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Chair: Mr. Goldea (Vice-Chair) (Hungary)

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

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

1. **Ms. Lodhi** (Pakistan) said that the efforts of United Nations peacekeepers came at a cost, and numerous peacekeepers – including 156 from Pakistan – had lost their lives in the line of duty. Having contributed over 200,000 troops to peacekeeping over the previous six decades, Pakistan called for the Peacekeeping Capability Readiness System to be used in all deployments, without exception, and welcomed in particular the inclusive and consultative approach through which the system had been developed.

2. Peacekeeping missions required clearly prioritized and sequenced mandates and adequate human and financial resources if they were to continue to respond effectively to change. Effective triangular cooperation, including with troop-contributing countries from the outset, was critical in that regard. Furthermore, a level playing field was needed to ensure meaningful performance assessments, otherwise the United Nations risked punishing those who valued the cause and operated without preconditions or national caveats. Political and mediation processes must also receive support, and the root causes of conflicts must be addressed. Arbitrary cuts to peacekeeping funding undermined the mission effectiveness and jeopardized peacekeeper safety; focus should be placed on enhancing capabilities rather than cutting budgets. Moreover, the fact that a given mission had a civilian protection mandate did not absolve the host State of its responsibility to protect civilians. Efforts should be made to ensure that host States upheld that responsibility and that the line between peacekeeping and peace enforcement was not blurred.

3. Pakistan had a zero-tolerance policy towards sexual exploitation and abuse, and supported the Secretary-General's efforts to eliminate that scourge from the United Nations system, including peacekeeping missions. Pakistan had been one of the first troop-contributing countries to sign the Voluntary Compact on Preventing and Addressing Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (the "Voluntary Compact"), and its Prime Minister participated in the Circle of Leadership on the prevention of and response to sexual exploitation and abuse in United Nations operations (the "Circle of Leadership").

4. **Mr. Orozco Barrera** (Colombia), expressing regret at the recent deaths of Burkina Faso peacekeepers in Mali, said that efforts should continue to be made to

implement the conclusions of the December 2017 report entitled *Improving Security of United Nations Peacekeepers: We need to change the way we are doing business* (the "Cruz report").

5. The new realities of global conflicts called for improvements in the chain of command, training and operational behaviour, management of complex situations, along with clearer guidelines on the use of force. The importance of such measures to many Member States – as well as to the credibility and effectiveness of the Organization as a whole – necessitated great care in their implementation, ongoing assessment and updating. United Nations peacekeeping should focus on preventing and responding to conflicts and on producing results within a framework of legitimacy and security. Member States had a duty to identify the actions required for genuine change in decision-making processes and terms of operation, so as to find synergies among the goals set out by the Security Council.

6. The conclusion of missions in Liberia, Côte d'Ivoire, Haiti and elsewhere showed that the efforts to restructure and reform the peace and security pillar of the United Nations were on the right track. Concrete and measurable results were needed to create a United Nations system that was more coherent, efficient and transparent.

7. Colombia had signed a troop contribution agreement with the United Nations. It had supported the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) in a variety of areas from 2006 until its conclusion, and was continuing those efforts through the United Nations Mission for Justice Support in Haiti (MINUJUSTH). It had also contributed personnel to the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA) and the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), and stood ready to contribute military and police personnel to other peacekeeping missions. Colombia hoped to be able to share the experience and knowledge of its armed forces in a wider context, while at the same time protecting peace, security and democracy within its own territory.

8. **Mr. Mounzer** (Syrian Arab Republic) said that although the Charter of the United Nations made no reference to peacekeeping operations, they had become one of the main tools used by the Organization to ensure international peace and security. As mandated by the Charter, however, peacekeeping operations should strictly respect the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of States, refrain from interfering in their domestic affairs, and consistently uphold the

guiding principles of peacekeeping, i.e. the consent of the parties involved, impartiality and the non-use of force. It was thus essential that peacekeeping operations obtained the consent of the Governments of States in which peacekeepers were to be deployed, and that they coordinated with those Governments regarding all activities. As peacekeeping operations should never be a substitute for lasting solutions, the root causes of conflicts should be addressed seriously and objectively.

9. The Syrian Arab Republic had always supported efforts to develop the capabilities of peacekeeping operations keep pace with the changing nature of their mandates. All peacekeeping strategies, policies and concepts should be developed and adopted through an intergovernmental process. The Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations was the only forum mandated to review all issues related to peacekeeping operations, including measures to improve the ability of the Organization to conduct such operations.

10. Although some peacekeeping operations had a mandate to protect civilians, primary responsibility in that regard rested with the host countries. Peacekeeping operation mandates should therefore be fulfilled without infringing on that responsibility. Furthermore, civilian protection should not be used as a pretext for violating sovereignty, attempting to legitimize actions prohibited by the Charter or resolutions, or interfering in internal State affairs. A common legal definition of civilian protection should be agreed before any frameworks or standards for civilian protection were developed.

11. The Syrian Arab Republic maintained good relations with the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) and the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO), providing them with all possible support, including with regard to the redeployment of UNDOF troops in the zone of separation in the Golan. It was important for UNDOF to follow the basic procedures governing its work and its leadership structure.

12. Although peacekeeping operations in any zone were intended to be temporary, such operations had unfortunately been required in the Middle East for decades as a result of Israel's continued occupation of Arab territories, its aggressive policies and its refusal to respect international resolutions. Three United Nations peacekeeping operations were currently active in the region, which placed a strain on the financial and human resources of the Organization. The Syrian Arab Republic urged the United Nations to press Israel to end its occupation and cease its attacks on the States of the region.

13. Security threats and terrorist attacks posed major challenges to peacekeepers. Terrorist groups, supported by Israel, had forced UNDOF to temporarily evacuate certain sites in the zone of separation. Supporting such groups violated international law, United Nations resolutions and the Separation of Forces Agreement between Israel and Syria, posing a threat to the lives of United Nations peacekeepers and undermining the ability of UNDOF to fulfil its mandate.

14. **Mr. Cho** Tae-yul (Republic of Korea) said that the unfortunate loss of peacekeepers from Burkina Faso was a sad reminder of the challenging environments that peacekeepers faced. His Government paid tribute to all peacekeepers, who worked relentlessly to bring hope to millions in the most troubled parts of the world.

