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Held at Headquarters, New York, on Tuesday, 5 November 2019, at 3 p.m.

Chair: Mr. Pindják (Vice-Chair) (Slovakia)
Chair: Mr. Bahr Aluloom (Iraq)

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In the absence of Mr. Bahr Aluloom (Iraq), Mr. Pindják (Slovakia), Vice-Chair, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 3 p.m.

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

1. **Mr. Al-Mouallimi** (Saudi Arabia) said that the international community should endeavour to develop the mandates of peacekeeping forces in order to address the proliferation of civil wars and terrorist groups, which threatened State sovereignty and economic development. Accordingly, Saudi Arabia supported the Action for Peacekeeping initiative of the Secretary-General and had endorsed the Declaration of Shared Commitments on United Nations Peacekeeping Operations.

2. Saudi Arabia had contributed financially and had provided political and logistical support to United Nations peacekeeping forces. It had also been among the first to heed calls for emergency humanitarian assistance. Saudi Arabia supported such conflict-affected countries as the occupied State of Palestine and Yemen. It was promoting economic and political stability in the Sudan and supported that country's political transition process and the transition from peacekeeping to peacebuilding. Saudi Arabia had pledged financial support for the G5 Sahel Joint Force and promised to foster logistical cooperation and information exchange between that Force and the Islamic Military Counter Terrorism Coalition, which it had helped to establish.

3. Saudi Arabian troops had made considerable sacrifices fighting as part of the Coalition to Support Legitimacy in Yemen in order to protect the legitimate Government from the coup militias. Saudi Arabia fully supported all the people of Yemen and their legitimate Government in their efforts to reach a comprehensive political solution that would end the coup by the Houthi militias and restore stability. Saudi Arabia had recently contributed \$500 million towards the 2019 Yemen humanitarian response plan. Since the beginning of the crisis, it had provided more than \$1.4 billion in humanitarian assistance to the Yemeni people. Saudi Arabia had also hosted a dialogue between the Yemeni Government and the Southern Transitional Council, culminating in an agreement which had been signed in Riyadh that very day.

4. Saudi Arabia supported United Nations efforts to resolve the crisis in Yemen and welcomed the progress made in establishing joint observation posts in the city

of Hudaydah in order to maintain security and stability. The international community should take all necessary measures to support implementation of the Stockholm Agreement and prevail on coup militias to comply with the Agreement and lay down their weapons.

5. In accordance with Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations, regional organizations should be given a central role in maintaining international peace and security and in strengthening preventive diplomacy. United Nations entities should comply with their mandates and refrain from using them as a pretext for interfering in the internal affairs of States or in matters beyond their purview.

6. **Mr. Rai** (Nepal) said that recent armed conflicts had become more complex, multifaceted and unpredictable. The nexus between conflict and organized crime had grown stronger, and new generations of weapons, including drone technologies, had exacerbated the risk of collateral damage. United Nations peacekeepers worked in an increasingly hostile environment: they interacted with various non-State actors, including insurgent groups, terrorists and organized criminals, and were increasingly coming under attack. In addition to those challenges, the lack of adequate resources for peace operations owing to late payment and the withholding of assessed contributions added insult to injury. The deferral of reimbursements to troop- and police-contributing countries undermined peacekeepers' morale, capacities and overall performance. Despite those challenges, United Nations peacekeepers had no option but to succeed in maintaining international peace and security and fostering a peaceful environment conducive to the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals, which, in turn, could provide a durable solution to conflict. The primary focus should, however, be on political dialogue. Peacekeeping operations should uphold such cardinal principles as consent of the parties, impartiality, and non-use of force except in self-defence or defence of the mandate. They should be adequately resourced and entrusted with clear, sequenced, and appropriate mandates. Once an operation was under way, the Security Council, financial contributors, troop-contributing countries and the United Nations Secretariat should all assume their responsibilities so that the mandate could be effectively implemented. Peacekeepers should receive specialized training tailored to the mandate.

7. As one of the major troop- and police-contributing countries, Nepal supported the Action for Peacekeeping initiative and had contributed to the development of peacekeeping at the normative and logistical levels. It had always responded positively to the appeals of the

United Nations without national caveats, even at the shortest notice. Its peacekeepers were deployed in some of the most fragile and complex security environments. Since 1958, more than 140,000 Nepalese peacekeepers had served in a total of 58 United Nations missions on four continents. Nepal was currently the fifth-largest troop- and police-contributing country and stood prepared to contribute up to 10,000 additional troops at the request of the United Nations.

8. In order to ensure the safety and security of peacekeepers, the United Nations should develop a mechanism to provide missions with urgent support and reinforcements of personnel and equipment whenever needed, particularly in such highly volatile environments as Libya. Mission-specific performance indicators should be introduced, and mission leadership should be held accountable for whole-of-mission performance. In order to boost morale, peacekeepers should be rewarded for outstanding performance. Nepal recognized the importance of partnership in addressing the capability gaps of peacekeepers and was ready to help improve the capabilities of both emerging and established troop- and police-contributing countries. Nepal had its own world-class peacekeeping training centre that provided pre-deployment training in such areas as protection of civilians, human rights, humanitarian law and the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse.

9. Women peacekeepers had an indispensable role to play in providing innovative perspectives on building and sustaining peace. Nepal was committed to increasing the number of its female peacekeepers; had met United Nations targets for female participation as staff officers, military observers; and individual police officers; and had begun integrating female engagement teams in uniformed units. The current international normative framework for the protection of civilians should be strengthened and effectively implemented, and anyone who committed indiscriminate attacks on the civilian population should be held accountable. Lastly, national ownership and leadership, and engagement with the local community, were essential for a sustained peace process. For that reason, Nepal trained its peacekeepers to engage with the communities that they were mandated to serve.

10. **Mr. Shaddad** (Jordan) said that his delegation attached particular importance to the Secretary-General's efforts to reform and restructure the Department of Peace Operations and was proud to have been among the first countries to support the Action for Peacekeeping initiative. To keep pace with the evolving nature of United Nations mandates, Jordan had, in 1996, established the Jordanian Peace Operations Training

Institute to train all ranks of the Jordanian Armed Forces, in addition to allied troops. Up until early 2019, the Institute had trained 66,000 soldiers in such areas as the workings of peacekeeping operations, the protection of civilians and children, disarmament, rehabilitation and international law and humanitarian law. In 2003, the Institute had begun providing courses on cultural awareness. Some of those courses were intended for the troops of allied countries and addressed Arab and Islamic traditions and customs; social, ethnic, family and tribal structures, and women; religious issues; stereotypes; negotiations; and working with translators. The course material was tailored to the nature and location of the mission. Other courses were intended for the armed forces of Jordan and other Arab countries, and addressed the customs, traditions and religions of various non-Arab peoples. In order to train prospective peacekeepers, a department of peacekeeping operations had been established within the Jordan Public Security Directorate in 2015. It was hoped that, through such reforms, Jordan would become a regional training centre for peacekeeping and peacebuilding operations.

