



Security Council

Eightieth year

9884

th meeting

Monday, 24 March 2025, 3 p.m.

New York

Provisional

<i>President:</i>	Ms. Lassen/Ms. Landi	(Denmark)
<i>Members:</i>	Algeria	Mr. Yahiaoui
	China	Mr. He Mao
	France	Mrs. Bernecker
	Greece	Mr. Thanopoulos
	Guyana	Mr. Douglas
	Pakistan	Mr. Sarwani
	Panama	Ms. Cedeño Rengifo
	Republic of Korea	Mr. Hwang Won
	Russian Federation	Mr. Dergachev
	Sierra Leone	Mr. Scotland
	Slovenia	Mrs. Košir
	Somalia	Mr. Abdullahi Yusuf
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland . .	Mr. Clark
	United States of America	Mr. Adelman

Agenda

Maintenance of international peace and security

Advancing adaptability in United Nations peace operations: responding to new realities

Letter dated 6 March 2025 from the Permanent Representative of Denmark to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (S/2025/141)

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The meeting resumed at 3.05 p.m.

The President: I would like to remind all speakers to limit their statements to no more than three minutes in order to enable the Council to carry out its work expeditiously. Flashing lights on the collars of the microphones will prompt speakers to bring their remarks to a close after three minutes.

I now give the floor to the representative of the Philippines.

Mr. Lagdameo (Philippines): The Philippines is a founding Member of the United Nations. As the Organization turns 80 years old, our conviction and commitment to multilateralism, the rule of law and the core tenets of the Charter of the United Nations remain resolute. The Philippines has steadfastly contributed to United Nations peacekeeping operations for over six decades. Since 1963, we have deployed almost 15,000 Filipino peacekeepers to 21 United Nations peacekeeping and special political missions. For the year 2024 to 2025, we have contributed over \$2 million to 11 missions. We are now undertaking concrete efforts to increase our peacekeeping footprint.

Noting the Secretary General's New Agenda for Peace and our shared commitments as laid out in the Pact for the Future (General Assembly resolution 79/1), the Philippines underlines the following points for a resilient and effective future of for United Nations peace operations.

The first is the need to strengthen the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC), in particular its convening power and advisory role vis-à-vis the Security Council, recognizing that peacekeeping is a key tool for peacebuilding. The review of the peacebuilding architecture this year provides a critical opportunity to strengthen peacebuilding tools. We echo the need for the PBC to actively engage in strategic partnerships with international financial institutions, multilateral development banks and even regional development banks to support States in need, while addressing root causes of conflict and strengthening local capacities.

Secondly, we call for the increased, equal and meaningful participation of women in uniformed roles. Gender perspectives need to be integrated in all aspects of peacekeeping across command levels. The Pasay Declaration on Women, Peace and Security, the outcome of the first International Conference on Women, Peace and Security, held in Pasay, the Philippines, last October, elaborates on the important role of women in peace efforts.

Thirdly, protection of civilians mandates must be flexible to address the diverse threats that civilians face. That adaptability is crucial for the effectiveness of peace operations in any context.

Fourthly, the safety of peacekeepers, who are operating against the backdrop of complex political and security situations, will always be of paramount importance.

And fifthly, there is a need to strengthen cooperation and partnerships with regional and subregional organizations in accordance with Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations. Such partnerships bring together diverse perspectives, expertise and resources. In that regard, we commend the adoption of resolution 2719 (2023), on the strategic partnership between the United Nations and the African Union.

Peacekeeping missions should be accorded adequate and predictable resources. The liquidity crisis facing the United Nations, among others, is therefore a major concern, while highlighting the need for the efficient use of limited resources through synergies, cooperation and a focus on effectiveness.

The Philippines will continue to contribute valuable personnel and financial resources for the attainment, advancement, and enjoyment of peace for present and future generations. We are ready and prepared to play an even more active and

constructive role in the Security Council if elected for a non-permanent seat for the period 2027 to 2028.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Italy.

Mr. Greco (Italy): I thank you, Madam President, for convening today's open debate.

Italy aligns itself with the statement to be delivered by the observer of the European Union and would like to add the following remarks in its national capacity.

Peacekeeping is often referred to as multilateralism in action. Since it joined the United Nations, Italy has championed that idea by dedicating steadfast commitment, top-level peacekeepers and state-of-the-art technologies to United Nations peacekeeping missions worldwide, becoming the largest contributor of troops to United Nations peacekeeping among Western countries. Italy's commitment to peacekeeping is rooted in the belief that peace operations must aim not only to preserve but also to build peace.

Today we are urged to adapt peacekeeping to new security threats and to a different geopolitical context, but over 75 years of successes must give us the courage to look to the future with confidence and to ask ourselves not "if" but "how" United Nations peacekeeping will continue to play a decisive role. Our work should focus on two major dimensions.

The first is the political dimension of peacekeeping, as a peacekeeping operation is effective and sustainable as long as it is supported by a shared political will, starting with the Security Council. That shared political will must ensure that any operation is adequately resourced, has clear and realistic mandates commensurate with the conditions on the ground and operates in synergy with the host country. Such political will should be forged at the very outset of peacekeeping operations, including by involving the relevant regional organizations in the decision-making process, and should then remain steady and consistent during implementation. In that regard, Italy acknowledges Africa's significant and increasing contributions to international peace and security. The continent has demonstrated admirable courage and leadership in addressing global challenges. We therefore welcome the landmark resolution 2719 (2023), on African Union-led peace support operations.