15. As peacekeeping contributed to international peace and security, it should adapt to the evolving nature of modern conflicts. The Republic of Korea therefore strongly supported the Secretary-General's efforts to strengthen the effectiveness of peacekeeping operations, in particular through the Action for Peacekeeping initiative, and hoped that those reform efforts and the strategic review of peacekeeping operations would improve the coherence and efficacy of peace operations, with a greater focus on conflict prevention and sustaining peace.

16. The political momentum generated by Action for Peacekeeping should be exploited to ensure that the Declaration of Shared Commitments on United Nations Peacekeeping Operations (the "Declaration of Shared Commitments") was translated into action, and all progress made should be systematically monitored. The upcoming Peacekeeping Defence Ministerial Conference would provide an important opportunity to obtain concrete commitments from Member States and partners in that regard. As a Co-Chair of the Group of Friends of United Nations Peacekeeping Operations, the Republic of Korea would continue to work with the Secretariat, Member States and other partners to provide the necessary support.

17. Peacekeeping should be enhanced to enable operations to better achieve their mandates in complex, high-risk environments, prioritizing improved training, new technologies and increased engagement with local communities. In that regard, the Republic of Korea had hosted the third symposium on international partnership for technology in peacekeeping in 2016 and would host a senior mission leaders course in 2019. It was working with the Department of Field Support to develop real-time mapping technology to enable the use of smaller tactical drones in missions; from an engagement perspective, its peacekeepers in Lebanon and South

Sudan sought to build lasting bonds with local communities, in order to foster genuine peace.

18. Mission mandates should be designed as part of a broader political strategy, taking the entire peace continuum into account and guiding the division of labour between the missions, the United Nations country teams and other relevant actors, including the Peacebuilding Commission.

19. All actors, including regional and subregional organizations, especially the African Union, should share responsibility for peacekeeping for it to be effective in the face of multidimensional challenges. Through its contributions to the Peace Fund of the African Union, the Republic of Korea actively supported efforts to strengthen the capacity of the African Union to maintain peace and security in Africa. In collaboration with the African Union, the Republic of Korea had built a hospital in Gao, Mali, which it hoped would foster support for the Malian Government by improving the provision of basic services. The Republic of Korea also provided support to the African Standby Force Continental Logistics Base in Cameroon and helped build capacities within the African Union Commission to increase women's participation in its peace support operations. In expectation of becoming a leading financial contributor to the United Nations peacekeeping budget, the Republic of Korea felt an increased responsibility to ensure that peacekeeping operations remained an effective tool for promoting peace and security.

20. **Mr. Guillermet-Fernandez** (Costa Rica) said that his country's foreign policy was guided by the principle of peaceful conflict resolution within a multilateral framework. Facing challenges, peacekeeping efforts had evolved into comprehensive, multidimensional operations promoting civilian protection, human rights, transitional justice and the rule of law, all of which were essential to achieving peace.

21. Costa Rica welcomed the reform of the United Nations peace and security pillar, which would help peacekeeping operations achieve their mandates and improve efficiency and effectiveness by providing coherent vision and better coordinated conflict prevention, mediation and peacebuilding efforts. To achieve sustainable, lasting peace, peacekeeping operation mandates should clearly set out the priorities for conflict prevention and mediation and focus on those who would foster local populations' engagement in those processes.

22. Women played an essential role in the peace process. All peace and security activities – in particular mediation processes, justice and transition mechanisms

and the work of the commissions of enquiry – should adopt a gender perspective and focus on human rights. Costa Rica therefore welcomed efforts to ensure the systematic inclusion of women's protection advisers when planning political missions and peacekeeping operations and in training expert teams on the rule of law and on sexual violence in armed conflicts, as well as on commissions of enquiry into cases of sexual violence and abuse. It was important that the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, the Justice Rapid Response initiative and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights continue to cooperate to that end. As solid policies to promote inclusivity were essential to achieving peace and stability, young persons should also be encouraged to participate in conflict prevention and resolution, in particular through the Youth, Peace and Security Agenda.

23. Costa Rica welcomed the Declaration of Shared Commitments, which included valuable measures to respond rapidly to claims of sexual abuse or exploitation and to provide support to victims. A zero-tolerance policy on sexual abuse and exploitation was essential, as such incidents damaged the credibility and perceived impartiality of the Organization among local populations. Long-term solutions were required, including criminal procedures that recognized the rights of victims and guaranteed them access to support and reparations. Costa Rica thanked all peacekeeping personnel for their efforts and commitment to serving the values of the United Nations.

24. **Mr. Vitrenko** (Ukraine) said that a comprehensive reform of the United Nations peacekeeping pillar was required in order to address modern challenges and meet current requirements, which would in turn contribute to the effectiveness of the overall reform of the Organization. The Action for Peacekeeping initiative was perfectly designed to help make peacekeeping efforts more effective and reliable. As an active contributor of troops and police, Ukraine hoped that the initiative would reinforce Member States' collective commitment to peacekeeping.

25. It was particularly crucial that management reform ultimately improved the ability of the United Nations to deliver on its mandates. In line with its responsibilities under the Charter, the Secretariat should provide the Council with timely, honest and substantive reports and should propose bold options for maintaining a peacekeeping presence in conflict zones. The assurance of strategic force generation was also integral to ensuring that peacekeeping operations could complete their mandates.

26. Peacekeeping operations could not operate without sufficient funding and capabilities, including aviation assets, advanced intelligence and modern technologies. They also required clear, coherent, achievable, sequenced and resilient mandates to ensure the safety and security of civilians, including by preventing the spread of illegal weapons and mercenaries. Although such operations were capable of preventing conflict and developing conditions conducive to peace, each mission's accomplishments should be assessed relative to its mandate, to identify those needing structural reform and ensure that each mandate contributed to achieving a political solution. Better dialogue between the Security Council, troop- and police-contributing countries and the Secretariat was also required, most importantly by increasing formal and informal consultations on setting or renewing peacekeeping mandates. The Security Council Working Group on Peacekeeping Operations, which was tasked with reviewing reform initiatives pursuant to Security Council resolution [2378 \(2017\)](#), could serve as a model for the format of such consultations.