11. Given the importance of women to conflict prevention and resolution, Jordan was implementing an action plan to increase women's participation in peacekeeping operations at all levels and had increased the proportion of women serving in the Jordanian Armed Forces at certain ranks. His delegation continued to support the Secretary-General's zero-tolerance policy on sexual exploitation and abuse.

12. At the United Nations peacekeeping ministerial conference on uniformed capabilities, performance and protection held at United Nations Headquarters in New York on 29 March 2019, the Government had pledged to provide a mechanized infantry battalion, a special operations unit, a level 2 field hospital and a protection unit. Jordan currently participated in eight peacekeeping missions and looked forward to increasing its participation, which had declined in recent years owing to the situation in the Middle East.

13. **Ms. Badjie** (Gambia) said that, over the previous three decades, the Gambia had contributed troops and police to more than 17 peacekeeping missions. Its personnel had been among the first to serve in such conflict zones as Darfur, and among the last to leave from closed missions in such countries as Liberia. In view of evolving challenges, the international community should build on its experience and galvanize collective efforts to improve the effectiveness of peacekeeping operations. Accordingly, the Gambia was committed to the Action for Peacekeeping initiative and had taken tangible steps to implement the relevant commitments in a coordinated manner. It welcomed the

focus in the Secretary-General's reform agenda on peacekeeping, peacebuilding, conflict prevention and mediation. Such efforts should be complemented by sustained political processes to address the root causes of conflict. Field missions should be better funded, have realistic and achievable mandates, and have access to major equipment, which could be provided through strategic partnerships between troop-contributing countries and equipment-owning countries.

14. Consultations with troop- and police-contributing countries with regard to policy and decision-making processes should be strengthened. The Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations should be the forum for policy and decision-making processes; it reflected the diverse perspectives of all Member States and stakeholders. Her delegation welcomed the adoption of new working methods for the Special Committee and looked forward to working towards consensus.

15. Her Government's revised peacekeeping policy sought to address capacity gaps by selecting and nominating greater numbers of women peacekeepers, developing a rapid deployment force for peacekeeping, enhancing pre-deployment training, and appointing highly trained officers, including women, to key command positions. In the light of the upcoming twentieth anniversary of the adoption of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women, peace and security, her Government was joining others to galvanize national and international support for the incorporation of a gender perspective in military and police deployments to United Nations peacekeeping operations. At the 2019 United Nations peacekeeping ministerial conference, her delegation had announced ambitious targets to ensure that women accounted for 20 per cent of Gambian female military officers in United Nations peacekeeping missions. That target had been surpassed in several key areas: 50 per cent of Gambian officers serving as staff officers and United Nations military observers in United Nations field missions were women as were 75 per cent of Gambian police officers serving in the United Nations Mission in South Sudan.

16. United Nations personnel should be held to the highest standard of conduct and discipline in field missions. Her Government therefore strongly condemned all forms of sexual exploitation and abuse committed in United Nations peacekeeping operations and was fully committed to the United Nations zero-tolerance policy on sexual exploitation and abuse. It continued to ensure that all officers nominated for deployment to United Nations peacekeeping missions underwent pre-deployment training programmes on sexual exploitation and abuse, something that had

contributed to the high standard of discipline and good conduct exhibited by Gambian troops.

17. While emphasizing the fact that primary responsibility for the maintenance of peace and security lay with the Security Council, her delegation believed that strengthening partnerships, particularly with regional organizations, could help improve the effectiveness of peacekeeping operations. The ongoing partnership between the United Nations and the African Union was therefore commendable and should be intensified in certain geopolitical contexts, particularly where emergency situations were concerned. African Union peacekeeping operations authorized by the Security Council should be supported through predictable, sustainable and flexible financing in accordance with Security Council resolutions 2320 (2016) and 2378 (2017).

18. **Mr. Castañeda Solares** (Guatemala) said that the analysis and strategic planning of peacekeeping operations should take place at the system-wide level and should involve a long-term commitment geared towards a transition from peacekeeping to peacebuilding. Cooperation among troop- and police-contributing countries, the Security Council and the Secretariat should be strengthened with a view to ensuring that mandates and expectations were clear. At its forthcoming session, the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations must endeavour to reach consensus. The new structure of the report, which reflected that of the Action for Peacekeeping initiative, would help to improve consistency in the various areas of action. Action should be taken to strengthen the role of women, on an equal footing with men, in preventing and resolving conflict and in keeping and sustaining peace.

19. His delegation was concerned at the persistence of sexual exploitation and abuse, which tarnished the reputation of the United Nations. Mechanisms to follow up allegations of sexual abuse at the level of troop- and police-contributing countries should be bolstered, and greater empathy should be shown with the victims.

20. Lastly, there was a need to improve the security and protection of United Nations personnel. For that purpose, the Special Committee should consider the practical recommendations enshrined in the report entitled "Improving security of United Nations peacekeepers" compiled by Lieutenant-General Carlos Alberto dos Santos Cruz. Those recommendations addressed such areas as ending impunity for attacks on peacekeepers; improving the quality of first aid and care at level 1 hospitals; and ensuring that the best possible

physical security measures were in place at peacekeepers' bases.

21. **Mr. Arriola Ramírez** (Paraguay) said that Paraguay was currently contributing troops and, in particular, female officers, to five United Nations missions. In pre-deployment training, emphasis was placed on ethical conduct. In view of the emergence of new threats, it was essential to take effective action to ensure that peacekeepers could fulfil their mandate safely. Both the United Nations and troop-contributing countries should continue to enact reforms aimed at mitigating threats to peacekeeping operations, including by improving risk assessment, better identifying threats, clearly establishing professional requirements, strengthening pre-deployment training and ensuring that troops were better equipped. The protection of civilians should be clearly and explicitly mentioned in as a priority in every mandate and should be underpinned by clear and robust rules. For its part, his Government worked intensively to improve training for its troops and police; supported efforts to implement the agenda on women, peace and security; and remained committed to the Organization's zero tolerance policy on sexual exploitation and abuse.

