

**General Assembly**

Seventy-eighth session

Official Records

Distr.: General  
2 February 2024

Original: English

**Special Political and Decolonization Committee  
(Fourth Committee)****Summary record of the 18th meeting**

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Monday, 30 October 2023, at 3 p.m.

*Chair:* Ms. Joyini ..... (South Africa)**Contents**

Agenda item 51: Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects

This record is subject to correction.

Corrections should be sent as soon as possible, under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned, to the Chief of the Documents Management Section ([dms@un.org](mailto:dms@un.org)), and incorporated in a copy of the record.Corrected records will be reissued electronically on the Official Document System of the United Nations (<http://documents.un.org/>).

23-20902 (E)



Please recycle



*The meeting was called to order at 3.05 p.m.*

**Agenda item 51: Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects**

1. **Mr. Khare** (Under-Secretary-General for Operational Support) said that he paid tribute to those serving in peace operations and those who had fallen in the pursuit of peace in the past year. He welcomed the sustained commitment of Member States to strengthening peacekeeping missions and looked forward to the United Nations Peacekeeping Ministerial Conference to be held in Accra in December 2023.

2. With respect to the Action for Peacekeeping priority of capabilities and mindsets, the Department of Operational Support remained committed to ensuring that the capabilities of the units deployed were fully aligned with their mandated tasks. Based on quarterly reports, the Department identified gaps in deployed contingent-owned equipment and communicated with troop- and police-contributing countries to request the remediation of gaps. The Department continued to provide engineering and medical training, as well as training in Command, Control, Communications, Computers, Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance, to uniformed personnel through its triangular partnership programme. It planned to expand the scope of the programme to better support African Union peace support operations. He hoped that Member States would support and contribute to that programme as it evolved to address underserved, new and emerging peace operations challenges. The 2023 meeting of the Working Group on Contingent-Owned Equipment had resulted in an increase in the standard rates of reimbursement, and the Working Group had adopted reimbursement recommendations on gender-responsive items.

3. Continuous efforts to improve peacekeepers' access to medical facilities and support, including mental health services, were critical. The Department was developing a mental health strategy for uniformed personnel with a focus on promoting and supporting the mental health of peacekeepers and mitigating the stress caused by harsh peacekeeping environments. Other highlights included collaboration with the most high-risk missions to enhance casualty evacuation capabilities, the implementation of a systematic credentialing system to ensure that medical services were delivered by the right people with the right skills, the implementation of health-care quality and patient safety standards to guarantee a base quality of care, the deployment of a hospital performance assessment tool for safeguarding those standards and the launch of a

women's health-care training course. The Department continued to provide physical security solutions to missions' operational needs. A working group on temporary operating bases had been established with the goal of developing guidance and recommendations on managing, establishing and analysing requirements and addressing identified challenges. To narrow the gender gap in working and living conditions, the Department, in collaboration with the Elsie Initiative for Women in Peace Operations, was monitoring the implementation of recommendations for gender-responsive design. In the past year, those recommendations had been implemented in nearly half of living accommodations in missions.

4. Tangible progress had been made towards improving environmental adaptation and mitigation measures, with crucial support from Member States. The Department continued to closely track and report on missions' environmental performance. To ensure the continuity of environmental management efforts, it had facilitated a consultation process to develop a way forward for its environment strategy, which would now cover the period until 2030.

5. The Department had been working closely with missions to enhance recruitments to achieve gender parity; 66 appointments had been made through the senior women talent pipeline since 2014. Advances had been inconsistent and somewhat slow, however, and more must be done to increase women's representation in the field.

6. The strategy for digital transformation continued to build enablers to implement transformation and had produced such results as a digital training needs assessment for uniformed personnel, a pilot to strengthen the use of data for information-led decision-making and the establishment of a system for monitoring, analysing and responding to misinformation and disinformation.