27. Ukraine supported the zero-tolerance policy on sexual abuse and exploitation by peacekeepers. The effectiveness of peacekeeping operations required enforcing correct conduct among all peacekeeping personnel.

28. In light of the continued military aggression and occupation occurring in certain parts of Ukrainian territory in contravention of the Charter and the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and the Security Council, Ukraine requested that the United Nations deploy a peacekeeping mission to the occupied territory of the Donbas. Such action would clearly demonstrate the ability of the United Nations to uphold its mandate in the face of challenging conflicts, and could help bring peace to Ukraine. Ukraine's commitment to United Nations peacekeeping would not be shaken, even when under attack.

29. **Mr. Verdier** (Argentina) said that his country supported the development of a transparent, efficient United Nations peacekeeping system. Argentina had made specific commitments to increase its participation in peacekeeping operations over the coming years. Peacekeeping operations should form part of a holistic strategy for conflict prevention, sustaining peace and building sustainable peace, that promoted sustainable development and addressed the root causes of conflict. It therefore supported efforts to include promoting and protecting human rights and gender equality in the work of an increasing number of peacekeeping operations.

30. The mandate of each peacekeeping operation should be adapted to its specific context. Increasingly, however, peacekeeping operations were expected to carry out more tasks, in increasingly risky and complex environments, with a static or shrinking budget. Clear mandates and parameters should be set for peacekeeping personnel and for host States; they should be planned in advance and based on priorities established at the start of operations in consultation with troop and police-contributing countries. The necessary capacities, trained personnel and financial resources should be provided to ensure that all tasks could be completed.

31. Member States should study ways to generate new ideas for improving peacekeeping effectiveness. The Peacebuilding Commission could play an important role in designing and modifying the mandates of peacekeeping operations and planning their conclusion. As political tools for use in a wider strategy supporting viable political processes for peaceful dispute resolution, peacekeeping operations should focus on conflict prevention, mediation and preventative diplomacy. Argentina supported the Secretary-General's reform of the United Nations peace and security pillar and his commitment to improving the United Nations' capacities in that area, and urged him to continue to consult Member States regarding the implementation of the reforms. It also underscored the importance of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations as the only forum mandated to examine the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects.

32. Argentina supported all efforts to implement the women, peace and security agenda and to introduce measures to facilitate women's participation in peacekeeping operations. Argentina had joined the Elsie Initiative on Women in Peace Operations, as increasing the number of female peacekeepers would help improve mission efficiency. The Argentine Government also supported the zero-tolerance policy on sexual abuse and exploitation, and had joined the Voluntary Compact and the Circle of Leadership.

33. Rather than taking a purely military approach to civilian protection in peacekeeping operations, such activities should proceed from a wider political and humanitarian stance focused on building an atmosphere of safety and protection. Shared understanding was needed regarding the methods and repercussions of civilian protection, particularly in cases where the use of force was necessary.

34. All involved parties should renew their commitment to peacekeeping operations as an essential political tool for maintaining international peace and security, and develop a clear, joint strategy for

addressing challenges and guaranteeing the resources missions needed to fulfil their mandates. Argentina had acceded to the Declaration of Shared Commitments on that basis, and paid homage to the brave peacekeeping personnel who had lost their lives in the line of duty in 2018.

35. **Ms. Quek** (Singapore) said that Singapore supported efforts to ensure that the United Nations was able to effectively address current and emerging challenges across the peace continuum, and had therefore been one of the first States in the region to endorse the Action for Peacekeeping initiative. As a small country with limited resources, it sought to ensure that its contributions were as meaningful as possible. It had contributed more than 2,000 troops and police to peacekeeping missions, participated in such multilateral non-United Nations peace efforts as the Combined Maritime Forces' Combined Task Force 151 and the international coalition against Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), and had sent a counterterrorism training unit to Iraq to provide training on weapons and combat tactics. Singapore had also worked with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Field Support to develop the notification of casualty (NOTICAS) application and specialist military transport unit manuals.

36. At the regional level, multilateral security forums such as the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Defence Ministers Meeting (ADMM) and ADMM-Plus facilitated regular dialogue and engagement for preventing conflict and sustaining peace. The ASEAN Peacekeeping Centres Network promoted cooperation by enhancing coordination between peacekeeping centres in ASEAN member States. In addition, the ADMM-Plus Experts' Working Group on Peacekeeping Operations encouraged practical cooperation between the military forces of the States involved.

37. Singapore supported efforts to enhance operational safety, security, performance and leadership across peacekeeping missions and called for increased cooperation between the Secretariat, the Security Council and troop- and police-contributing countries. Close and inclusive consultation with all stakeholders, especially host countries, was vital to develop achievable and realistic mandates, which should adhere strictly to the principles of peacekeeping. The General Assembly should also uphold its financial obligations to peacekeeping in full, on time and unconditionally.

38. **Mr. Martínez Sugastti** (Paraguay) said that his country supported the Secretary-General's reform of the peace and security pillar, as well as the Action for

Peacekeeping initiative and the Declaration of Shared Commitments. In Paraguay, international relations were governed by the principles of solidarity, cooperation and the protection of human rights. As a troop-contributing country, Paraguay valued the effective implementation of peacekeeping mandates, and had established a joint peacekeeping operations training centre to provide predeployment training to military and police personnel, focusing on ethical conduct.

39. Female officers played an active role in the military and police personnel Paraguay currently contributed to five peacekeeping missions. Unfortunately, however, peacekeepers no longer derived protection from the United Nations emblem. Effective measures should be taken to ensure that peacekeepers could complete their missions in safety, such as by improving risk assessment and threat identification, clearly establishing the professional requirements involved, providing predeployment training and improving the equipment available. Civilian protection should also be clearly and explicitly included and prioritized in each mission mandate, with clear, categorical rules.

40. **Ms. Samarasinghe** (Sri Lanka) said that her country welcomed the Secretary-General's reforms of the peace and security architecture and his Action for Peacekeeping initiative, and hoped they would revitalize efforts to improve the effectiveness and coherence of peacekeeping operations and bring them into line with other priorities, such as human rights, peacebuilding and sustainable development.