The second dimension concerns the operational effectiveness of peacekeeping. Resources and objectives must be up to the new security challenges, in highly complex scenarios. We commend the Secretariat for the effective efforts that it has long undertaken to that end, including on the technological and digital front. Close attention must also be paid to the training of peacekeepers, who are required to possess increasingly complex and diversified skills and professionalism.

While adaptation is critical, we already have solid foundations and best practices to build on. Over the years, the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon, for example, has developed a successful model that is based on respect for the local culture, impartiality, credibility and closeness to the civilian population, thereby becoming one of the most stable United Nations peacekeeping missions. Let me recall, in that regard, the long-standing contribution of Italy, which provides the United Nations with top-level training facilities, such as the Center of Excellence for Stability Police Units, which, over the years has trained more than 15,000 police officers from 127 countries and seven international organizations to the highest standards.

Reconciling those two dimensions — political sustainability and operational effectiveness — will be one of the main challenges for the future of peacekeeping operations. Focused mandates, tailored for specific situations, may help to match goals with the resources that are actually available, including facilitating synergies with host countries. At the same time, we should not lower the level of ambition

or hesitate to launch, or give up on the prospect of launching, new peacekeeping operations whenever they are necessary.

With the right adjustments and a fruitful integration with peacebuilding activities, peacekeeping can continue to be a key engine of peace and stability, as it has been since the birth of the United Nations. And Italy will continue to be its resolute and relentless supporter.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Portugal.

Mr. Vinhas (Portugal): Portugal thanks Denmark for convening this important and timely debate and the Secretary-General and Ms. Russo for their insightful remarks.

Portugal aligns itself with the statement to be delivered by the observer of the European Union.

Peace operations are part of the Council's core business, and their effectiveness should be at the heart of its members' concerns. This is my first point: we need the strong political will of a united Council as a starting point for any peace operation, but also throughout the complete strategic planning of the operations, which must be duly considered by all relevant stakeholders. It is crucial to promote greater unity in supporting peace processes among the various actors. Only the joint consideration of multiple inputs can provide the Council with an overview of the peace continuum variables: the commitment of host countries, the sensitivities of local communities, the assessment of ground conditions, predictable resources and the evaluation of foreseeable peacebuilding outcomes by the Peacebuilding Commission.

The protection of civilians must remain at the core of peace operations, which should be planned to ensure the safe entry of humanitarian aid and physical security. Also, we must look at the way that missions communicate with local communities, host Governments and other stakeholders. Adequate, easily understandable and updated communication is key to ensuring the security of both personnel and civilians.

My second point is that a comprehensive architecture that encompasses prevention, peacekeeping and peacebuilding —with realistic mandates and clear objectives and timelines — provides better adaptation to the different phases of the peace continuum. On those aspects that we can control, we should work in advance on ways to better adapt and, therefore, be better prepared to react. The United Nations should consider integrated approaches, focused on mediation and political solutions that prioritize the prevention of conflicts, namely, by supporting national prevention strategies, in line with the Action for Peacekeeping initiative and the New Agenda for Peace.

The United Nations should also keep thinking outside the box and move forward on the implementation of resolution 2719 (2023), which provides a framework for more effective African Union-led peace operations. Raising awareness of the climate-peace-security nexus — namely, of the existential risks associated with sea-level rising — is crucial, along with promoting an inclusive agenda that empowers women and youth to participate effectively.

My third and last point is that we need adequate training of military, police and civilian personnel in United Nations peace operations. We value the police component of peace operations, given the increase of urban conflicts, and the efforts to reduce the environmental footprint of missions. And greater awareness of local sensitivities, including by mitigating language barriers, may lead to a better acceptance of the mandates of peace operations.

As we look ahead to this year's Peacekeeping Ministerial and continue to reflect on the future of peacekeeping and the peacebuilding architecture review, we welcome the study commissioned by the Department of Peace Operations entitled *The Future*

of Peacekeeping, New Models and Related Capabilities — it should guide us on the way forward.

In conclusion, as a committed peacekeeper that has contributed more than 20,000 to United Nations peacekeeping missions over the past 65 years, and as a candidate for a non-permanent seat on the Security Council for the 2027 to 2028 term, Portugal will continue to advocate an integrated approach to peace operations that is centred on the 3 Ps: prevention, partnership and protection.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Mexico.

Mr. Vasconcelos (Mexico) (*spoke in Spanish*): In the modern world, the United Nations is the target of frequent criticisms, owing to its absence from decision-making that affects the outcome of the most severe international problems. While that may well be true, in no event should that overshadow the many actions that that institution performs on a daily basis around the world. Among those positive actions, and in spite of their limitations and failures, peacekeeping operations are, par excellence, one of the clearest embodiments of the relevance and benefits of the United Nations. Those operations are an essential tool in the ongoing effort to maintain international peace and security and clearly demonstrate that the world is a better place as a result of multilateralism.