22. **Mr. Mabhongo** (South Africa) said that, as peacekeeping evolved, there was a need to identify emerging threats in specific missions, such as the Ebola epidemic that had affected the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO). Sustained consultations among the Secretariat, troop- and police-contributing countries and host countries were essential when planning, assessing and closing peacekeeping mandates. Such consultations allowed stakeholders, particularly the host country, to be actively involved in formulating the expectations of the mission. It was important to put in place a light coordination mechanism for training, capacity-building and funding to support specialized in-mission training for troop- and police-contributing countries. Performance benchmarks should not be invoked in order negatively to affect troop- and police-contributing countries; rather, the focus should be on holistically improving the capacities of peacekeeping missions. Mandates should be matched with appropriate resources, including adequate uniformed and civilian personnel and sustainable funding. However, the budget cuts imposed on certain missions had impaired their effectiveness.

23. South Africa supported ongoing efforts to revitalize peacekeeping operations and recognized the important role played by regional and subregional organizations, including the African Union. Because the peacekeeping architecture was constantly evolving, it

was essential for the United Nations and relevant international, regional and subregional organizations to continue collaborating. Organizations such as the African Union were first responders: they had the ability to deploy early and stabilize crisis situations before handing over to the United Nations. The Security Council should therefore develop tangible measures to ensure predictable and sustainable funding for the African Union-led peace support operations that it had authorized. In order to draw on the vast experience of troop- and police-contributing countries, the United Nations should enhance cooperation in the areas of training, capacity-building and the sharing of experiences and best practices with African countries that had resident training centres. Regional and national peacekeeping centres should be adequately supported and funded, and their peacekeeping curricula should be streamlined and periodically reviewed. His Government supported such regional initiatives as the African Standby Force, which was able to respond swiftly to any crisis on the continent. His delegation welcomed the Secretary-General's action plan to improve the security of peacekeepers, the peacekeeping training plan and the efforts that had been made to improve medical, technical and logistical support in peacekeeping operations. Peacekeepers should be given the tools and expertise to counter asymmetrical threats, which were increasingly prevalent.

24. South Africa was among the countries with the highest numbers of women deployed to United Nations peacekeeping operations. It would work to further increase that number and was committed to addressing conflict-related violence against women in all its forms and manifestations. It had adopted and implemented a zero-tolerance policy against sexual exploitation and abuse in peacekeeping operations, and had introduced a pre-deployment induction programme on the topic. It continuously provided in-mission training regarding command and control, leisure time use, protection of civilians, human rights standards and sexual exploitation and abuse. DNA testing was now available for all South African troops on deployment, a measure that had proved to be a best practice for addressing sexual exploitation and abuse.

25. The Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations was the primary forum for addressing peacekeeping matters at the United Nations. While welcoming the decisions of the Special Committee regarding working methods, his delegation regretted that it had been unable to adopt a report at its substantive session of March 2019. It looked forward to remedying that situation at the forthcoming session.

26. **Mr. Bermúdez Álvarez** (Uruguay) said that Uruguay had deployed a total of more than 50,000 troops and police officers to more than 20 operations around the world. The international community should remain committed to the Action for Peacekeeping initiative and the Declaration of Shared Commitments. His delegation welcomed the idea that Member States could become “action for peacekeeping champions” and take the lead in taking tangible actions to implement their commitments. It looked forward to examining the follow-up and evaluation procedures that would be developed by the Secretariat. Uruguay had volunteered to act as “action for peacekeeping champion” in three thematic areas, namely protection of civilians, associations, and security of peacekeeping personnel.

27. The Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations was the only organ with a mandate to conduct a full examination of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects. His delegation welcomed the Special Committee’s discussion of working methods and the decision that the reports of the Special Committee would follow a new structure based on the thematic areas of the Action for Peacekeeping initiative. Such a structure should improve the clarity, concision and impact of the reports. He trusted that all Member States would work to adopt a substantive report by consensus at the forthcoming session of the Special Committee.

28. The Security Council, the Secretariat and troop- and police-contributing countries should work together to ensure that mandates were viable, clear and matched with adequate resources. The introduction of the comprehensive performance assessment system in six peacekeeping missions would provide better information based on which to take decisions related to mandate renewals.

29. In order to improve the effectiveness of peacekeeping operations, it was essential to increase the participation of women. His Government had taken action towards that goal; the proportion of Uruguayan women deployed in peacekeeping missions was now higher than the average. Uruguay was a member of the Elsie Initiative for Women in Peace Operations and would co-chair the Women, Peace and Security National Focal Point Network, in which role it would seek to boost female participation in peacekeeping missions.

30. **Mr. Nguyen Nam Duong** (Viet Nam) said that peacekeeping operations needed to be able to respond more quickly and effectively to emerging challenges. Areas to be addressed included performance, accountability, coherence between mandates, and the provision of resources to support political solutions on the ground. Member States should be committed to the

Action for Peacekeeping initiative and to reform of the peace and security pillar of the United Nations architecture more generally. National ownership of political solutions was essential, and peacekeeping missions must take place with the consent of the State and parties concerned. Although the multidimensional aspects of peacekeeping operations should not be overstated, any operation must be carried out in accordance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations. Care should be taken to comply with the basic principles of political impartiality, non-intervention in the internal affairs of States, consent of the parties, and non-use of force except in self-defence or defence of the mandate. The United Nations should enhance its cooperation with regional and subregional organizations under Chapter VIII of the Charter. Such cooperation should be based on a division of labour based on the comparative advantages of each organization. The Security Council should formulate clear, focused and achievable mandates in close consultation with troop- and police-contributing countries, the Secretariat and host States. His Government had endeavoured to increase the numbers of its women peacekeepers in United Nations operations; women now accounted for more than 15 per cent of Vietnamese peacekeepers already deployed in the field.

31. **Ms. Najwa** (Maldives) said that new security threats had led to more complex mandates and extreme pressure to evolve. Peacekeeping must be a partnership between United Nations agencies and host communities. Any review or proposed changes to a mandate should take into account the needs of local communities and the unique historical, political and economic circumstances of each situation. Such an approach would help to identify the root causes of the conflict and plan the restoration of peace and security. Robust and contemporary training programmes would help to improve peacekeepers’ performance and reduce the number of casualties. Lasting peace could not be achieved, much less sustained, through military engagement alone; political solutions were also required.

32. Her Government supported all initiatives aimed at ensuring gender parity in peacekeeping operations and overcoming challenges to the professional advancement of women. Female participation was critical for the effectiveness of such operations: women peacekeepers could help reduce conflict and confrontation, improve access to and support for local women, provide role models, foster a greater sense of security, broaden the skill-set available within the peacekeeping mission, reduce the occurrence of sexual exploitation and abuse,

and increase the reporting of sexual and gender-based violence.