41. The Department of Political Affairs should be responsive to the political, economic and social complexities of contemporary peacekeeping operations. Political will and support on the ground were essential to effective peacekeeping, and coordination between peacebuilding and peacekeeping operations was required to achieve durable peace. She thanked the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Field Support for helping Sri Lanka expand its presence within the peacekeeping missions.

42. Peacekeeping operations required specialized capabilities to overcome emerging multidimensional challenges. The root causes of instability and conflict should be identified, and effective intelligence gathering networks should be built to improve protection for civilians and non-combatants. Furthermore, peacekeeping operations should support – and not replace – active diplomatic efforts.

43. It was vital that women be included at all levels of peacekeeping and peacebuilding. As women and men experienced conflict differently, so they understood

peace differently. Women were often more successful in building relationships within local communities, and an increase in female participation in peacekeeping could provide the change required to eradicate sexual exploitation and abuse by peacekeepers. Sri Lanka was committed to eliminating sexual exploitation and abuse: it had joined the Voluntary Compact and the Circle of Leadership, endorsing the collective statement issued by the Circle at the 73rd session of the General Assembly; and it had contributed to the Trust Fund in Support of Victims of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse. Moreover, Sri Lanka had adopted a stringent vetting procedure for peacekeeping troops in cooperation with the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and its own National Human Rights Commission.

44. Sri Lanka remained committed to providing troops to peacekeeping efforts and to ensuring that those troops met the highest standards. They could contribute excellent operational experience and expertise, acquired during complex situations, to peacekeeping and peacebuilding efforts. Sri Lanka was also committed to deploying Government-provided personnel in field missions.

45. Disarmament, demobilization and the reintegration of former combatants, now commendably integral to post-conflict peace consolidation and peacekeeping operation mandates, were essential to stabilize conflict-ridden societies in the short term and encourage development in the long term. Sri Lanka paid tribute to all military personnel, police officers and civilians who had lost their lives during their service in peacekeeping operations.

46. **Mr. Lao** (Cambodia), welcoming the Secretary-General's vision for peacebuilding and peacekeeping and commitment to conflict prevention, said that his country fully supported the United Nations peace and security architecture. Cambodia had signed the Declaration of Shared Commitments and had contributed peacekeepers to United Nations missions in eight countries. Expressing condolences to the families of peacekeepers who had died in the line of duty, Cambodia condemned all acts of violence against United Nations personnel and called on the international community to prevent such attacks.

47. As political processes stalled and direct attacks by transnational actors increased, new ideas were needed for protecting peacekeepers and civilians in conflict situations. Collaboration with regional and subregional organizations to mobilize greater political support for peacekeeping activities should be encouraged, and peacekeeping operations required sufficient resources to fulfil their mandates. Cambodia called for

improvements in equipment, health facilities and predeployment training, and also supported efforts to recruit women peacekeepers, as they were able to better respond to the needs of female victims in conflict areas.

48. Close dialogue between the Security Council, the General Assembly, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and troop-contributing countries was necessary to address gaps in peacekeeping operations and resolve current challenges. Cambodia remained committed to participating actively in United Nations peacekeeping operations.

49. **Ms. Haile** (Eritrea) said that conflicts in Africa continued to undermine human security and derail socioeconomic development. Threats to peace and security were becoming increasingly complex, driven by deep-rooted ethnic and ideological differences. United Nations peacekeeping operations needed to adapt to difficult environments and respond to challenges effectively and efficiently, while at the same time adhering strictly to the principles of peacekeeping. Peacekeeping missions required clear and achievable mandates, adequate funding and capabilities, broad political support and clear exit strategies. All peacekeeping initiatives should address the root causes of conflict and prioritize long-term development. Eritrea supported the Secretary-General's reform agenda to prioritize conflict prevention through negotiations, dialogue and mediation and enhance the effectiveness and coherence of peacekeeping operations.

50. While cooperation between regional and subregional organizations, the United Nations and Member States was crucial to maintaining regional stability and peace, caution should be exercised when deploying troops from neighbouring countries where national interests outweighed the desire for regional peace.

51. Eritrea strongly condemned all forms of sexual exploitation by peacekeeping personnel and supported the zero-tolerance policy. It also firmly supported the inclusion of women in United Nations peacekeeping missions.

52. Eritrea called for greater synergy between the Security Council and the Secretariat regarding peacekeeping operations, and paid tribute to all United Nations peacekeepers, particularly those who had lost their lives in the line of duty.

53. **Mr. Mero** (United Republic of Tanzania) said that while his country fully supported the new peacekeeping management structures, particularly the Action for Peacekeeping initiative, it also valued the outstanding efforts made by the Department of Peacekeeping

Operations and the Department of Field Support to improve United Nations peacekeeping operations.

54. As attacks on peacekeepers and operational bases increased, peacekeeping operation mandates should include specific requirements to ensure the safety of peacekeepers and civilians, and all missions should have credible contingency capabilities to reinforce troops on both day and night operations. The dynamics of contemporary peacekeeping required all stakeholders to take part in implementing and defending those mandates in order to ensure the safety of peacekeepers. The Secretariat should facilitate partnership and cooperation between the United Nations, troop-contributing countries and regional organizations, such as the African Union, aimed at establishing a common approach to global peace and security issues and those related to peacekeeping. A mechanism promoting coordination and complementarity in peacekeeping operations was urgently required to prevent unnecessary duplication of effort.

55. Despite the fact that their operational tasks had not changed, many peacekeeping missions had been downsized for budgetary reasons, leaving them overstretched and more vulnerable. Any reduction in force levels should be informed by the situation on the ground in order to protect the lives of troops and innocent civilians. All Member States and the United Nations had a duty to ensure that peacekeepers were sufficiently trained and equipped to protect themselves and civilians.

56. Clear and focused Security Council mandates for peacekeeping missions, along with strong political will on the part of troop- and police-contributing countries and host nations, were required to build confidence in the ability of troops to fulfil their mandates. Moreover, the United Nations and the Security Council should regularly consult troop- and police-contributing countries and regional bodies to ensure that peacekeeping mandates accorded with the situation on the ground.