7. **Mr. Zouev** (Assistant Secretary-General for Rule of Law and Security Institutions, Department of Peace Operations) said that peacekeeping faced multifaceted challenges, including the fraying of the unity of Member States; the changing nature of conflict, compounded by climate change, geopolitical tensions and transnational crime, including terrorism; and complex regional dynamics. Peacekeeping personnel faced evolving threats, including improvised explosive devices, disinformation campaigns aimed at undermining mission credibility and other direct assaults. The ongoing withdrawal of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) exemplified the challenges of a

fragmented geopolitical landscape and what some feared might mark a shift away from cohesive multilateral action. Such challenges demanded a response, as they tested the tenets of peacekeeping and of the Organization as a whole.

8. Peacekeeping was most effective when used as a political tool to advance sustainable peace, as demonstrated by the United Nations Multidimensional Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA), which used a new political strategy and an enhanced posture to advance the peace process and deter armed groups in strategically important areas. All missions, even those without direct mandates for political processes, helped to create conditions conducive to eventual negotiations.

9. The Department of Peace Operations continued to adapt training and deployments to mission needs, for instance by implementing the recommendations of the independent strategic review. The 2023 United Nations Peacekeeping Ministerial Conference would be an ideal occasion for Member States to address capability gaps and ensure that pledges aligned with needs.

10. Ensuring the safety and well-being of peacekeepers remained a collective responsibility. An action plan was in place to improve the security of peacekeepers, and measures were being taken to strengthen police performance and accountability, integrated peacekeeping-intelligence and crisis management.

11. Deliberate attacks against peacekeepers might constitute war crimes, but few of those responsible for such crimes had been brought to justice. The increase in the number of alleged perpetrators identified and detained and in the share of cases with national investigations under way were signs of the notable progress made since 2019. The Secretariat must have sustained support from Member States and the international community to assist national authorities in investigating and prosecuting such crimes. In the light of the deteriorating security situation in northern Mali that was endangering the lives of hundreds of personnel, all stakeholders should enable MINUSMA to carry out a safe and orderly withdrawal, and the transitional Government of Mali should extend all necessary cooperation to that end.

12. The evolution in performance assessment tools had enabled the Department to better address underperformance and acknowledge outstanding performance. The Department was determined to implement preventive measures, uphold a zero-tolerance misconduct policy and safeguard victims' rights, as demonstrated recently by the decision to

repatriate nine contingent members and one senior military officer from the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) in response to allegations of serious misconduct.

13. The Department had showcased its commitment to peace in its 2023 global communications campaign, used perception surveys and community-oriented policing strategies to guide its engagement with local populations and was taking proactive efforts to counter misinformation and disinformation. However, additional efforts were needed, particularly to address misinformation and disinformation.

14. Violations of status-of-forces agreements continued to pose a challenge, but proactive engagement had produced some positive results. Efforts were under way to more systematically document and report all such violations. The Department relied on consistent political backing from Member States and on the Security Council to ensure that the implementation of its mandates would not be impeded.

15. The women and peace and security agenda was being promoted across all priorities to amplify peacekeeping effectiveness and promote gender inclusivity. The Department was preparing the first global report on gender equality and the status of women in the defence sector with contributions from Member States. Considerable progress had been made in increasing the percentage of women serving in missions and fostering gender-responsive working and living conditions.

16. The Department was pursuing a technological evolution in peacekeeping, especially by leveraging technology and expertise to efficiently manage and analyse data from its operational environment. That effort would empower peacekeepers to better plan and adapt to changing conflict landscapes, ensuring timely responses to threats against civilians and personnel.

17. As was reaffirmed in the Secretary-General's policy brief entitled "A New Agenda for Peace", peace operations were an essential part of the United Nations toolbox, and peacekeeping represented multilateralism in action. One of the main strengths of the United Nations was its unique ability to mount tailored and integrated operational responses to crises. To bolster that capability, all stakeholders must rededicate themselves to peacekeeping effectiveness, with an emphasis on enhancing operational efficiency, adaptability and agility. Mandates for missions must be clear and prioritized, rooted in political resolutions and backed unfailingly by the Security Council.