33. The success of peacekeeping operations was a collective responsibility. For its part, her Government was continuing to invest in its security forces and provide them with appropriate training. It called on all Member States to ensure that their financial contributions to the United Nations peacekeeping operations were paid promptly and in full.

34. **Mr. Velásquez** (Peru) said that his delegation commended the Action for Peacekeeping initiative and welcomed the growing number of endorsements of the Declaration of Shared Commitments. It was essential to strengthen the monitoring of performance by establishing benchmarks in such areas as due diligence and respect for human rights. Strategic reviews of certain missions made it possible to identify strengths and weaknesses and reallocate priorities. Troop-contributing countries needed accurate and updated information regarding the expectations, challenges and specific requirements of any given operation. In return, they should provide duly trained personnel who could adapt to their host societies. Action should be taken to improve the effectiveness of peacekeeping missions, better adapt them to their specific circumstances, and bolster the security of personnel. Such measures should include the use of advanced technology, new intelligence capacities, rapid response contingents, modern alert and medical support systems, strategic deployment and evacuation plans, and the harmonization of operational concepts. The United Nations should continue to foster synergies with regional and subregional organizations; the joint visits conducted by officials of the Secretariat and of the African Union were a promising example of such cooperation. The Security Council, the Secretariat and troop- and police-contributing countries should improve their dialogue with a view to developing specific objectives, coherent strategies and innovative responses. Formal meetings should be convened with sufficient notice, be more interactive, have more clearly defined goals, and be systematically geared to the stages of each operation. Peru remained committed to providing troops that were trained, disciplined and respectful of host country populations.

35. **Mr. Rivero Rosario** (Cuba) said that principal responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security lay with the United Nations, which should comply with the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, including, such as sovereign equality, political independence and territorial integrity of all States, and with the fundamental principles guiding peacekeeping missions. As peacekeeping missions became more

complex, those fundamental principles were often infringed. The use of such missions for peace enforcement operations and combating terrorism, extremism and international organized crime was concerning, as it would increase the risk of attacks on peacekeeping personnel and related organizations. Peacekeeping missions must be a temporary measure for establishing a security framework before implementing long-term sustainable socioeconomic development strategies. Otherwise, the vicious and costly cycle of new conflicts and new peacekeeping operations would never be broken.

36. The General Assembly had a primary role to play in formulating concepts, doctrines and strategies and in considering budgetary issues related to peacekeeping. The Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations was the only forum of the United Nations with a mandate for the comprehensive consideration of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects. At its 2019 session, the Special Committee had failed to reach agreement owing to the opposition of a single delegation. Members of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries were making every effort to avoid repeating that fiasco. His delegation was confident that the Special Committee's new working methods would be suited to the task and could be adopted permanently. It was unacceptable for questions relating to the protection of civilians and human rights to be manipulated in order to achieve political goals or interfere in the internal affairs of States.

37. Cooperation among the Security Council, the Secretariat and troop-contributing countries should be intensified. In most cases, troop-contributing countries were not given an opportunity to participate actively at every stage of the decision-making process. While modern technology could be useful in improving reconnaissance and peacekeeping personnel safety, legitimate concerns had been raised about the use of drones in United Nations operations. The use of such technology must be considered on a case-by-case basis, respecting the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Member States and with the consent of host countries. It was imperative to define the legal, operational, technical and financial aspects of the use of modern technology, which should complement but not replace troops on the ground. Such operations should have realistic and viable mandates, tangible and clearly defined objectives, and adequate resources.

38. **Mr. Nyaga** (Kenya) said that inadequate funding, threats to the safety and security of peacekeepers, terrorism and violent extremism remained the greatest challenges to peacekeeping. Missions were often drawn down owing to insufficient funding, endangering

civilians and peacekeepers. Stakeholders should consult more intensively before taking any such decisions. It would also be useful for the United Nations to consider funding African-led peace support operations through assessed contributions.

39. Peacekeepers frequently came under direct attacks from armed groups, often using improvised explosive devices. In order to counter that threat, Kenya was prepared to partner with the United Nations and other stakeholders to hold training sessions at the International Peace Support Training Centre in Nairobi concerning ways to mitigate the threat of improvised explosive devices and dispose of explosive ordnances and conventional munitions.

40. The threat of terrorism and violent extremism continued to complicate peacekeeping efforts in many parts of the world. For instance, the risk posed by Al-Shaabab in Somalia remained the greatest threat to peace, security and stability in Somalia and the region. His delegation urged the Security Council to list that group as a terrorist organization. Through cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union, the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) had largely succeeded in eliminating Al-Shaabab in many parts of Somalia; however, the threat remained credible. The force enablers and multipliers referred to in Security Council resolution [2036 \(2012\)](#) and the requested troop surge had not been addressed. Moreover, building the capacity of the Somali national security forces would apparently take longer than had been anticipated. His Government supported the Somalia Transition Plan, which sought to gradually transfer security responsibility from AMISOM to the Somali security forces. However, caution should be to avoid reversing the gains already achieved. The international community should therefore make a greater investment in ensuring that the Somali national security institutions gained the necessary capacities to take over security responsibility for their country. It was also high time for the Security Council to consider transitioning AMISOM into a United Nations peacekeeping mission in order to build synergies and resources for the maintenance of international peace and security.

41. Kenya continued to host the United Nations Project for African Rapid Deployment Engineering Capabilities, a triangular partnership project, and was grateful to the Governments of Japan and Brazil and other partners for their continued support.

42. **Ms. Senewiratne** (Sri Lanka) said that her delegation welcomed the Action for Peacekeeping initiative; had endorsed the Declaration of Shared

Commitments and the Vancouver Principles on Peacekeeping and the Prevention of the Recruitment and Use of Child Soldiers; and had been one of the first countries to subscribe to the Kigali Principles on the Protection of Civilians. Given the political, economic and social exigencies of contemporary peacekeeping, it was important for the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs to remain engaged in the process, and for there to be cooperation and coordination among the United Nations, peacekeeping organizations and Member States. Peacekeeping missions should be managed in a fair and equitable manner, and field operations should adapt and acquire specialized capabilities.