Nearly eight decades after the first peacekeeping operation was deployed, such operations have not been exempted from adaptations to complex and multidimensional challenges. The involvement of non-State actors and mercenaries in conflicts, the proliferation of weapons and the external financing of armed groups; the potential malicious use of artificial intelligence and the limited economic and human resources are some of the major challenges encountered in the reconfiguration and evolution of operations. It is anachronistic and unacceptable to suppose that such challenges can be tackled using traditional approaches. Against that backdrop, my country regrets that, owing to the lack of agreement and of political will, the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations failed to adopt a report that would have made it possible to improve the performance of those operations.

Allow me to enumerate some measures that, in Mexico's view, would improve peacekeeping operations.

A standing dialogue between the Security Council and countries hosting peacekeeping operations is vital to increasing their efficiency. Only by doing so will it be possible to gain accurate knowledge of the endogenous elements that are conducive to conflict, thereby leading to the design of specific and realistic mandates.

The Security Council must also equip peace operations with tools such as units for monitoring the relationship between climate change and security and monitoring arms embargoes in support of national authorities. Other innovations could also be incorporated in the support offices, such as the one that may be established in Haiti.

My country acknowledges the importance of regional and subregional organizations, including in the mediation and resolution of conflicts. Coordination and communication with such organizations is necessary to promoting peace in all corners of the world.

As to the role of the Peacebuilding Commission, Mexico regards the Commission as a key tool in bolstering the United Nations preventive capacity and in averting the resurgence of conflict. It must therefore play a more relevant role in terms of providing advice and participating in the implementation of comprehensive strategies. Likewise, my country supports the recommendations set out in the Pact for the Future (General Assembly resolution 79/1) and aimed at promoting preventive approaches to peacekeeping, which include reinforcing the role of women and youth. In keeping with its commitment to international peace and security, Mexico expects

to deploy our company of military engineers in the near future, in coordination with the Department of Peace Operations.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Jordan.

Mr. Hmoud (Jordan) (*spoke in Arabic*): I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the Group of Arab States.

At the outset, I wish to renew my sincere wishes to you, Madam President, and your delegation for a successful presidency of the Council this month of March. I thank you, Madam President, for convening this important meeting to discuss the pivotal role of peace operations in promoting international peace and security. I also thank the Secretary-General for the insightful briefing we heard, which has enriched today's debate.

In a world undergoing increasing conflict and challenges, United Nations peace operations serve as a cornerstone of peace and security worldwide by protecting civilians, strengthening governance and supporting development in countries blighted by conflict and its aftermath. We underscore that the role of peacekeeping operations is not confined to the military realm, as they also support comprehensive political solutions seeking to address the root causes of conflict by fostering peaceful dialogue.

We recently witnessed a sharp decline in the role of peacekeeping missions and somewhat of a decline in their effectiveness, thereby diminishing the prospects for achieving peace and ending conflict worldwide. The Group of Arab States warns of the serious repercussions of that decline in terms of capacity for maintaining stability in conflict-affected areas and establishing peace and security. The Group underscores the need to address those issues as a matter of urgency and in effective fashion.

We recall that the main purpose of establishing the United Nations more than seven decades ago was the maintenance of international peace and security, which is the Organization's *raison d'être* and lies at the heart of its practical endeavours. Therefore, any measures to undermine that pivotal role of maintaining peace cannot be countenanced. It is our duty to encourage the United Nations to fulfil its primary responsibilities in that regard. Ending conflict and fostering world peace are the sole ways of comprehensively achieving sustainable development and strengthening the human rights system.

Accordingly, the Group of Arab States stresses that sufficient political and financial support from the General Assembly and the Security Council is paramount if peacekeeping operations are to be effective and sustainable. We underscore that it is the responsibility of all Member States to honour their financial commitments in full and on time so that peacekeeping operations are sustainable and successful.

The Group further emphasizes the importance of overcoming political differences within the Council as a prerequisite for effective peacekeeping operations. We call on the Council to reinforce its cooperation with other stakeholders, including the relevant regional organizations. We call for fairer geographical representation, especially of troop- and police-contributing countries, in positions of leadership, be they in peacekeeping operations or at Headquarters.

The Group of Arab States expresses its alarm at the many threats and attacks directed against United Nations peacekeepers. In that connection, it condemns Israel's repeated attacks on the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), including against its headquarters, positions and personnel. We commend UNIFIL's sacrifices and steadfastness in the face of the aggression against Lebanon. We call for the full implementation of resolution 1701 (2006) and emphasize the need to remind the Security Council of its responsibility to ensure the safety of the UNIFIL's personnel, hold the aggressors accountable and compel Israel to withdraw fully

from all occupied Lebanese territories to the internationally recognized borders, in accordance with the ceasefire agreement. The Group stresses the important role currently being played by UNIFIL in confirming the withdrawal of the Israeli army from all occupied Lebanese territories and in monitoring compliance with the implementation of resolution 1701 (2006).

In conclusion, the Group of Arab States looks forward to the Ministerial Meeting on United Nations peacekeeping, to be held in May in Berlin, as an opportunity to address capacity shortfalls and to discuss the future of peacekeeping operations and ways of better adapting them to tackle urgent and emerging challenges.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Spain.

Mr. Gómez Hernández (Spain) (*spoke in Spanish*): Spain aligns itself with the statement to be made on behalf of the European Union and, in a national capacity, I would like to make the following points.

Spain thanks the Danish presidency for convening this open debate, which is allowing us to reflect on the future of peacekeeping operations. Likewise, Spain thanks Germany for the invitation to the Ministerial Meeting on peacekeeping operations to be held in Berlin in May. We are also grateful for, and underline the relevance of, the preparatory meetings in Montevideo, Jakarta and Islamabad.