18. While peacekeeping was indispensable, it was important to be mindful of its limitations and the boundaries of its scope, which did not extend to peace enforcement. When peace enforcement was required, the Security Council should endorse a multinational force or action by regional or subregional bodies. However, such measures required predictable, sustainable, flexible and adequate funding and continued investment in capacities. Although the nature of any operational response must be dictated primarily by realities on the ground, the mission, regardless of form, must be anchored in a clear, realistic mandate and must receive appropriate resources. There was an urgent need for a more networked multilateralism, as transnational threats could be countered only through robust collaboration at regional levels with diverse partners, with political backing from Member States.

19. **Ms. Thanabalasingam** (Director of the Administrative Law Division, Department of Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance) said that efforts must be doubled to hold all stakeholders, including peacekeepers, accountable to the Organization's core values and standards of conduct. The Secretariat remained committed to ending sexual exploitation and abuse, particularly through prevention. The United Nations and troop- and police-contributing countries alike were obliged to facilitate the just resolution of paternity and child support claims, and a high-level, interdepartmental task force had been established to develop an action-oriented strategy and identify tangible actions to that end. The Department of Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance continued to administer the trust fund in support of victims of sexual exploitation and abuse. A funding appeal had been sent to Member States with the goal of raising \$3 million by March 2024, and 24 Member States had already contributed to the cause. The Department was revising its risk management toolkit to strengthen its response to risks of misconduct, including sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment.

20. As to civilian performance and evaluations, the Department had collaborated with peacekeeping missions to establish senior leadership compacts between heads of missions and the Secretary-General using a streamlined format to facilitate performance evaluations and data gathering. The Department also continued to support missions in developing responsible budget proposals in line with the relevant mandates and policy guidance. It was working to improve budget methodologies and enhance budgetary discipline and transparency. To better exhibit the value and results of peacekeeping missions, the Department was working closely with missions to ensure that all elements of

results-based budgeting frameworks were effective, aligned with missions' mandates and clearly linked to the level of resources requested. The Department had supported MINUSMA by presenting its withdrawal and liquidation budgets to the decision-making bodies and providing expert advice on project closure and transfer and on engagement with donors and implementing partners.

21. Initiatives such as targeted talent outreach, policy development and enabling environment measures had contributed to an increase in the representation of women in peace operations from 29 per cent in 2019 to 33 per cent in October 2023. Nevertheless, progress had been slow and uneven, and attracting women to traditionally male-dominated roles and to hardship duty stations still posed a challenge. Measures that created an enabling environment for women to thrive, contribute and lead were as important as recruitment and retention. Under the 2023 senior managers' compacts, managers were now held accountable for monitoring and reaching gender parity targets, including in peacekeeping. In 2023, the Department would continue to implement the guidelines and recommendations outlined in the Uniformed Gender Parity Strategy and the Enabling Environment Guidelines for the United Nations System, which had been developed by the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women).

22. The provision of technological solutions to address current and emerging peacekeeping mission challenges remained a priority. The Office of Information and Communications Technology was actively supporting the Department of Peace Operations to enhance safety and security across all priorities identified in the Strategy for the Digital Transformation of United Nations Peacekeeping. Peacekeeping would benefit greatly from the implementation of the information and communications technology strategy, in line with the Secretary-General's United Nations 2.0 initiative.

23. *The meeting was suspended at 3.55 p.m. and resumed at 4.20 p.m.*

24. **The Chair** invited the Committee to engage in a general discussion on the item.

25. **Ms. Ouazzani Chahdi** (Morocco), speaking on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, said that effective triangular cooperation was needed between troop- and police-contributing countries, the Secretariat and the Security Council, with regular meetings to ensure continuous and meaningful dialogue ahead of mandate renewals. Consensus among Member States on policy development was crucial. Moreover, the

Security Council should draft clear and achievable mandates, in consultation with the host States and troop- and police-contributing countries.

26. The basic principles of peacekeeping, namely consent of the parties, impartiality and non-use of force except in self-defence and in defence of the mandate, remained relevant and should be preserved, while also abiding by the Charter of the United Nations. Respect for sovereign equality, political independence, territorial integrity and non-intervention in matters within domestic jurisdiction should also be upheld. United Nations peacekeeping operations should be provided with political support; human, financial and logistical resources; clearly defined and achievable mandates based on national ownership and a comprehensive peace process, together with exit strategies; and guarantees for the safety and security of peacekeepers. Efforts should also be invested in local political solutions to conflicts and social and developmental tools, as well as strategies to achieve sustainable peace.