43. The Secretariat should comply with accepted procedures and avoid serving the misplaced political interests of a few. Her delegation had been unfairly treated by the Department of Peace Operations, which had decided unilaterally that the contribution of Sri Lanka to a peacekeeping operation would be adjusted and that a contingent of peacekeepers on rotation would not be replaced. That decision had violated the relevant memorandum of understanding and brought into question the established procedure, which had been flawed from the outset. The Department had sought to link its decision to an internal appointment made by the Government of Sri Lanka in exercise of its sovereign right. In so doing, the Department had challenged the Head of State of a Member State. Moreover, the peacekeeping contingent that was stepping in had been nominated well before that appointment had been made. The connection that had been made between the two decisions therefore created an anomalous situation. The reasons for such punitive action had been communicated only verbally. The Government of Sri Lanka had asked to be notified formally in writing, but had received only a communication listing the troop details. Although the reasons for the decision had been explained to the media, they had yet to be put in writing. The Under-Secretary-General for Peace Operations had recently insisted that peacekeeping operations were rule-based. It was therefore disconcerting that the Department had chosen to violate the relevant memorandum of understanding by failing to consult with the Government of Sri Lanka, instead presenting its decision as a fait accompli. That course of action had created a trust deficit and risked creating a precedent that would entrench politicization in the United Nations system and pave the way for pernicious violations of the principles of non-interference and State sovereignty. In order to avoid eroding multilateralism, the Secretariat must comply with the principle that the United Nations system was led by Member States and that all Member States must be treated equally.

44. Her delegation appreciated the assurances given by the Secretary-General that obligations to Member States providing troops and equipment would be met as promptly as possible. It was also important, however, for the Secretariat to fulfil its financial obligations towards peacekeepers who had been identified for replacement, and to so upon their repatriation. A predictable system should be in place for the payment of all dues in respect of peacekeeping operations. In view of the paucity of funding, peacekeeping mandates should be clear, workable and formulated with due regard for the complexities at hand. In order to ensure that real needs were met, the United Nations should consult troop-contributing countries and recipient States when developing and renewing mandates. Action should be taken to address the causes of instability and conflict, build local information networks for the protection of civilians and non-combatants, and complement peacekeeping operations with robust diplomatic efforts.

45. It was especially important to protect children and address the disproportionate impact of armed conflict on women. A gender perspective should be incorporated into all peace and security initiatives; women were often in a position to build successful relationships with local communities. With support from the Government of Japan, her Government was in the process of developing an action plan for the implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000). It had signed the voluntary compact of the Secretary-General on preventing and addressing sexual exploitation and abuse, had joined the circle of leadership on the prevention of and response to sexual exploitation and abuse in United Nations operations, and had contributed to the trust fund established in order to help the victims of sexual exploitation and abuse. It had also put in place several best practices, including a stringent vetting procedure for the selection of peacekeeping troops, which was implemented in cooperation with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the independent national human rights commission of Sri Lanka.

46. Sri Lanka had been involved in peacekeeping operations for six decades. Its peacekeepers were currently active in a range of missions, including one in which they maintained a level 2 hospital, and had considerable experience in maintaining order and providing humanitarian assistance and disaster relief.

47. *Mr. Bahr Aluloom (Iraq) took the Chair.*

48. **Ms. Ali** (Syrian Arab Republic) said that, although not provided for in the Charter of the United Nations, peacekeeping operations were one of the Organization's main tools for the maintenance of peace and security.

They should adhere scrupulously to the principles of the Charter, namely sovereignty, territorial integrity, the political independence of States and non-interference in their internal affairs. In accordance with the fundamental principles of peacekeeping operations, peacekeeper deployments required the consent of the Governments of host States, which must be consulted in all matters relating to the peacekeeping activities. Peacekeeping operations were no substitute for lasting solutions, which required genuine and objective efforts to address the root causes of conflicts.

49. In view of their evolving functions, Syria had always encouraged efforts to develop peacekeeping operations at all levels. Decisions regarding peacekeeping strategies and policies must, however, be adopted at the intergovernmental level. The Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations was the only forum authorized to review all aspects of peacekeeping operations, including measures to strengthen United Nations capacities for that purpose.

50. Primary responsibility for protecting civilians lay with the authorities of the host country. Peacekeeping missions must never encroach on that responsibility, and concept of protection civilians must not be used as a pretext for violating sovereignty, interfering in the internal affairs of States or legitimizing actions that contravened the Charter or resolutions of the United Nations. Before standards for the protection of civilians could be developed, that concept must first be given an agreed legal definition.

51. The Syrian Arab Republic enjoyed a good relationship with officials of the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO) and the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF). It was committed to supporting the mandates of both forces in any way possible and, in that context, emphasized that UNDOF should comply with its standard operating procedures, particularly with regard to maintenance of the command structure. The Syrian Government had assisted in the redeployment of UNDOF, recently facilitating the first, second and third stages of the return of personnel to the area of separation. As was stated in the most recent report of the Secretary-General on UNDOF (S/2019/774), a return to the area of separation was a priority for the Force.

52. Following the liberation of the south of the country from the control of listed terrorist groups, the Syrian side had reopened the Qunaytirah crossing and facilitated transit, in accordance with the 1974 Disengagement of Forces Agreement and its standard operating procedures, for United Nations personnel working on both sides of the crossing. Although the

crossing was open from the Syrian side throughout the week, Israel continued to hinder transit under flimsy pretexts and, treating the crossing as a border post, had demanded that UNDOF personnel use their national passports.

53. Although peacekeeping operations were intended to be a short-term measure, such operations had lasted for decades in the Middle East because Israel continued to occupy Arab territories, defy the relevant United Nations resolutions and persist with hostile policies that threatened regional peace and security. The Israeli occupation of Arab territories was the reason for the presence of three peacekeeping operations, which were a burden on the budget of the United Nations and took up valuable capacities and human resources. The United Nations should therefore pressure Israel to end its occupation of Arab land so that peacekeeping personnel could return home safely.

54. **Mr. Umar** (Nigeria) said that the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations was the only United Nations forum mandated to comprehensively review the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all its aspects. The forthcoming session would provide an opportunity to explore fresh ideas for the fulfilment of that mandate. His delegation was concerned at the failure to adopt a report by consensus at the 2019 session and urged all delegations to show a spirit of compromise in order to ensure that that situation did not recur. It believed that the new report format would result in more readable and workable policies.

55. His delegation welcomed the Action for Peacekeeping initiative and had endorsed the Declaration of Shared Commitments; both instruments would help shape the response to a changing environment. The Secretariat and Member States had made considerable efforts to reform peacekeeping operations, drawing on such documents as the report of the Panel on United Nations Peace Operations (the Brahimi report) and the report of the Independent High-level Panel on Peace Operations. With a view to strengthening partnerships, the Security Council should set clear, realistic and achievable mandates supported by adequate and appropriate resources determined through consultation with all stakeholders, and Member States should commit to providing well-trained and well-equipped forces. The resolution of conflicts was primarily a political issue, and national political and socio-economic structures should be strengthened in order to avoid a relapse into conflict.