57. The United Republic of Tanzania took all allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse seriously and was fully committed to implementing the zero-tolerance policy, and to working with the Secretariat to increase accountability and end impunity. It appealed to all Member States to support the work of the Secretary-General and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, and thanked the United Nations and the international community for their support in making its contributions to United Nations peacekeeping missions possible. It was proud of its peacekeepers' commendable work, and paid tribute to all personnel

who had lost their lives during United Nations peacekeeping operations.

58. **Mr. Bachman** (Israel) said that, in the absence of successful bilateral agreements, United Nations peacekeeping forces were needed along Israel's northern borders with Syria and Lebanon. The Iranian regime was the common denominator preventing peace in war-torn areas across the region. Until the United Nations launched a large-scale peacekeeping operation to curtail Iranian aggression, existing peacekeeping operations in the region needed to implement their mandates fully and effectively, particularly when dealing with Iranian-backed militias, which possessed advanced weaponry once available only to State actors.

59. Israel was a proud member of the Voluntary Compact, and believed that the zero-tolerance policy should be applied to all peacekeeping operations. Israel also commended the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Member States that had helped to maintain the United Nations presence on the Israeli-Syrian border. Thanking the Commander of UNDOF, Israel reiterated its commitment to facilitating the redeployment of troops in the area of separation, including the return of troops to all UNDOF border posts and the reopening of the Quneitra Crossing.

60. As part of its commitment to upholding the Separation of Forces Agreement between Israel and Syria, Israel would continue to protect its borders from violent non-State actors and foreign forces. In that connection, it held the Syrian Government responsible for any actions against Israel that originated or took place in Syrian territory, including any violations of the area of separation.

61. His delegation also attached importance to the work of UNIFIL to facilitate the tripartite mechanism and liaison unit, and he thanked the commander and the troop-contributing countries for their efforts. Urging UNIFIL to take all necessary action to ensure that no hostile activities were conducted in its areas of deployment, his Government reaffirmed its commitment to Security Council resolution [1701 \(2006\)](#) and called on neighbouring countries to do likewise.

62. Hezbollah continued to accumulate an arsenal of unprecedented size, which it had placed in populated areas in southern Lebanon. Under Security Council resolutions, Lebanon had a duty to ensure that the area between the Blue Line and the Litani River was free from all weapons and armed personnel other than those of the Lebanese armed forces and UNIFIL. Israel therefore held Lebanon responsible for the actions of Hezbollah and urged UNIFIL to report regularly and in detail to the Security Council about the genuine threat

posed by that group. In the twenty-eighth semi-annual report of the Secretary-General to the Security Council on the implementation of Security Council resolution 1559 (2004), the Secretary-General had stated that “In a democratic State, it remains a fundamental anomaly that a political party maintains a militia that has no accountability to the democratic, governmental institutions of the State but has the power to take that State to war.”

63. Reiterating its support for United Nations peacekeeping operations in the region, Israel paid tribute to the selflessness and dedication of United Nations peacekeepers around the world.

64. **Mr. Giacomelli da Silva** (Brazil) said that more than 55,000 Brazilian troops had participated in United Nations peacekeeping operations over the years and were recognized for their discipline, performance and ability to operate in complex scenarios. Thanks to its vast experience in peacekeeping, Brazil had developed an integrated perspective on peace processes. Strong State institutions and meaningful relationships with local actors, especially women and youth, were needed for stability and lasting peace. Brazil therefore commended the Secretary-General’s efforts to renew engagement in peacekeeping operations, particularly through the Action for Peacekeeping initiative.

65. To meet shared commitments, United Nations peacekeeping operations must be able to adapt to inadequate funding, political difficulties, unrealistic mandates, logistical deficiencies and insufficient training. Bodies such as the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations should be strengthened and consultations between the Security Council, troop- and police-contributing countries and the Secretariat should be improved, with the Security Council taking such consultations into account when designing mission mandates.

66. The advice of regional and subregional organizations regarding conflict prevention and political solutions should be heeded. The use of force should always be a measure of last resort, limited to specific situations where permitted by the mission mandate, the situation on the ground, the Charter and international law. Facing increasingly volatile environments and scant resources, troops needed sufficient training and adequate material and logistical support. Brazil offered training partnerships and could deploy mobile training teams. It also commended Secretariat efforts to evaluate performance in light of political, financial and operational variables and to implement the recommendations of the Cruz report on improving the security of United Nations peacekeepers.

67. Brazil strongly condemned all gender-based violence committed by peacekeepers and all sexual harassment within the United Nations system, and supported efforts to implement the zero-tolerance policy, in particular through the establishment of channels to protect victims’ rights. Moreover, his country supported the full and equal participation of women in peace processes. Women should occupy prominent roles in United Nations missions and as contact points with local actors and civil society representatives.

68. Regarding peacebuilding, the United Nations should support capacity-building in justice and security institutions, encourage the development of local mechanisms for conflict resolution and reconciliation, protect and promote international human rights law and provide advice to justice and security institutions. The Security Council and the Peacebuilding Commission should also hold more frequent and substantive consultations, particularly on designing peacekeeping mandates.

69. Brazil continued to advocate a dedicated account for special political missions within the budgeting and assessment of peacekeeping operations, to improve efficiency and reduce pressure on the regular budget.

70. **Mr. Shaddad** (Jordan) said that his country had participated in United Nations peacekeeping efforts for decades; the discipline, preparedness and efficiency of its troops and its zero-tolerance policy for misconduct were exemplary.

71. All stakeholders bore responsibility for successful peacekeeping, requiring clear, reliable and realistic mandates and the necessary financial and human resources and political support, along with cooperation between the Security Council, Secretariat and troop-contributing countries. Jordan welcomed the Secretary-General’s efforts to restructure the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and was proud to have been one of the first States to support the Action for Peacekeeping initiative.

72. Peacekeeping operations could never substitute for resolving the root causes of conflicts, promoting preventative diplomacy and providing all necessary tools to achieve sustainable peace. In response to the evolving nature of peacekeeping, the Jordanian police had established a Department of Peacekeeping Operations to train officers for participation in United Nations peacekeeping operations. Jordan also remained committed to increasing women’s participation in peacekeeping operations at all levels, and supported the Secretary-General’s zero-tolerance policy on misconduct.