27. Troop- and police-contributing countries should not face reimbursement delays for their peacekeeping contributions, particularly given the sacrifices they made for peacekeeping. All Member States must fulfil their financial contributions in full, on time and without conditions. The 2023 United Nations Peacekeeping Ministerial Conference would be a timely opportunity for Member States to make tangible commitments and pledges to peacekeeping operations.

28. Deployed contingents must be fit for service, well-trained and appropriately equipped; leadership and accountability must be ensured at all levels; and caveats, whether declared or undeclared, must be eliminated, as they severely impeded mission mandate implementation. The safety and security of United Nations peacekeeping personnel was a primary concern for the Movement, which strongly condemned the alarming increase in attacks against blue helmets. All stakeholders should take steps to ensure their protection, including through the provision of resources. The Secretariat and host countries should also work closely to bring the perpetrators of crimes against peacekeepers to justice, and the Security Council should use the full range of actions at its disposal. The increase in attacks using improvised explosive devices was a particular matter of concern, which the Secretariat should address through a comprehensive strategy.

29. Peacekeeping operations must be provided with medical supplies, support and facilities, and have effective medical evacuation procedures. Misinformation and disinformation campaigns posed

threats to the safety and security of peacekeepers and must be countered through strategic communications plans. Moreover, all deployed personnel should abide by the highest standards of conduct. The Movement strongly condemned all forms of sexual exploitation and abuse committed by United Nations personnel, which must be combated in a comprehensive manner, through collective efforts. Any related investigations and prosecutions should fall under the purview of national jurisdictions of the concerned States. The state of peacekeeping operation facilities was also a matter of concern, including the lack of adequate security arrangements and acceptable living and hygiene standards, which could negatively affect morale and lead to acts of misconduct.

30. While the primary responsibility for the protection of civilians lay with States, peacekeeping operations should provide them with any requested assistance, where mandated, to develop their security and rule of law institutions. As the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security lay with the Security Council, regional arrangements should be in line with the Charter of the United Nations. In that context, cooperation should be enhanced between the Organization and the African Union, including the provision of predictable and sustainable funding to the latter. The participation of women in United Nations peacekeeping was essential and must be increased, and peacekeeping operations must leave a long-standing positive legacy, devoid of any negative environmental impact.

31. **Mr. Nasir** (Indonesia), speaking on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), said that more than 5,000 peacekeepers from ASEAN countries were currently deployed in various peacekeeping missions. ASEAN fully supported ongoing efforts to make peacekeeping more effective, including through the upcoming 2023 United Nations Peacekeeping Ministerial Conference. It also continued to collaborate on issues related to peacekeeping with its external partners and to strengthen cooperation, including through training and capacity-building and ensuring the participation of women in peacekeeping.

32. Better training and capacity-building improved peacekeepers' performance and enhanced their safety and security. The United Nations triangular partnership project was therefore welcome, and had been proven to enhance the capacities of troop- and police-contributing countries. Collaboration and partnerships in peacekeeping between the United Nations regional and subregional organizations and host States should also be enhanced. In that regard, the increased engagement between the United Nations and ASEAN under the plan

of action to implement the Joint Declaration on Comprehensive Partnership between ASEAN and the United Nations (2021–2025) was welcome. ASEAN remained committed to ensuring the full, equal and meaningful participation of women in peacekeeping operations and peace processes and was therefore committed to implementing Security Council resolution [2538 \(2020\)](#).

33. **Mr. Larsen** (Australia), speaking also on behalf of Canada and New Zealand, said that over the previous year, peace operations had faced heightened challenges, including the complete breakdown of host country consent in Mali. The Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations had a key role to play in implementing the Secretary-General's New Agenda for Peace, particularly in terms of reflecting on the limits and future of peacekeeping. Furthermore, their delegations were encouraged by the adoption of a substantive report by the Committee that year. In order to make peace operations more effective, inclusive and accountable, oversight standards and compliance measures must be upheld, and stronger partnerships were required with all stakeholders. The development in the Security Council of a framework resolution on African Union-led peace support operations was promising in that regard.