56. His delegation commended the efforts made to strengthen the strategic partnership between the United

Nations and the African Union in the area of peacekeeping and, in particular, the Joint United Nations-African Union Framework for Enhanced Partnership in Peace and Security; the report of the Secretary-General on strengthening the partnership between the United Nations and the African Union on issues of peace and security in Africa, including on the work of the United Nations Office to the African Union (S/2018/678); and Security Council resolutions 2320 (2016) and 2378 (2017). It also welcomed the operationalization and increased funding of the African Union Peace Fund and the adoption of African Union policies in such areas as conduct, discipline, and the prevention of and response to sexual exploitation and abuse.

57. Mindful of the growing role of women in resolving conflict and building stable communities, his Government had increased the proportion of Nigerian women serving as United Nations experts on mission. It strongly condemned sexual exploitation and abuse in United Nations peacekeeping operations, supported the zero-tolerance policy of the Secretary-General, had joined the circle of leadership, and had contributed to the trust fund for the protection of victims. In view of the increasing number of attacks on peacekeepers, his delegation therefore welcomed the recommendations set forth in the report entitled "Improving security of United Nations peacekeepers".

58. **Mr. Ladeb** (Tunisia) said that peacekeeping missions should adhere to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the fundamental principles of peacekeeping operations, and should have clear mandates and specific objectives. Coordination among the Security Council, the Secretariat and troop-contributing States should be strengthened, and each mission should have resources commensurate with its mandate. In order to prevent conflicts from recurring, due attention should be given to peacebuilding. Action should be taken to ensure that the United Nations had the capacity to protect peacekeepers from the mounting challenges that they faced. Women's participation in peacekeeping and post-conflict environments should be increased in order to improve field response capacity and interaction with vulnerable groups, such as women and children. Tunisia continued to increase the proportion of women among its peacekeepers. United Nations peacekeepers must respect human rights, and cases of sexual exploitation or abuse must be addressed.

59. In 2019, Tunisia had for the first time participated in an air force peacekeeping unit with the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali. Tunisia had contributed a C-130 aircraft and 75 personnel whose main task was to

provide logistical support for the transport of personnel and equipment and medical evacuation. A contingent and a military police company had also been prepared for rapid deployment to a United Nations mission. Tunisian troops currently served in six missions and would continue to be an active partner in United Nations peacekeeping operations. The United Nations and the African Union cooperated successfully for the peaceful resolution of conflicts in Africa; it was important that sufficient financial resources be made available for that purpose.

60. Lastly, his delegation paid tribute to the memory of Hédi Annabi, a Tunisian national who had served as Assistant Secretary-General at the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and then as Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti, and who had died in the line of duty in the Haiti earthquake almost ten years before.

61. **Mr. Sdan** (Cambodia) said that sustaining global peace required a focused, well-coordinated effort, particularly in post-conflict situations. Cambodia had endorsed the Declaration of Shared Commitments and firmly supported the Action for Peacekeeping initiative. It was essential for the international community to comprehensively address the causes of armed conflict, which had created unprecedented humanitarian crises. Over the previous decade, Cambodia had deployed more than 6,000 peacekeeping troops, including more than 300 women, to United Nations missions in eight countries where they had notably shared their expertise in demining operations.

62. Peacekeepers found themselves in increasingly challenging situations, with insufficient financing and logistical support; they needed pre-deployment and in-mission training, reliable field support, and access to modern technology and information. As a priority, the protection of civilians should be integrated into peacekeeping mandates. All peacekeeping operations should have access to predictable, steady financing streams; the human and economic cost of conflict was too great for any single Member State to take an unreasonable position in that regard. Mandates should be clear, credible, achievable and adequately resourced. In each case, the role and responsibility of all key actors should be defined clearly and concisely. Core instructions should be supplemented with training aimed at fostering effective communication among peacekeepers, reducing risk and ensuring sensitivity to cultural norms and respect for human dignity. His Government would remain committed to participating in peacekeeping operations consistent with the Charter of

the United Nations and conducive to a global culture of peace.

63. **Mr. Abraha** (Ethiopia) said that the roles, objectives and functions of peacekeeping missions had recently been evolving. Multidimensional operations were now deployed in order to facilitate the political process, protect civilians and assist in the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of former combatants. The international community should therefore invest in training and capacity-building with a view to improving the safety, effectiveness, performance and professionalism of peacekeepers. When reviewing peacekeeping operations, due regard should be given to the balance between mandates and required capabilities, the sources of sustainable financing, and partnerships between the United Nations and regional and subregional mechanisms. The partnership between the United Nations and the African Union should be intensified so as to ensure that African Union-led operations authorized by the Security Council received predictable and sustainable funding. His delegation therefore welcomed the renewal of the commitments made with a view to implementing the joint declaration issued on 6 December 2018 by the Chair of the African Union Commission and the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

64. In order to ensure effectiveness, it was important to ensure that mandates were matched with appropriate capabilities, including through training and the meaningful participation of women in peacekeeping operations. Women played an under-appreciated role in sustaining peace and security. Ethiopia had made significant progress towards addressing that problem by empowering women at the national level, recruiting greater numbers of women in the security sector, and taking practical steps to train, equip and deploy female peacekeepers.

65. Peacekeepers were increasingly called upon to adapt to changing global security dynamics, and their own safety and security had become an important element of peace operations. Accordingly, pre-deployment training and capacity-building should incorporate innovative approaches including early warning systems, triangular partnerships and co-deployments among troop- and police-contributing countries. Implementation of the Action for Peacekeeping would help improve efficiency and effectiveness and allow scope for a more coherent and coordinated approach to conflict prevention, mediation and peacebuilding.

66. The Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations was the only United Nations forum

mandated to review comprehensively the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all its aspects, including measures aimed at enhancing the capacity of the Organization. His delegation therefore appreciated the efforts that had been made to revise the working methods and guiding principles of the Special Committee with a view to addressing problems related to lack of consensus. It believed that host countries and troop- and police-contributing countries should be consulted more closely before mandates were renewed.

67. **Mr. Al-Masoodi** (Iraq) said that peacekeeping missions possessed unique strengths, such as legitimacy, burden-sharing and the ability to deploy troops from around the world in support of multidimensional mandates. The role of peacekeeping operations was not limited to maintaining peace and security, but also included facilitating political processes; protecting civilians; disarming, demobilizing and reintegrating ex-combatants; providing support for elections; protecting and promoting human rights; and helping to restore the rule of law.