We support the efforts of the Secretary-General in undertaking the review of peacekeeping operations requested by Member States, as set out in the Pact for the Future (General Assembly resolution 79/1). It is important for that reform to take a holistic view that embraces every dimension of the work of the United Nations system. Work recently commenced on the review of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture — a process that, in our opinion, must be linked to the reform of peacekeeping operations.

Peacekeeping operations are essential tools for the maintenance of international peace and security. They are encountering increasingly complex challenges and must adapt to new realities to be effective and fulfil their mandates, including the protection of civilians. Accordingly, the work of preparing, training and leading those operations must be highlighted. Spain is fully committed to those missions and aspires to continue playing a relevant part, in particular in leadership efforts. In that connection, I refer to the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), which is staffed by the largest Spanish contingent and is under the command of Spanish General Aroldo Lázaro Sáenz. UNIFIL personnel from all countries are performing their task with efficiency, professionalism and unmitigated altruism. In this forum, I would like to express my appreciation to them and to all those currently deployed to United Nations missions for the significant positive impact that those missions are having.

The participation of women in peacekeeping operations and the gender perspective in their design is fundamental. Spain is a pioneer in the implementation of the women and peace and security agenda, the twenty-fifth anniversary of which we are celebrating this year, and has led the initiatives to introduce and reinforce the gender perspective in peace missions.

It is a priority that, at the strategic level, every effort be made in the Organization's decision-making process to ensure that maximum attention is paid to the safety of personnel during the various stages of those operations.

The European Union is a fundamental partner of the United Nations in the field of peace and security. Spain firmly believes in the development of the Common Security and Defence Policy, which allows the European Union to assume a leading role in the promotion of international security and conflict prevention. That policy

is a fundamental part of the European Union's comprehensive approach to crisis management, drawing on civilian and military assets.

For its part, the African Union plays a decisive role in multiple complex deployment scenarios for peacekeeping operations. Resolution 2719 (2023) will define peace operations in the coming years, which must receive adequate and predictable funding. We are closely following their operational development.

Spain is a responsible State that wants to work together on the maintenance of international peace and security. We will therefore continue to support the Organization's efforts to develop new approaches to peacekeeping, focusing on prevention, strengthening the role of women and young people and the growing importance of technology in peacekeeping, in adapting it to new realities.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

Mrs. Gregoire-van Haaren (Kingdom of the Netherlands): I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the Benelux countries — Belgium, Luxembourg and my own country, the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

We align ourselves with the statement to be delivered by the representative of the European Union.

I want to thank Denmark for convening this timely debate. And I thank Ms. Jenna Russo for her very clear and practical briefing this morning, which can serve as inspiration for us all.

The Benelux countries have been steadfast supporters of United Nations peace operations — both in mission settings and in shaping policy. We have consistently advocated for stronger, more effective and more responsive peace operations.

The world is experiencing the highest number of conflicts since the Second World War, leading to rising global threats to peace and security. There is an urgent need to strengthen global peace and security through a revitalized multilateral system, with the United Nations at its heart.

Today, as we look to the future, we must ensure that United Nations peace operations remain fit for purpose in an increasingly complex and volatile world.

I would like to highlight three key points: conditions for successful peace operations, the importance of sustainable peace and informed integrated planning.

On the first point, United Nations peace operations need full political backing and flexibility. Peace operations remain one of the indispensable and effective tools for maintaining peace and security and supporting political solutions. But they can succeed only if they receive the full political backing of the Security Council, adequate resources, clear mandates and the flexibility to adapt as conflicts evolve. A more modular and adaptable approach — one that allows for tailored responses based on the specific needs of each situation — will be critical. United Nations peacekeepers must not, under any circumstances, become targets by State or non-State actors. We strongly condemn any attacks against peacekeepers and reiterate that such attacks may constitute war crimes or crimes against humanity.

Secondly, prevention, peacebuilding and sustainability must be at the core. Peace operations cannot be limited to managing conflicts. They must be part of a broader strategy to prevent violence, sustain peace and build resilience. That means embedding peacebuilding from the start, as highlighted in the Peacebuilding Commission advice for this debate. The Peacebuilding Commission should play a more central role in shaping peacekeeping mandates, ensuring early planning for transitions and fostering strong partnerships with host States and civil society.

My third and last point is that integrated planning and data-driven decision-making are key. A truly effective peace operation requires integrated mission planning guiding the activities of civilian, police and military components. Peacekeeping intelligence and leveraging robust data and analytics will enable peace operations to be more agile, targeted and effective in responding to evolving threats. We look forward to the review on the future of all forms of United Nations peace operations, as mandated by the Pact for the Future (General Assembly resolution 79/1). The Benelux countries will continue to actively participate in relevant high-level and technical discussions.

Above all, the protection of civilians must remain at the heart of everything we do. Ensuring the safety of those affected by conflict is not just a responsibility — it is the ultimate measure of our success.

The President: I now give the floor the representative of Croatia.

Mr. Ćurić Hrvatinić (Croatia): I would like to first congratulate Denmark on its able presidency of the Security Council for this month and for organizing this very important debate.

Croatia aligns itself with the statement to be delivered by the representative of the European Union. I would like to add a few remarks in my national capacity.