34. After 23 years of international consensus, progress was currently backsliding on the women and peace and security agenda. Momentum must not be lost in efforts to achieve gender parity, particularly for leadership positions, and to create a safe and enabling environment within peacekeeping missions. In that connection, their delegations remained firmly committed to the Elsie Initiative Fund for Uniformed Women in Peace Operations, which supported troop- and police-contributing countries in the recruitment and deployment of women.

35. Peacekeeping missions must have adequate resources for the implementation of their mandates to protect civilians from violence, particularly safeguarding the rights of children in armed conflict. Australia, Canada and New Zealand were focused on implementing the Vancouver Principles on Peacekeeping and the Prevention of the Recruitment and Use of Child Soldiers, and called on all Member States to do the same. The prevalence of sexual exploitation and abuse allegations remained a source of concern. Ongoing efforts must be made to implement the zero-tolerance policy of the Secretary-General in that regard and to maintain an approach focused on prevention, accountability and support for survivors.

36. Peacekeepers currently faced the most complex threat environment in history, given the weaponization of sophisticated, low-cost technologies used to disrupt operations and to spread misinformation and hate speech. Technology and innovation for peacekeeping must therefore be harnessed, with a view to normalizing data-driven decision-making across all peace operations and thereby protecting civilians. Adaptation in peacekeeping must be ongoing, while keeping reconciliation and peacebuilding objectives at its core.

37. **Mr. Coppola** (Representative of the European Union, in its capacity as observer), speaking also on behalf of the candidate countries Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, North Macedonia, the Republic of Moldova and Serbia; and the potential candidate country Georgia, said that the European Union was committed to peacekeeping through its strategic partnership with the United Nations on peace operations and crisis management. European Union member States deployed close to 5,000 personnel to peace operations and jointly covered one quarter of the peacekeeping budget. Furthermore, cooperation on the ground between European Union Common Security and Defence Policy missions and United Nations peacekeeping operations was very strong.

38. The increasing challenges faced by peace operations and peacekeepers were a matter of concern and included regional threats, the effects of climate change, misinformation and disinformation, the presence of non-State actors, transnational criminal activities, and a lack of capacity and adequate equipment. Nonetheless, peacekeeping operations remained critical in creating conditions for peace, including through monitoring and reporting on human rights violations. Moreover, revitalized policies and political processes were key to the success of such operations, and the Secretary-General's New Agenda for Peace proposed viable ways of making peacekeeping fit for purpose. The European Union also supported the ongoing discussion to use United Nations-assessed contributions for Africa-led peace support operations authorized by the Security Council, in line with the relevant report of the Secretary-General and the agreed standards and mechanisms. The Summit of the Future offered an opportunity to foster that discussion, together with progress on the Action for Peacekeeping and Action for Peacekeeping Plus initiatives.

39. The increasing threats to peacekeepers, including a recent direct attack in a European Union member State, were a matter of concern, as were uncooperative actions by host States and the increasing employment of mercenaries to fill the security vacuum. Therefore, protection of peacekeepers and accountability for

crimes against peacekeepers must remain a priority. Peacekeeping operations must also be provided with adequate resources to fulfil their mandates, particularly given the impact of extreme weather events in already vulnerable settings. Member States should fulfil their financial obligations in a timely manner, both for regular and peacekeeping budgets.

40. The European Union remained committed to the enhanced integration of the women and peace and security agenda into United Nations peacekeeping and recognized the importance of gender-responsive work environments, including zero tolerance for sexual exploitation and abuse. Strategic communication, information and intelligence, including situational awareness, played a critical role. The European Union therefore supported the implementation of the Strategy for the Digital Transformation of United Nations Peacekeeping.