68. As had been noted by the Secretary-General on World Peace Day, on 21 September 2019, the climate emergency presented a new danger to international peace and threatened the security, livelihoods and lives of the world's people. Natural disasters led to three times as many displaced persons than did conflicts, forcing millions to leave their homes and seek refuge elsewhere. They also led to salinity intrusion into water and crops, increased food insecurity, adversely impacted resource availability and disrupted demographic patterns in every country and on every continent.

69. Iraq was firmly committed to the maintenance of international peace and security, paid its contributions to peacekeeping missions promptly, supported General Assembly resolution [71/314](#), noted the recommendations set forth in the report adopted by the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations at its 2018 session ([A/72/19](#)) and endorsed the recommendations made recently with a view to strengthening the Organization's capacity to fulfil its peacekeeping responsibilities. Peacekeeping operations were a core United Nations function and required the broad participation of States, not to mention measures to ensure that forces could assess conflicts and respond quickly and effectively to challenges. Peacekeeping operations must adhere closely to the provisions of the Charter, international human rights instruments and the purposes of general international law. Iraq remained committed to the principles of sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and non-interference in the internal affairs of States.

70. **Ms. Mudallali** (Lebanon) said that her Government supported the Action for Peacekeeping initiative, had endorsed the Declaration of Shared Commitments and was committed to implementation of Security Council resolution [2436 \(2018\)](#).

71. Considerable progress had been made towards improving gender balance in peacekeeping operations. Care should be taken, however, to ensure compliance with the Code of Conduct on Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse. As the Secretary-General had noted in the open debate held by the Security Council on 29 October 2019 concerning women, peace and security, incidents of sexual exploitation and abuse in peacekeeping operations had been reduced by half, and the United Nations was finally moving the needle on the percentage of women in the military and police components of its operations.

72. The international community should focus on conflict prevention by addressing the short-term and longer-term causes of conflict, thereby reducing the need for peacekeeping operations with their attendant costs and sacrifices. Moreover, peacekeeping operations should not become permanent; they should eventually give way to permanent political solutions.

73. Lebanon had for years hosted two missions, with which it had developed a close partnership: UNTSO, since 1948, and the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), since 1978. The extension of the mandate of UNIFIL in August 2019, by consensus and without modification, showed that the international community was committed to promoting stability in Lebanon.

74. Lebanon had consistently complied with Security Council resolution [1701 \(2006\)](#). The Government and the Lebanese Armed Forces cooperated with UNIFIL to ensure that the cessation of hostilities would pave the way to a permanent ceasefire in the south of the country. In that context, the Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs had visited Lebanon from 9 to 11 October and met with UNIFIL commanders and Lebanese officials. The Force helped to create an environment conducive to peace by playing a mediating role, particularly by participating in the tripartite mechanism and endeavouring to prevent miscalculations that could lead to conflict. The Force also supported the local environment; in October 2019, for example, it had helped extinguish fires in several parts of the country.

75. On 22 August 2019, the Lebanese Council of Ministers had for the first time approved the participation of Lebanese forces in peacekeeping operations. Over the previous four decades,

peacekeeping forces had made sacrifices in Lebanon; now, Lebanon would be able to reciprocate by sending a force that was small in size but great in its symbolic importance. Lebanon urged the international community to prevail on Israel to comply with Security Council resolution 1701 (2006) by withdrawing from occupied land and putting a stop to its daily land, sea and air violations of Lebanese sovereignty.

76. **Ms. Haile** (Eritrea) said that, owing to the changing nature of armed conflict, peacekeeping operations had become a multidimensional and complex task. All delegations should focus on prevention and addressing the root causes of conflict. Her delegation supported the reform agenda of the Secretary-General, in which emphasis was placed on prevention through negotiation, dialogue and mediation, alongside measures to make operations more effective and consistent. Peacekeeping operations were not intended to be permanent or to replace a political solution to conflict. Most current operations sought to manage conflict; greater efforts should be made to avert or resolve it.

77. Regional organizations were increasingly assuming responsibility for peacekeeping organizations in their area in accordance with Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations. However, in many instances, particularly in Africa, caution should be exercised when deploying troops from neighbouring States; calculations based on national interest often impelled those countries to intervene in the internal affairs of the host country.

78. **Mr. Attelb** (Egypt) said that stakeholders were continuing to consult intensively regarding ways to implement the Action for Peacekeeping initiative and act on the Declaration of Shared Commitments. Although the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations had, regrettably, been unable to reach a consensus at its 2019 session, the adoption of a new reporting structure should enable it to act as the main forum for following up implementation of the initiative. The new reporting structure should be accompanied by genuine substantive change: reports should be readable and concise, and should provide workable solutions to all obstacles facing peacekeeping operations. Consultations on reform initiatives had tended to focus on the organizational and operational aspects of peacekeeping, while neglecting the political dimension. Some parties sought to blame troop-contributing States for any failure to execute their mandate; but that short-sighted view overlooked both the sacrifices made by troop-contributing countries, and those very parties' responsibility to formulate clear and achievable peacekeeping mandates.

79. The current approach made it difficult to allocate the necessary resources and create a political environment conducive to the fulfilment of peacekeeping mandates. It therefore ran counter to the spirit of many peacekeeping reform initiatives, including the ideas set out in the document entitled "An agenda for peace: preventive diplomacy, peace-making and peacekeeping: report of the Secretary-General pursuant to the statement adopted by the Summit Meeting of the Security Council on 31 January 1992" (A/47/277-S/24111), the report of the Panel on United Nations Peace Operations, the report of the High-level Independent Panel on Peace Operations and the Action for Peacekeeping initiative, all of which took into account the political aspects of peacekeeping operations and the need for a supportive framework.

80. The dialogue among the Secretariat, the Security Council and troop-contributing States should tackle all those issues, pay adequate attention to strategic questions, and ensure that troop-contributing countries were true partners in achieving those objectives. In order to reform peacekeeping operations, all parties must show political will and work together.

81. As a major troop-contributing country, Egypt had been at the forefront of the reforms envisaged in the Action for Peacekeeping initiative and the Declaration of Shared Commitments. As Chair of the African Union, it launched an initiative to place African troop-contributing countries and host countries at the core of the implementation of the initiative. In 2018, it had hosted a high-level regional conference that had led to the development of the Cairo road map on enhancing the performance of peacekeeping operations, whose comprehensive vision incorporated all relevant strategic, political and operational considerations. The road map, which had benefited from broad consultations that had drawn on the expertise, experience and aspirations of stakeholders, provided a framework for the implementation of the Action for Peacekeeping initiative and proposed pragmatic solutions to the challenges at hand. It addressed technical and operational questions on an equal footing with political priorities and clearly defined performance with reference to the broad array of responsibilities and obligations set out in the Action for Peacekeeping initiative and in the Declaration of Shared Commitments.