Peace operations are central to the very idea of the United Nations. In that sense, ensuring that United Nations peace operations remain adaptable and effective in responding to new and evolving global challenges is a matter of critical importance.

The landscape of conflict is shifting. Traditional threats persist, but new complexities arise — climate-related insecurity, cyberthreats, disinformation and asymmetric warfare demand innovative approaches. As a country that has transitioned from conflict to peace, Croatia understands the necessity of adaptability in peace operations, responding to specific circumstances in which each individual peace operation functions.

To advance that adaptability, we must focus on three key areas.

First, there is a need for a mandate-driven approach. United Nations missions must have clear, realistic and flexible mandates that reflect the complexities on the ground. Rigid mandates risk inefficiency and failure. Enhanced consultation with host countries and regional organizations can ensure mission objectives remain relevant.

Secondly, technology and intelligence are necessary. Modern conflicts require modern solutions. Strengthening the use of digital tools, artificial intelligence and early-warning systems can improve decision-making and operational effectiveness. Investing in peacekeepers' technological capabilities will enhance their capacity to protect civilians and maintain security, while at the same time reducing the costs of the missions themselves.

Thirdly, there is a need for partnerships and inclusivity. Peacekeeping must be a shared responsibility. Stronger engagement with regional organizations, local communities and civil society is essential. Most notably, we must ensure women's meaningful participation in peace processes, as mandated by resolution 1325 (2000), not for the mere sake of gender equality but for anchoring the peacekeeping and peacebuilding processes in the lived reality of a given society — by all accounts a prerequisite for sustainable peace.

Our consideration of peace missions would benefit if we included preventive and transitional elements with the immediate post-conflict efforts. In that sense, as Chair and Vice-Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission in 2023 and 2024, Croatia championed national peacebuilding efforts and national prevention strategies

addressing the root causes of conflict and, on the other hand, the deployment of light-footprint missions to make transitions smooth and efficient.

In conclusion, Croatia reaffirms its commitment to United Nations peace operations and supports ongoing reform efforts — ensuring missions remain responsive, effective and aligned with the realities of today and tomorrow.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Australia.

Ms. Bryant (Australia): I thank Denmark and Foreign Minister Rasmussen for their leadership in convening this open debate.

I am speaking today on behalf of Canada, New Zealand and my own country, Australia (CANZ).

Peacekeeping represents the best of the multilateral system. The contribution of peace operations to conflict prevention, the protection of civilians and enduring political solutions is clear. We have many historical successes, and the international community continues to depend on United Nations peacekeeping as a tool for peace and collective security.

But it is also clear that peacekeeping needs to adapt to the complex realities of today's world. With the rise of regional conflicts, the erosion of host State consent and more constrained resources, we must expand and sharpen our toolkit.

First, we need to improve trust and confidence in United Nations peacekeeping. As part of the upcoming Secretary-General's review, we want to see bold new ideas and existing reforms fully implemented. Drawing on expertise from Member States and civil society will be key to achieving that. We also hope that recommendations from the independent study on the future of peacekeeping prompt a deeper discussion on how to streamline mandates.

Secondly, implementing the women and peace and security agenda has never been more urgent. CANZ remains committed to women's full, equal and meaningful participation in all aspects of peacekeeping. The evidence unequivocally shows that women's participation strengthens peace operations and the achievement of sustainable peace. We are focused on removing barriers to women's participation, including through the Elsie Initiative Fund, and we urge the United Nations to integrate lessons learned on safe and inclusive community dialogue in order to ensure that more women are at the peace table.

Thirdly, CANZ supports more innovative partnership models in peace operations. We have seen first-hand the benefits of regional approaches to peace and security. We support stronger collaboration between the United Nations and regional organizations, including through resolution 2719 (2023).

Finally, CANZ encourages a sharper focus and prioritization of reform efforts. That includes redoubling efforts to make the primacy of politics the hallmark of peace operations. There is a compelling need to boost the Organization's readiness in critical capabilities. People are the Organization's most important capability, and to fully leverage that talent, we must prioritize human resource reforms. The integration of technology to drive innovation must also remain a priority. Without enhanced data and early-warning systems, peacekeepers and the civilians they are mandated to protect face growing threats, including from weaponized drones and the spread of misinformation and disinformation. This year offers a unique opportunity to positively shape the future of peacekeeping and peacebuilding architecture. CANZ will work to strengthen the link between conflict prevention, peacekeeping and peacebuilding in order to safeguard peace gains. We will advocate concrete solutions that make peacekeeping and special political missions fit for our future.

In conclusion, CANZ pays tribute to all peacekeepers — military, police and civilian — serving under the United Nations flag in the pursuit of peace.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Morocco.

Ms. Moutchou (Morocco) (*spoke in French*): Allow me to extend my warm congratulations to you, Madam, on your presidency of the Security Council and to commend you on your excellent leadership in steering the Council's work in the month of March. I also welcome the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Denmark and thank the Secretary-General for his illuminating briefing.

For 75 years now, several United Nations peacekeeping operations have been deployed to help those who have lived through the horrors of war and conflict, those who are scarred from the loss of loved ones and those who have suffered the devastating humanitarian consequences of war.