41. Given that many peacekeeping operations were deployed in regions highly exposed to the effects of climate change, environmental management processes and climate-related considerations should be integrated into their activities. Increased deployment of renewable energy systems and reduced consumption of energy and water would also enhance the operational resilience of peacekeeping operations. The human rights components of missions should be strengthened, as they played a vital role in protecting victims and combating impunity, particularly in cases of war crimes, crimes against humanity and crimes of genocide. The European Union would continue to contribute to the work of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations, which was a crucial forum for implementation of the Secretary-General's Action for Peacekeeping initiative.

42. **Mr. Abdillahi** (Djibouti), speaking on behalf of the Group of Francophone Ambassadors, said that the New Agenda for Peace should highlight the importance of multilingualism as part of efforts to revitalize multilateralism in the service of international peace and security. Staff on the ground needed to be aware of the local context and have the requisite skills, including language knowledge. The Department of Peace Operations and the Department of Operational Support should demonstrate their commitment to the full integration of multilingualism as part of peacekeeping efforts.

43. In cases where peace operation mandates were multidimensional, the ability to interact in the language of local authorities and populations was essential to gaining trust and acceptance, as well as a better understanding of the facts on the ground, with a view to sustaining peace. The participation of French-speaking

women in the military and police components of peacekeeping operations was also critical. The use of a language and the legal culture it embodied was a key element of exit strategies, including the transfer of powers to national legal institutions, the police and the penitentiary system. Using the language of the host country also strengthened the safety of deployed personnel, in a context of multiplying acts of violence and disinformation campaigns.

44. The translation of training manuals, procedural documents and communications campaigns on peacekeeping operations was key, and the financial constraints faced by the Secretariat must not hinder the fulfilment of linguistic equality within the Organization. The Group welcomed the solutions proposed by Member States and by the secretariat of the International Organization of la Francophonie to improve integration of multilingualism at the United Nations.

45. **Mr. Douglas** (Jamaica), speaking on behalf of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), said that CARICOM would continue to work closely in the Committee and the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations to formulate efficient policies to guide peace operations and provide a framework for the protection and well-being of peacekeepers. CARICOM also welcomed efforts to measure and improve the performance of uniformed personnel and accountability in peacekeeping operations, in line with the Action for Peacekeeping Plus initiative. It supported the active participation of women in all activities related to the maintenance of peace and security, and welcomed the progress made towards mainstreaming gender perspectives throughout the Department of Peace Operations. That Department should continue to increase the number of women officers in peacekeeping missions, in line with the relevant Security Council resolutions. CARICOM looked forward to reports outlining efforts to implement the women and peace and security agenda.

46. CARICOM was fully aware of the destabilizing effect of social and political unrest, particularly in Haiti, and welcomed the 2023 report of the United Nations Integrated Office in Haiti and the Office's efforts to support national stakeholders in restoring the rule of law and democracy. In order to consolidate the progress made in Haiti and maintain an environment conducive to sustainable development, the international community must remain actively engaged in partnership with the Government and people of Haiti. CARICOM remained committed to assisting and advocating for Haiti as it progressed towards a sustainable peace.

47. **Ms. Hanlumuang** (Thailand) said that her delegation welcomed the progress made in line with the Action for Peacekeeping and Action for Peacekeeping Plus initiatives. Peacekeeping remained a critical instrument for peace and stability, as well as the promotion of early peacebuilding and development and the protection of civilians and their rights. More must be done to improve the safety and security of peacekeepers, who were operating in increasingly complex security environments. The increasing polarization in global geopolitics, together with overlapping crises, further jeopardized the safety and security of peacekeepers and were also detrimental to the protection of civilians.

48. Peacekeeping operations should be given a clear and achievable mandate, together with sufficient resources and capabilities to meet needs on the ground. Appropriate application of technologies and tools for situational awareness were also necessary. Her delegation looked forward to the 2023 United Nations Peacekeeping Ministerial Conference and further recommendations from the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations the following year. Inclusive consultations and communications between the Security Council, host countries, troop- and police-contributing countries and other relevant stakeholders were key to ensuring that peacekeeping missions adapted to changing situations in a timely manner.

49. Engagement was also critical in tackling hate speech, misinformation and disinformation. Strategic communications in coordination with local authorities were key to the effective implementation of peacekeeping mandates, including for the protection of civilians and the advancement of the women and peace security agenda. Peacekeepers should also be able to effectively communicate with communities. Such outreach must also be matched with good conduct, ensuring that sexual exploitation and abuse had no place in peacekeeping.