73. As many generations had never known anything other than conflict, the media and specialist initiatives were vital in raising awareness of the concept of peace among children and young persons in conflict zones. He paid tribute to all peacekeepers who had lost their lives.

74. **Mr. Konfourou** (Mali), welcoming the renewal of the mandate of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) under Security Council resolution 2423 (2018), said that the mandates of peacekeeping operations must be adapted without changing the capstone doctrine, and must have adequate resources and equipment to achieve their goals, such as protecting civilians from extremist attacks. The success of peacekeeping missions was the responsibility of all stakeholders, among whom regular consultations must take place throughout the planning and implementation of missions.

75. His Government attached great importance to the Secretary-General's efforts to reform the United Nations peace and security pillar, and had endorsed the Declaration of Shared Commitments and the Voluntary Compact. His delegation also welcomed United Nations cooperation with the Group of Five for the Sahel, and with the Joint United Nations-African Union Framework for Enhanced Partnership in Peace and Security. Financing remained the main challenge to the effectiveness of the Joint Force of the Group of Five for the Sahel, his delegation advocated predictable and sustainable financing for it and all African peacekeeping operations financed by the United Nations.

76. Commending those working in difficult conditions and risking their lives to preserve peace, especially those working for MINUSMA, he paid tribute to the memories of all victims, both civilians and military personnel, citizens and non-citizens of Mali, and praised the personnel of MINUSMA, the French Barkhane force, the European Union and the African Union for their efforts to establish peace across the subregion.

77. **Mr. Wu Haitao** (China) said that peacekeeping must be able to adapt to complex situations. Strict adherence by peacekeeping operations to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the principles of peacekeeping inspired the trust of Member States and ensured the smooth fulfilment of mandates. As peacekeeping operations were intended to help host countries establish and maintain sustainable peace and create the conditions for political settlement, peacekeeping operations must therefore fully respect the sovereignty of the host country and communicate effectively with the authorities. They needed explicit, achievable and focused mandates adapted to the needs and conditions of host countries and the capabilities of

troop-contributing countries. If the reality on the ground changed, or if a host country requested the withdrawal of peacekeeping operations, the Secretariat must formulate a clear exit timetable, under the political guidance of the Security Council.

78. Cooperation between the Security Council, the Secretariat and troop-contributing countries should be strengthened, and the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations and troop-contributing countries should play a greater role in managing peacekeeping operations. Cooperation to boost the peacekeeping capacities of developing countries contributing troops was also needed, as was recognition of the important contributions that regional and subregional organizations, such as the African Union, could make to peacekeeping.

79. To ensure optimal use of resources, the Secretariat must provide effective support to peacekeeping forces, enhance their ability to address complex situations, improve management practices and increase the efficiency of peacekeeping operations. Improved training during deployment was also needed to meet peacekeeping needs. The Secretariat and the field missions should develop peacekeeper safety rules, increase coordination with troop-contributing countries and host countries, analyse local security situations effectively and improve early warning and internal information-sharing capabilities. Sufficient security measures and medical supplies, including evacuation capabilities, were also required.

80. China supported the Secretary-General's efforts to reform peacekeeping operations, particularly the Action for Peacekeeping initiative and the Declaration of Shared Commitments. As one of the leading contributors, in terms of both finance and troops, to peacekeeping operations, China had established standby peacekeeping police and troop contingents and had registered in the Peacekeeping Capability Readiness System. In addition, the China-United Nations Peace and Development Trust Fund focused on enhancing security for peacekeepers and improving the peacekeeping capabilities of developing countries. China would continue to work closely with all Member States to improve United Nations peacekeeping operations and maintain international peace and security.

81. **Mr. Meza-Cuadra** (Peru) said that given the multidimensional nature of modern peacekeeping, any peace agenda should incorporate comprehensive action in support of an array of structures involved in consolidating peace. His delegation reaffirmed its support for the Secretary-General's peace and security

reforms, especially his Action for Peacekeeping initiative.

82. Predeployment training for peacekeepers was vital. The Training Centre for Peacekeeping Operations in Peru instructed military and police personnel on their duties and responsibilities, particularly concerning protection of women, children, displaced persons and minorities. The training also covered international humanitarian and human rights law and included a gender focus to prevent and address sexual violence. In that connection, Peru adhered to the zero-tolerance policy and adhered to the Voluntary Compact and the Circle of Leadership.

83. To improve security, efficiency and adaptability, peacekeeping missions must adopt advanced technologies, enhanced intelligence capacities, rapid response military contingents and modern alert systems. More dynamic and substantive dialogue on operating standards, objectives and performance indicators between the Secretariat and troop-contributing countries were also needed. Performance evaluations should be used to correct any flaws detected during the training or implementation phases of a mandate before being used for punitive purposes. Given their growing complexity, mandates must be realistic and specific. Planning must be improved, and there must be follow-through on commitments to contribute specialized capabilities. His Government also supported greater participation by women in peacekeeping operations; women accounted for 15 per cent of personnel in the six missions in which Peru participated, and played an important role in interacting with civilian populations.

84. **Mr. Naouali** (Tunisia) said that the United Nations should ensure clear objectives and mandates for peacekeeping operations, and provide all resources needed to implement those mandates. Increased cooperation was needed among the Secretariat, Security Council and troop-contributing countries, particularly regarding mandate design and implementation of mandates, and all necessary steps should be taken to avoid conflict and support recovery and development. Tunisia also supported all efforts to protect peacekeepers and improve their security.

85. All United Nations forces must respect human rights, including the physical integrity of persons, and all misconduct, particularly sexual exploitation and abuse, must be handled appropriately. Moreover, capacity-building and budgetary resources were needed for increasing the participation of women in peacekeeping operations and conflict resolution, under Security Council resolutions [1325 \(2000\)](#) and [2242 \(2015\)](#).

86. Having participated in 23 United Nations peacebuilding missions since the 1960s, and with forces currently taking part in six missions around the world, Tunisia was working with the Secretariat to train additional military and security personnel. It had signed the Voluntary Compact, joined the Declaration of Shared Commitments, and adopted the Vancouver Principles on Peacekeeping and the Prevention of the Recruitment and Use of Child Soldiers. It also welcomed the fruitful cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union in peacekeeping and peaceful conflict resolution in Africa, and called for the funding needed to prevent and resolve conflicts and sustain peace and security across Africa.