Today more than ever, the maintenance of peace is key to protect civilians, create an environment conducive to ensuring the success of political processes and, more broadly, maintaining international peace and security. Peacekeeping, however, is being sorely tested by financial, security and political challenges. The Kingdom of Morocco therefore reiterates its attachment to peacekeeping as a key instrument for stability and restoring peace. In that connection, my country renews its commitment to pursue the implementation of the Action for Peacekeeping and Action for Peacekeeping Plus initiatives. In accordance with the high instructions from King Mohammed VI, Morocco has been a major and regular troop contributor since 1960 and has two rapidly deployable battalions within the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic. My country also deploys experts to the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei and the United Nations Mission in South Sudan.

Capacity-building remains important, as it enables peacekeepers, before and during their deployments, to acquire the necessary peacekeeping knowledge and new practices. In that context, this year my country will host several training initiatives, including one explosive hazards awareness training and two field medical assistant courses, in collaboration with the United Nations. We also support the women and peace and security agenda, which, on 23 March 2022 was incorporated into our women and peace and security national action plan. The plan seeks to promote the participation and contribution of Moroccan women peacekeepers to peace operations.

There can be no peace without development, and no development without peace. The 2025 peacebuilding architecture review is an excellent opportunity to build on the peace dividends created by United Nations peacekeeping operations. Morocco, as Vice-Chair of the Central African Republic configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission, will continue to promote funding peacebuilding activities and to mobilize resources to that end, particularly sustainable financing for the Peacebuilding Fund.

As we now are discussing the adaptability of peacekeeping operations, let me make the following comments.

The review of all peace operations, including peacekeeping operations, pursuant to the Pact for the Future (General Assembly resolution 79/1), must involve enhanced consultations with Member States and take into account their views and expectations. The Berlin Peacekeeping Ministerial Meeting, to be held on 13–14 May, will be a good opportunity to discuss the current challenges and achievements of peacekeeping missions. We thank the Federal Republic of Germany, which will host the conference.

(spoke in English)

Of all the delegations that spoke at this debate, only one has mentioned the components of human rights and tried to link it to the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO). We, too, were surprised and astonished by that intervention, as it reflects a master class in selective political manipulation. That delegation has suddenly discovered a newfound passion for human rights and international law. Allow me to enlighten their memory with a few realities that are either being purposely ignored or conveniently forgotten.

First, regarding its claims about MINURSO's mandate, the Mission's mandate is crystal clear. It was established by the Security Council to supervise the ceasefire. That has been clearly defined by the Security Council, and any attempt by that delegation to distort its role is either misinformed or deliberately misleading. Contrary to what has been suggested, 7 of 11 United Nations peace operations do not have human rights monitoring mandates. We ask why that delegation, in a flagrant display of selective double standards, focuses exclusively on MINURSO and turns a blind eye to other peacekeeping operations. Allow me to add that the Security Council assigns missions mandates based on the specific situation on the ground. It is neither a systematic rule nor an exception. It is a decision made on a case-by-case basis.

Furthermore, despite the persistent and desperate attempts of that same delegation in October 2024, the Security Council rejected, en bloc, the inclusion of a human rights monitoring mechanism in MINURSO's mandate (see S/PV.9771). That rejection was not accidental. It reaffirmed that the human rights situation in the Moroccan Sahara does not require or need such a mechanism. It is a clear message that the Security Council sees through the politically motivated manoeuvre of certain parties.

Secondly, since that delegation seems to be deeply concerned about human rights, let me help it refocus its attention on a far more pressing matter, the Tindouf camps, where the people live under daily oppression, stripped of their fundamental rights and subjected to severe movement restrictions, in clear violations of international law. Morocco has consistently demonstrated an unwavering commitment to promoting human rights and upholding the fundamental rights and freedoms of all individuals. Indeed, Morocco has continuously engaged with the special procedures of the Human Rights Council. We have hosted several visits from United Nations experts and have cooperated constructively in order to foster transparency, dialogue and progress. Morocco's efforts in promoting human rights are not mere words, but concrete actions aimed at ensuring the well-being and dignity of every citizen.

Thirdly, that delegation once again mentioned the right to self-determination, but that is a selective concept for the delegation and a troubling contradiction. It is being weaponized as a political tool against Morocco's territorial integrity, yet it is conveniently ignored when it comes to the legitimate aspirations of other people who still live under foreign occupation and oppression. The United Nations must pay attention to all such people, without exception or selectivity, including those living within the territory of States preaching self-determination for others while systematically denying it to the people oppressed on their own land. The right to self-determination cannot be a political tool wielded selectively and invoked for some, while ignored for others. It cannot be a card to be played for convenience.

In conclusion, I would like to reiterate Morocco's position on the issue of the Sahara, which has always been an integral part of Morocco. It is Moroccan and will remain Moroccan forever.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Brazil.

Mr. França Danese (Brazil): I thank Denmark for organizing this timely open debate and the Secretary-General and the other briefers for their remarks.

Peace operations are indispensable United Nations tools for the maintenance of international peace and security. As with any other tools, they must be continuously updated to fulfil their purpose. The international peace and security landscape has changed dramatically, as have conflict dynamics. We need tools that can be used effectively in this new reality.

The Security Council must be able to translate the demands in the field into mission mandates that are clear, achievable, sequenced and supported by a sustainable political strategy. The primacy of politics is broadly recognized as a key element for successful missions. The report of the High-level Independent Panel on Peace Operations (see S/2015/446) presents valuable reflections in that regard. They should be taken into account by Member States — especially those with the supreme responsibility of sitting on the Security Council — the Secretariat and mission leadership.