50. Peacekeeping must be considered within the peace continuum, as a major enabler for conflict resolution. With the consent of the host country, peacekeepers could foster conditions that were conducive to peacebuilding, including the promotion of sustainable development and the improvement of civilian livelihoods. The Thai contingent at the United Nations Mission in South Sudan, for example, had helped to build and repair roads and other infrastructure across South Sudan. Thai peacekeepers had also shared with local communities homegrown development approaches and best practices and had set up health care facilities. Thailand remained committed to United Nations peace operations, including the United Nations triangular partnership project in support of peace endeavours.

51. **Mr. Akram** (Pakistan) said that his country took immense pride in its contributions to United Nations peacekeeping, including the deployment of over 230,000 personnel to 47 missions worldwide. In addition, Pakistan was host to the United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan. At a time when United Nations peacekeeping and peacekeepers faced mounting safety and security threats, compounded by increased misinformation and disinformation, Pakistan called for accountability and urged the Secretariat and host countries to work closely to bring the perpetrators of crimes against peacekeepers to justice. In addition, all Member States should fulfil their financial contributions in full, on time and without conditions, to ensure that troop- and police-contributing countries did not endure financial burdens.

52. Pakistan recognized the need for serious reflection on the future of peacekeeping, as called for by the Secretary-General in his New Agenda for Peace. An updated strategy should establish peacekeeping missions as part of an overall political strategy that sought to resolve the underlying causes of conflict and violence, including collaboration between missions, the Security Council and the Peacebuilding Commission. Peacekeeping missions must also enjoy the full cooperation and consent of host countries, and their mandates must be realistic, achievable, and tailored to circumstances on the ground. Peacekeeping missions should be provided with adequate financial, human and material resources, advanced technical capabilities and adequate training for peacekeepers, and greater accountability should be ensured in cases of attacks against peacekeepers.

53. The distinction between peacekeeping and peace enforcement must always remain clear. Decisions for enforcement actions should be taken after careful consideration and should be undertaken with clear mandates, adequately trained troops, the allocation of substantial resources and, above all, the cooperation of the host country and regional Governments. Regional organizations had a critical role to play in peace enforcement efforts, and Pakistan was committed to forging peacekeeping partnerships in that regard, particularly with the African Union and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation.

54. **Mr. Medzinyuie** (Togo) said that his country welcomed the ongoing commitment of the United Nations to fostering peace in Africa, particularly given the multiple crises faced on the continent. Peacekeeping operations continued to assist African States in conflict or post-conflict situations to establish peace, security and the rule of law; to facilitate political processes; to support disarmament efforts; and to ensure



demobilization and reintegration of former combatants. Missions must be conducted in full respect of the sovereignty and will of the host countries, and cooperation should be strengthened between those countries and the United Nations.

55. Security, peace and justice for all were key elements of national policy and diplomacy in Togo. His country was one of the main troop-contributing countries and had deployed peacekeepers to several countries, mainly on the African continent. However, 48 Togolese peacekeepers had lost their lives in the line of duty. The implementation of all initiatives to increase the effectiveness and legitimacy of peace operations should be accelerated. In addition, the United Nations should ensure greater involvement of regional and subregional organizations in the implementation of peacekeeping missions.

56. **Mr. Eldahshan** (Egypt) said that the peacekeeping process faced multiple challenges, with extremely hazardous security situations on the ground that increased the potential for escalating conflicts. Fulfilment of the shared commitments of peacekeeping actors in a balanced and mutually reinforcing manner must be central to peacekeeping reform, as reflected in the actions set out in the Cairo Road Map for Enhancing the Performance of Peacekeeping Operations: From Mandate to Exit.

57. The surge in attacks against peacekeepers was deeply concerning. A holistic approach was required to enhance their safety and security, taking into account resource adequacy, using intelligence and new technologies and addressing anti-United Nations propaganda and mistrust between missions and host countries. The United Nations must also provide adequate and sustainable funding to peacekeeping operations. Peacekeeping performance was a shared responsibility between all peacekeeping actors and stakeholders, and should be measured in relation to the realities on the ground while ensuring mandates were clear, realistic and achievable.

