorporated into the normative framework through the adoption of General Assembly resolutions and in the deliberations of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations. The report of that Special Committee provided clear guidance for transparency and better design, planning and execution of peacekeeping mandates and his delegation expected that the Secretariat would take it into account given that it was a negotiated, consensual document adopted by a General Assembly resolution. The Special Committee was the most appropriate forum to negotiate and develop the necessary framework for United Nations peacekeeping operations.

69. Turkish peacekeepers served in various United Nations and other missions across the globe, helping local security forces with capacity- and institution-building efforts and providing technical assistance and training to local law enforcement bodies. Turkey fully adhered to the Secretary General's zero-tolerance policy against sexual exploitation and abuse by peacekeepers and had subscribed to the Voluntary Compact. In addition, the Government was working to increase the number of women, individual police officers, staff officers and military observers deployed in peacekeeping operations.

70. **Mr. Mhura** (Malawi) said that there could never be sustainable development without peace. For that reason, Malawi was committed to international peace and security and had participated in peacekeeping missions since 1994, with ever greater contributions. United Nations peacekeeping missions were facing

numerous challenges, such as targeted attacks and killings, since they were operating in dangerous environments in which armed groups used terror tactics and had access to unregulated modern weaponry. Furthermore, many missions operated in contexts of long-running violence, which further exacerbated the challenges. In the face of such threats to peacekeepers and civilians, it was no longer sufficient to protect through mere presence; missions must adopt more proactive responses in order to react directly to threats at the tactical, operational and strategic levels. Accordingly, the Security Council should revisit the principles of the Charter of the United Nations underpinning traditional peacekeeping operations, including those governing the use of force. The scale of human suffering was immense. Thus, Malawi welcomed the call for stronger cooperation between troop- and police-contributing countries, the Security Council, the Secretariat and host Governments in order to improve peacekeeping decisions. Moreover, Malawi was committed to increasing the number of qualified female soldiers since they played a pivotal role in peacekeeping.

71. Malawi called for timely and adequate reimbursement for peacekeeping operations to ensure continuity of equipment supply and strengthen the global partnership. Since the nature of conflicts and the sophistication of weapons kept evolving, the response of peacekeeping operations had to be modernised in order to fulfil their mandates while safeguarding personnel. Resources should be prioritized according to the needs on the ground in order to allow peacekeepers to protect civilians. To do that, peacekeepers required mobility, monitoring and surveillance tools, and a close relationship with the local population. Lastly, Malawi was committed to eliminating sexual violence and abuse committed by peacekeepers. It had signed the Voluntary Compact and would continue to include relevant instruction in its predeployment and in-mission training.

72. **Ms. Coutou** (Observer for the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)) said that contemporary conflicts were becoming more intractable and United Nations mandates had increased in scope, increasingly implementing stabilization tasks and civilian protection. ICRC teams active in the same areas as peacekeepers testified to the multifaceted challenges faced and the fact that the resources required to fulfil such tasks were overstretched. As the United Nations was currently considering reforms to the peace and security architecture to deliver more effective peacekeeping, ICRC wished to share three messages.

73. First, respect for the applicable legal framework, including international humanitarian law, was an

essential consideration in peacekeeping operations, especially since complex situations increased the likelihood of peacekeepers being called upon to use force. In addition, States and international organizations such as the United Nations were required to use their influence to ensure that the parties to a conflict complied with humanitarian law. ICRC called on the African Union and other regional and subregional organizations to strengthen respect for international human rights. Moreover, it was imperative that protection mandates be matched by adequate resources.

74. Second, detention by United Nations peacekeeping missions was a reality, and the Organization must therefore be ready to meet the legal obligations pertaining to capture, detention and handing over of individuals to host countries, in addition to having facilities that complied with conditions for detention under international law. Accordingly, ICRC welcomed the United Nations efforts to revise the Interim Standard Operating Procedures relating to detention in peacekeeping missions and other procedures. Nevertheless, United Nations detention operations remained underfunded with limited capacities in terms of logistics, infrastructure and trained human resources. Moreover, missions must pay special attention to the principle of non-refoulement, not forcing refugees to return to a country where they were liable to be persecuted. In that regard, ICRC proposed that lawful transfer to local authorities could be facilitated by missions signing transfer agreements with host States in order to ensure the rights of detainees handed over were upheld.

75. Third, different approaches to protecting civilians must be combined, but not blurred, for the best possible protection outcome. ICRC, with its extensive ground presence, aimed to act as an objective sounding board which advocated protection mandates for people deemed to be at risk in peacekeeping areas, thus providing a reality check for the United Nations. It also assisted troop- and police-contributing countries by conducting training sessions on international humanitarian law. In 2016, almost 18,000 peacekeepers had received such sessions from ICRC, which was committed to contributing further in that regard. In 2017, ICRC had held a round-table in Addis Ababa, where fruitful exchanges had addressed the legal and operational challenges arising from peacekeeping missions in Africa. Cooperation between ICRC, peacekeeping missions, troop- and police-contributing countries and the Secretariat was essential to the implementation of effective civilian protection strategies. To that effect, an update of the ICRC

Professional Standards for Protection Work would be issued in 2018.

76. **Mr. Matinrazm** (Islamic Republic of Iran), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that the representative of Israel had made reference to Iran and other States in a futile attempt to distract the Committee's attention from the Israeli regime's criminal and aggressive actions towards the Arab population in the Middle East. A regime which resorted to atrocities such as aggression, occupation, assassination, State terrorism, torture, kidnapping and killing of civilians, in addition to assisting Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant, could not portray itself as an advocate of peace and security. Furthermore, a representative of an entity that was the prime source of threat, terror and intimidation in the region was not in a position to speak about any other country before the Fourth Committee.

77. **Mr. Krasna** (Israel) speaking in exercise of the right of reply to the statement made by the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran, said that Iran was the main State sponsor of terrorism across the globe. Its forces and proxies trained, financed, spread and executed acts of terror all over the world and particularly in the Middle East. Iran continued to propagate extremism, threaten its neighbours and destabilize the region, yet still chose to spread lies against Israel and ignore its own actions.

The meeting rose at 12.55 p.m.