Lasting peace is not achievable through, or sustained by, military and technical engagements alone. Political solutions must be our end game. Brazil has supported the inclusion of peacebuilding elements throughout the life cycle of a mission. The idea that peacebuilding should simply succeed peacekeeping no longer resonates, and an all-encompassing approach is clearly more adequate and now broadly accepted. Sustainable peace requires a comprehensive approach to security, which involves consideration of the root causes of violence and the social and economic situation on the ground.

Brazil welcomes the written advice from the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) provided to inform this debate. The PBC should be better utilized by the Council during the elaboration and renewal of mandates, especially regarding the introduction of peacebuilding elements to those mandates. The Commission's expertise should also benefit host States willing to seek further support for their peacebuilding priorities.

Reflections on mandates should always be accompanied by a responsible assessment of the means of implementation. I would like to highlight three points in that regard.

First, missions should be able to count on the Council's unwavering political support. A reluctant or divided Council hampers the impact of missions in the field.

Secondly, financial and technical resources must also be made available on a sustained basis.

Thirdly, capacity-building and training must be prioritized and adapted to the new demands and challenges on the ground. Both for the Peacekeeping Ministerial in Berlin and the peacebuilding architecture review, we need a holistic approach, focused on more coherence in the United Nations system and stronger commitment by Member States. We must better plan the missions and their transitions. Orderly and safe transitions and withdrawals are the path to ensuring security and political gains.

Finally, stronger partnerships are essential to the future of peace operations. We acknowledge the efforts made by the United Nations and the African Union to implement resolution 2719 (2023). We also believe that better coordination with the United Nations, governmental authorities and civil society is fundamental to ensuring the successful implementation of mandates.

As a collective endeavour, the effectiveness of peace operations depends on effective coordination both at the political level and in the field.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Germany.

Ms. Leendertse (Germany): Germany aligns itself with the statement to be delivered on behalf of the European Union and the statement to be delivered by the representative of Nauru on behalf of the Group of Friends on Climate and Security.

I would like to extend my gratitude to Denmark for organizing this timely event.

United Nations peace operations are invaluable tools for the promotion and maintenance of international peace and security. They bring together unique legitimacy, broad expertise and effective burden-sharing at a comparatively low financial cost. However, in the light of evolving threats and a changing political environment, peace operations must adapt to respond to new realities. That need for flexibility is relevant throughout the entire life cycle of a mission.

Allow me to highlight what we see as three aspects for advancing the adaptability of United Nations peace operations.

First, the Security Council should adopt clear, sequenced and prioritized mandates, while maintaining the normative framework and standards of the United Nations. Mandates must be aligned with political strategies that seek to address the root causes of conflict. A modular approach to peace operations could allow for greater adaptability and lead to more cost-effective and focused peace operations.

Secondly, we must strengthen the integration of peacekeeping, peacebuilding and conflict prevention efforts. We must take into account the needs of and involve local stakeholders, in particular women, youth and marginalized groups. Recalling the advice of the Peacebuilding Commission to the Security Council for today's discussions, I would like to emphasize the importance of strengthening national and local ownership and capacities to sustain peace in transitions. The preparedness of host Governments and other relevant national actors must be taken into account ahead of any strategic or operational decisions on the adaptation and transition of a peace operation.

Thirdly, peace operations should adopt new approaches, ranging from the use of emerging technologies in the protection of civilians to the mobilization of innovative peacebuilding funding. Investing in integrated planning capacities, including in the field of scenario planning and foresight, remains crucial.

The United Nations Peacekeeping Ministerial in Berlin will enable further high-level political discussions on how to make United Nations peace operations fit for the future. We look forward to high-level participation and substantial pledges. The Berlin Ministerial will also be an important opportunity for us to underline our collective political commitment to effective multilateralism. Let us provide input for the Secretary-General's review on the future of all forms of peace operations that was mandated by all of us in the Pact for the Future (General Assembly resolution 79/1).

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Ireland.

Ms. Ni Mhuircheartaigh (Ireland): Ireland thanks Denmark for convening this timely meeting. Our thanks also go to Secretary-General Guterres and Ms. Jenna Russo for their briefings.

Ireland aligns itself with the statements to be made on behalf of the European Union and the Group of Friends on Climate and Security.

We meet today at a critical juncture for the future of United Nations peace operations. On the one hand, the number of conflicts around the globe is rising. On the other, there is a decline in United Nations peace operations. And yet the international community has reaffirmed its value and necessity. Last year, through the Pact for the Future (General Assembly resolution 79/1), all 193 Member States recognized that United Nations peace operations are a critical tool to maintain international peace and security. We now have several opportunities to assess

progress, learn from experience and adapt to meet new realities through the review of United Nations peace operations, the peacebuilding architecture review and the United Nations Peacekeeping Ministerial in Berlin.

Ireland has a long-standing commitment to United Nations peacekeeping. Irish participation in United Nations peacekeeping operations represents the longest unbroken record of any nation in the world. While missions today face compounding challenges, it is important to acknowledge that, across the decades, United Nations peacekeeping has played a key role in protecting civilians, preventing the spread of conflicts and crises and strengthening State sovereignty. In short, United Nations peacekeeping has laid the foundations for lasting peace in many parts of the world. Equally, United Nations special political missions have played an indispensable role in conflict prevention, supporting peace processes and helping nations to rebuild. In Ireland's view, peace operations remain one of the United Nations most effective and critical tools.