58. National leadership and ownership were key to the success of peacekeeping operations, while taking into account the political and technical capacities of societies for sustained peace. Peacekeeping and peacebuilding activities should be strengthened together in order to address the root causes of armed conflicts and to bolster peace, security and development systems. In that regard, political solutions to conflicts were required, together with reviews of the political strategies of peacekeeping operations. Partnerships should be strengthened between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations, including the African Union,

and the participation of women in peacekeeping must also be increased, in line with Security Council resolution [1325 \(2000\)](#).

59. **Mr. Cisneros Chávez** (Mexico) said that peacekeeping missions were currently facing a time of crisis, including increased doubts over their legitimacy, which were fuelled by disinformation campaigns that were not in the interests of the populations affected by conflicts. The contexts in which missions were deployed had changed and required instruments and operations that were better adapted to current circumstances, which included a growing number of non-State actors in conflicts, often connected to radical groups. Efforts must be focused on ensuring that the objectives of peacekeeping operations were achievable, realistic and had the support and political commitment of the countries affected by the conflict. The work of the United Nations should be more effectively coordinated with regional and subregional mechanisms, which were often better positioned to respond to security crises.

60. Mexico welcomed the proposals of the Secretary-General in his New Agenda for Peace, and would actively participate in intergovernmental discussions to put his recommendations into practice. Multilateralism and cooperation remained the best instruments for peacekeeping and peacebuilding, and must be harnessed to respond to current challenges.

61. **Mr. Pieris** (Sri Lanka) said that peacekeeping was a shared responsibility that required clear and actionable mandates. Sri Lanka had been a long-standing contributor to United Nations peacekeeping, fostering environments that were conducive to peaceful conflict resolution. Training on United Nations procedures, rules and regulations at the Institute of Peacekeeping Support Operations Training Sri Lanka had equipped Sri Lankan troops to undertake challenging United Nations peacekeeping assignments. Sri Lanka remained committed to its engagement in peacekeeping missions, building lasting relationships with local communities and ensuring a stable presence that adapted to changing circumstances and contributed towards lasting peace.

62. Peacekeeping missions were confronted with significant challenges, including heightened violence and targeting of the lives of United Nations staff. Resource shortages in terms of personnel and funding also impeded the effective fulfilment of mission mandates, leading to critical gaps in delivering security, humanitarian aid and government support. Such challenges must be addressed, to ensure the safety of peacekeepers and the effective delivery of services.

63. **Mr. Sánchez Fuentes** (Cuba) said that a trend towards more complex mandates for multidimensional

peacekeeping operations had sometimes led to contradictions with the fundamental principles of peacekeeping. 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, including civilian personnel and related organizations.

64. Peacekeeping operations were not a substitute for addressing the root causes of conflicts, and must fully respect and preserve the principles of impartiality, consent of the parties and non-use of force except in self-defence. They must also be a temporary measure for establishing a security framework before implementing sustainable socioeconomic development strategies. That was the only way to break the vicious and costly cycle of new conflicts and new operations.

65. The General Assembly had a primary role to play in formulating concepts, policies, doctrines and strategies and in considering budgetary issues related to peacekeeping. The Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations was the only United Nations forum with a mandate for the comprehensive consideration of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects. The primary responsibility for protecting civilians in countries in which peacekeeping operations were deployed lay with States. 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.

66. Cooperation among the Security Council, the Secretariat and troop-contributing countries should be intensified. The use of modern technology in peacekeeping operations could improve situational awareness and enhance the safety and security of peacekeepers; however, legitimate concerns had been raised regarding the use of drones in United Nations operations. The use of new technology should complement but not replace troops on the ground. It must be considered on a case-by-case basis with the consent of host countries and in keeping with the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, particularly respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Member States. Such operations should have realistic and viable mandates, tangible and clearly defined objectives and adequate resources.

*The meeting rose at 5.55 p.m.*