82. **Ms. Kuvshynnykova** (Ukraine) said that, on the eve of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the establishment of the United Nations, the world continued to be affected by conflict, including inter-State conflict at the heart of Europe. The foreign military aggression against Ukraine and the temporary occupation of parts of its territory

remained in place, causing the people of Ukraine to suffer and undermining regional and international peace and security. The United Nations was the only global organization that had the potential to take effective measures to prevent and put a stop to conflicts. For that reason, Ukraine continued to participate actively in United Nations operations, despite the pressing need to repel the foreign aggression on its own territory. It had not abandoned the hope that, rather than standing idly by, the Organization would take practical steps even though a permanent member of the Security Council was a party to the conflict.

83. Peacekeeping operations were uniquely placed to create the conditions in which a peace process could move forward. For that purpose, they should ensure the safety and security of civilians and stop the illegal entry of weapons and mercenaries. However, despite some recent success stories, the potential of peacekeeping operations was not being fully realized. Her delegation therefore strongly supported the ambitious reforms that were under way. The Action for Peacekeeping initiative was exactly what was needed: it provided for strategic force generation, including aviation units; the development of intelligence capacity; and the reduction of the environmental footprint of peacekeeping operations.

84. In accordance with Article 99 of the Charter, the Secretary-General should provide timely, frank and substantive assessments and proposals for peacekeeping operations in conflict-prone or conflict-affected countries and regions. The triangular consultations among the Security Council, the Secretariat and troop- and police-contributing countries required further development, especially when peacekeeping operations were established or renewed. The Security Council Working Group on Peacekeeping Operations could continue to act as a platform for consultation on pressing issues.

85. **Mr. Bromberg** (Israel) said that the international community had recently come together to address the significant increase in violence, most notably in Africa, the Middle East and some parts of Asia. Israel found itself in a region that continues to be characterized by repression, instability and bloodshed. As the region remained volatile and peace-creation remained elusive, Israel welcomed the presence of peacekeeping forces in the region. The tragic situation in the Middle East was fuelled by States and non-State actors; in recent years, the latter had become increasingly influential, often with funding from States. Conflicts involving non-State actors were often described as asymmetric; but those actors often possessed advanced weapons that had once been the preserve of States. Against that backdrop,

peacekeeping missions should fulfil their mandates fully and effectively and ensure that agreements between parties on the ground were upheld.

86. His delegation paid tribute to the memory of Major-General Francis Vib-Sanziri, Head of Mission and Force Commander of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF), who had died on 19 April 2020. It was grateful to the countries that contributed troops to UNDOF and would continue to support the operations of the Force. Israel was committed to the 1974 Disengagement of Forces Agreement and would not allow any violation of the area of separation or the area of limitation. It would protect its borders from any unwanted violent actors that might exploit them for nefarious purposes. The Force played a crucial part in preventing friction, limiting the possibility of escalation along the border and stabilizing the evolving situation in the area. Its active ongoing presence was critical for ensuring a peaceful border between Israel and Syria. It should therefore take a decisive stand and fulfil its obligation to monitor and inspect the area of limitation in Syria. The border must be free of any foreign forces and non-State actors, such as Hizbullah, which sought to destabilize the area and provoke conflict.

87. Israel also continued to value the presence of UNIFIL and was grateful to its troop-contributing countries. It urged its neighbours to fully implement Security Council resolution [1701 \(2006\)](#), to which it remained committed. UNIFIL had an important role to play in facilitating the tripartite mechanism and liaison unit that had proved vital in preventing unnecessary friction and de-escalating potential tension. It must, however, endeavour to implement its mandate fully. Failure to do so could lead to a dangerous escalation and undermine both the sovereignty of Lebanon and the security of Israel.

88. With constant support from Iran, the terrorist organization Hizbullah was persistently endeavouring to illegally build military capabilities and expand its arsenal. Israel called on UNIFIL to take all necessary action on the ground to ensure that its areas of deployment were not used for hostile activities of any kind, especially by Hizbullah. Notwithstanding the apparent calm in southern Lebanon, Hizbullah continued to accumulate an unprecedented arsenal of rockets and missiles and place them in populated areas, using the people of Lebanon as human shields. That organization now had over 150,000 missiles and rockets, which it intended to convert into precision-guided missiles. As was indicated in the paragraph 44 of the thirtieth semi-annual report of the Secretary-General regarding implementation of Security Council

resolution 1559 (2004) (S/2019/819), that situation could lead to a dangerous escalation and showed that, because Hizbullah maintained weapons outside state control and was not accountable to State institutions, it posed a threat to the security and stability of Lebanon.

89. During the previous year, Israel had foiled attempts by Hizbullah to use terror tunnels in order to cross the Blue Line into northern Israel. Those actions violated Israeli sovereignty and Security Council resolutions 1559 (2004), 1701 (2006), 2373 (2017) and 2443 (2018). Israel called on Lebanon to ensure that the area between the Blue Line and the Litani was free of armed personnel, assets and weapons other than those of the Lebanese Armed Forces and UNIFIL. It held Lebanon responsible for any activities that occurred on Lebanese territory. The Force must report to the Security Council frequently and in a full, detailed and impartial manner. Its reports must reflect the realities on the ground, not a façade. The Force should report on the challenges faced by the Lebanese Armed Forces in securing their territory and opposing Hizbullah; state explicitly which areas it had inspected, how it had inspected them, and which areas it had not inspected; and specify the exact areas in southern Lebanon where it had been denied access and faced restrictions on movement. When UNIFIL was repeatedly denied access to certain areas, when it could not access the entry points of Hizbullah terror tunnels months after they had been discovered and confirmed to be violations of Security Council resolution 1701 (2006), and when its own personnel were removed from cars and had their weapons taken, those facts should be stated. Only then could the threat posed by Hizbullah be effectively addressed.

90. Peacekeeping operations in Africa had been facing unprecedented challenges in recent years. The safety and security of peacekeepers should be enhanced, as wearing a blue helmet no longer guaranteed protection. Over the long term, such action should go hand in hand with development efforts, support for the political process and humanitarian assistance. Israel was committed to strengthening peacekeeping operations in Africa and enhancing their protection. It had expanded its partnership with the United Nations to improve camp security and was providing peacekeepers with training, capacities, knowledge and expertise. It was also working closely with the Medical Services Division and the Department of Operational Support to improve the standard of medical care in peacekeeping.

The meeting rose at 6 p.m.