87. Paying tribute to the sacrifices made by peacekeepers, particularly those who had lost their lives, Tunisia welcomed the Secretary-General's efforts to improve Secretariat performance in maintaining international peace and security, and called for the increased support required for peacekeeping operations to do so effectively.

88. **Ms. Mudallali** (Lebanon), welcoming the Secretary-General's recommendations for making peacekeeping operations more efficient and effective, said that Lebanon had joined the Declaration of Shared Commitments and fully supported the Action for Peacekeeping initiative. Genuine partnerships and cooperation between all stakeholders at all levels were needed in order to optimize peacekeeping activities. The Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations provided a positive environment for achieving consensus on peacekeeping issues in that connection.

89. Lebanon further welcomed Secretariat efforts to achieve more balanced representation of women in peacekeeping, and called for a code of conduct to prevent sexual exploitation in peacekeeping missions. Moreover, peacekeeping efforts should not distract from peacebuilding, particularly through conflict prevention. The international community should prioritize efforts to address the root causes of conflicts.

90. Lebanon enjoyed a close relationship with UNTSO and UNIFIL, which had been operating in the country for many years. The recent unanimous Security Council vote to extend the mandate of UNIFIL demonstrated the commitment of the international community to ensuring stability in Lebanon and its belief in the importance of UNIFIL in that regard.

91. Reaffirming its commitment to the full implementation of Security Council resolution [1701 \(2006\)](#), her Government called on the international community to compel Israel to comply with its obligations by withdrawing from the remaining

Lebanese occupied territories and ceasing to violate Lebanon's sovereignty by land, air and sea. Paying tribute to the sacrifices made by peacekeeping personnel, she thanked the commander and members of UNIFIL and the contributing countries.

92. **Mr. Sukhee** (Mongolia) said that States had a responsibility to provide peacekeepers to participate in United Nations missions. With nearly 900 military and police personnel deployed across five operations, Mongolia had one of the highest per capita rates of peacekeeper deployment, and planned to increase that number. Under Security Council resolution [1325 \(2000\)](#), Mongolia had increased the number of women peacekeepers to a current total of 78 officers and non-commissioned officers, and incorporated a gender perspective in all United Nations peace and security efforts.

93. In the area of civilian protection, Mongolian peacekeepers had been praised for their professionalism, their robust, calm and appropriate approach to peacekeeping and their compliance with United Nations standards of conduct. Mongolia supported the Secretary-General's efforts to promote good conduct, particularly by enforcing the zero-tolerance policy against sexual exploitation and abuse. All necessary steps should also be taken to ensure adequate training, equipment and preparation for peacekeepers to fulfil their mandates. Calling for bolder and more courageous steps to support sustainable peace and security, Mongolia expressed solidarity with all peacekeepers and thanked them for their continued dedication.

94. **Ms. Skåre** (Norway), welcoming support for the Declaration of Shared Commitments, said that Norway stood ready to turn those commitments into action. It supported extending the multinational military transport aircraft rotation in Mali for a further two years, was exploring new deployment possibilities for police advisers and justice and corrections personnel, and would continue to provide financial support and expertise to the reform projects led by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Field Support.

95. Peacekeeping reforms should indeed be centred on political processes. Norway strongly supported efforts to develop a comprehensive performance assessment system for United Nations peacekeeping operations. As political solutions could not be reached without genuine commitment from host Governments and all other parties to conflicts, the international community should therefore support peacekeeping missions unanimously in order to support political processes.

96. The use of sexual violence in conflict continued to have disastrous consequences. Norway was working with partners to develop a handbook providing practical tools to help peacekeepers prevent and respond to such violations. Peacekeeping operations should do everything in their power to help host Governments protect civilians from all forms of abuse, in particular by supporting political solutions to conflicts.

97. Norway welcomed efforts to implement the action plan based on the Cruz report on improving peacekeeper security. It recommended prioritized implementation of the third phase of the peacekeeping intelligence policy, suitable training for troop- and police-contributing countries to deal with improvised explosive devices, and adequate medical facilities and access to timely and reliable medical evacuation for all missions.

98. While welcoming the focus on gender in peacekeeping operations, Norway called for permanent gender adviser positions to be established at all operational headquarters. In light of the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces study, urgent action was needed to overcome the barriers to recruitment, training, retention, deployment and promotion of uniformed women in peacekeeping operations.

99. Norway supported the restructuring of the United Nations peace and security pillar, including the assessment of the Police Division, whose seniority should reflect the increasingly important role played by United Nations police in its missions. The rise in transnational organized crime and terrorism impacted efforts to strengthen local police expertise. The specialized team concept pioneered by Norway and the United Nations in Haiti should be developed as a capacity-building tool, allowing focused support in areas requiring specialist expertise. Supporting implementation of the Strategic Guidance Framework for International Police Peacekeeping, Norway called for complementary efforts to strengthen justice and correction structures.

100. **Mr. Mahfouz** (Egypt) said that his country supported efforts to strengthen peacekeeping operations, and welcomed the Secretary-General's reform initiatives to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of peacekeeping, particularly through the Action for Peacekeeping initiative, whose success depended on the engagement of all stakeholders.

101. Egypt was consistently one of the leading contributors to peacekeeping operations, with more than 2,300 military and police personnel currently deployed. As the current Chair of the Group of 77 and China, Egypt was proud to have taken part in improving the

efficiency of peacekeeping operations, via a sound United Nations peacekeeping budget for 2019 and the Secretary-General's reform proposals. It was committed to enhancing the ability of the United Nations to address conflicts at all stages, from prevention to post-conflict peacebuilding. As conflict resolution should centre upon the primacy of politics, peacekeeping and peacebuilding efforts should therefore accompany, but not replace, political strategies addressing the root causes of conflicts. To improve mission effectiveness, context-specific solutions should be identified at the planning stage.

102. Egypt supported the peacekeeping mandate review guidelines set out in the Statement by the President of the Security Council on 21 December 2017, to ensure that missions remained relevant, adaptable to political and operational developments and realities, and able to contribute to peacebuilding and sustaining peace. The Security Council should consider ways to design achievable mandates, with troop-contributing countries participating fully in their design and review, and extensive consultations with host countries to ensure support for their implementation.

103. The use of force should continue to be limited to cases of self-defence or defence of the mandate. Peacekeepers should be sufficiently trained and equipped to deter violence and defend their mandates. Peacekeeping operations should increase overall effectiveness and efficiency by optimizing mission planning, boosting pledges of capabilities and improving peacekeeping performance through training, discipline and adequate resources, especially during the transition and drawdown phases.

104. The full lifecycle of peacekeeping missions should be reviewed to improve their effectiveness. Operational frameworks should be developed to objectively assess performance, resource adequacy and mission structure appropriateness for both mandated tasks and the operational political environment. In that connection, the Cairo International Centre for Conflict Resolution, Peacekeeping and Peacebuilding would host the Regional Conference on Enhancing Performance of Peacekeeping Operations in November 2018, aimed at building on key aspects of the Declaration of Shared Commitments.

105. As the future Chair of the African Union, it would continue to make efforts to enhance the strategic partnership between the African Union and the United Nations in peacekeeping, post-conflict resolution and development in Africa.

Statements made in exercise of the right of reply

106. **Mr. Bachman** (Israel), reply to the Syrian Arab Republic, said that the reason that the presence of United Nations peacekeeping forces was still required in the region was that neighbouring States refused to accept the existence of Israel, no matter what its borders were. The murderous Syrian regime, having irrigated its lands with the blood of its own people, had no legitimacy to speak about morality, human rights, peace or the affinities of other nations to ancestral lands.

107. **Mr. Mounzer** (Syrian Arab Republic), speaking on a point of order, said that Israel had digressed from the topic of discussion.

108. **Mr. Ghorbanpour** (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that the accusations made by Israel were no more than an attempt to distract from its own aggressions and its occupation of neighbouring territories. During the previous seven decades, the Israeli regime had carried out at least 15 recorded military attacks against neighbouring countries, and it remained hostile towards the people of Palestine and the Syrian Arab Republic. Three United Nations peacekeeping operations had been launched to respond to those aggressions.

109. It should be remembered that Hezbollah was a political party and recognized resistance movement that formed part of the Lebanese Government and that enjoyed the support of the Lebanese people.

110. Iranian military advisers were present in Syria at the invitation of the legitimate Government in order to combat terrorism. There was undeniable evidence that the Israeli army provided logistical, financial, medical and military support to terrorist groups, especially in the Golan Heights and occupied Syrian territories. The Israeli regime was the main source of instability in the Middle East and must be held accountable for its crimes.

111. **Mr. Mounzer** (Syrian Arab Republic) said that the occupying Israeli regime was attempting to cover up its crimes, in particular those committed in the occupied Syrian Golan. The occupying Israeli army provided support to terrorist groups, in particular the Nusrah Front and ISIL, and was helping them to commit attacks throughout Syrian territory.

112. On 30 October 2018, Israel had attempted to hold municipal elections in the occupied Golan, in contravention of all international customs and instruments, in particular Security Council resolution [497 \(1981\)](#), which provided that the Israeli decision to impose its laws, jurisdiction and administration in the Occupied Syrian Golan Heights was null and void and without international legal effect.

113. According to an article in the 18 June 2017 *Wall Street Journal* entitled “Israel Gives Secret Aid to Syrian Rebels”, Israel was providing assistance to terrorist groups in the disengagement zone, in the form of food, fuel and direct financial aid, through a specialist unit of the Israeli army set up for that purpose. Former Israeli Minister for Defence Moshe Ya’alon had also confirmed that Israel was cooperating with armed groups in Syria, especially in the disengagement zone, and that those groups, under the guidance of the Israeli army, were working to drive peacekeeping personnel out of the zone. Furthermore, Israel had provided medical care to thousands of terrorists, whom it had subsequently sent back to the disengagement zone. It was therefore understandable that the Syrian army faced difficulties in ridding the area of terrorists.

114. The Syrian Arab Republic emphasized that there was no Israeli-Syrian border, as Israel claimed, only the disengagement zone. The Syrian Arab Golan was an integral part of its territory and the only border that existed there was that which divided the free Golan from the occupied Golan.

115. **Mr. Bachman** (Israel) said that it was ironic that Syria and Iran were attempting to preach moral values to the only democracy in the Middle East, Israel. While the Syrian regime denounced Israel for saving lives in the Golan, Israel recalled that those individuals had been injured at the hands of the Syrian regime, which insisted on referring to all other parties to the conflict in Syria as “terrorists”.

116. While the Iranian and Syrian regimes were slaughtering and mistreating their own people, Israel only ever acted in self-defence. Those regimes had a distorted political hatred of the State of Israel and would not accept it in any form, no matter what its borders were. Although they brainwashed younger generations to feel that same hatred, many of them were now fleeing those countries to escape the abuse by those regimes.

117. **Mr. Mounzer** (Syrian Arab Republic) said that the world had recently witnessed the supposed democracy of Israel, when elderly men in the Syrian Occupied Golan had tried to protest against the imposition of municipal elections.

118. **Mr. Bachman** (Israel) said that it was audacious of the Syrian representative to question the democratic procedures of Israel when democracy had never been exercised in Syria.

119. **Mr. Mounzer** (Syrian Arab Republic), emphasizing that the Golan was and would always be Syrian and Arab, said that the Israeli regime had responded with force to elderly protesters who had

sought to oppose the illegitimate municipal elections. The Israeli regime should not speak of democracy when its leaders visited terrorist groups, encouraged them to spread throughout the zone of separation and instructed them to massacre civilians.

120. **Mr. Ghorbanpour** (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that Israel was an occupying apartheid regime that had no claim to be the only democracy in the Middle East.

121. Consensus had long existed on the fact that the question of Palestine – in particular the occupation of Arab and Palestinian lands and Muslim and Christian sites and the atrocities committed against the Palestinian people – was at the core of all other problems in the Middle East. During the previous seven decades, the people living under Israeli occupation had suffered many atrocities that had outraged the world, not least the killing of women, children and the elderly.

The meeting rose at 1.10 p.m.