As a troop- and police-contributing country, Ireland has consistently urged that peace operations have clear, credible and realistic mandates. We welcome the independent study on the future of peacekeeping commissioned by the Department of Peace Operations, which outlines new models for future operations. Ireland agrees that peace operations should be flexible, agile and tailored to respond to a range of threats and challenges, while drawing on the full range of United Nations capabilities. Political and community considerations must be at the centre of mission design. We also recognize the importance of strengthening key capabilities, including early-warning systems, planning and leveraging new technologies. More and better community engagement is needed to counter misinformation, disinformation and hate speech. Furthermore, the United Nations must continue to insist on and pursue accountability for attacks on peacekeepers and United Nations infrastructure. Failure to do so undermines not only the implementation of the individual mission mandates but the concept of peacekeeping itself.

Ireland is pleased to have initiated resolution 2594 (2021) in 2021. That resolution emphasizes the need for peace operations to engage early in integrated planning and coordination on transitions with the host State, national stakeholders, civil society and the United Nations country team. It is essential that, when United Nations peace operations draw down, they do so in a manner that ensures the protection of civilians and strengthens peacebuilding. Transitions bring risk, which the Security Council must recognize and manage by demonstrating unwavering political support to United Nations missions.

We also acknowledge that transition processes are not always linear. They are often complex and influenced by a range of unpredictable factors. Therefore, peace operations must remain flexible and adjust strategies as conditions evolve. They must also fully integrate the women and peace and security and the youth, peace and security agendas.

Finally, we believe that United Nations peacekeeping has a better chance of success when supported by neighbouring States and relevant regional organizations. Ireland fully endorses United Nations efforts to expand assistance to regional-led peacekeeping missions, including through the implementation of resolution 2719 (2023).

Success also requires a solid financial foundation, and we encourage all Member States to pay their assessments in full and on time. Reductions in the United Nations peacekeeping budget should be redeployed to support peace operations and peacebuilding objectives.

To conclude, progress in responding to new realities requires bold leadership and creative thinking. We stand ready to work with all Member States and stakeholders to

strengthen the capability of the United Nations to adapt and respond to new realities, with the goal of reversing the rise in conflict and achieving sustainable peace for future generations.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Cyprus.

Ms. Machail (Cyprus): Cyprus fully aligns itself with the statement to be delivered by the representative of the European Union but would also like to make some comments in our national capacity.

Allow us first, Madam President, to thank Denmark for organizing this timely debate, and to thank the briefers, the Secretary-General and the representative of the International Peace Institute for their insightful briefings.

Allow me in addition, Madam President, to express our appreciation for the service of personnel dedicated to the pursuit of peace around the world.

At a time when the world faces complex multifaceted challenges that threaten international peace and security, peace operations have a vital role to play. For decades, they have offered proof that multilateralism works by helping countries to navigate the difficult path from conflict to peace. They have therefore been one of the most effective instruments for conflict mitigation and stabilization.

In the face of evolving and divergent crises, in which peace operations are called upon to move beyond traditional tasks, it has become necessary to enhance their effectiveness and efficiency, but also to bolster global peace and security as a whole. In that context, we must build on our commitments in the Pact for the Future (General Assembly resolution 79/1) and ensure their implementation.

Acting in accordance with international law, including the Charter of the United Nations, and respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all Member States should not be just a catchphrase but a deeply ingrained part of who we are, individually and collectively.

Cyprus supports efforts to reform peace operations to ensure that they are truly fit for purpose. Improving the performance of peace operations is of strategic importance to their operational readiness to fully implement their mandate, effectively uphold the resolutions of the Security Council and prevent the creation of *faits accomplis* on the ground that may hamper the settlement of conflicts. They must be sufficiently staffed, equipped and financed. Equitable gender representation is an important component that further contributes to enhancing their efficiency. Cyprus supports the implementation of the women and peace and security agenda and welcomes the increasing efforts to ensure a greater participation by women in United Nations peace operations.

As one of the few States Members of the United Nations that is both a troop contributor and a host country to one of the longest-running peacekeeping operations in the world, as well as a good-offices mission, Cyprus, a victim itself of foreign aggression and illegal military occupation, can attest to the necessity of sustaining a United Nations force that prevents the recurrence of fighting, contributes to the restoration of law and order and ensures the return to normal conditions, while at the same time promoting the peaceful settlement of disputes.

In the current global geopolitical context, it is imperative for the United Nations, and the Security Council in particular, to demonstrate that there are no double standards in the application of the United Nations Charter. The sovereignty and territorial integrity of States under attack must be defended, no matter where the attacks are coming from or how much time has elapsed. The Security Council must stand behind its own resolutions and ensure that they have meaning; otherwise, the credibility of the international system is severely undermined.

It is equally essential to ensure that impartiality for peace operations translates into adherence to the principles of the Charter, the ability to distinguish victim from aggressor and the prevention of any attempt to interfere with their status and deployment. Transparent and sincere cooperation with the host State is a *sine qua non*. Peace operations must refrain from any action that may affect efforts towards resolving or pre-empting a political solution to a conflict.

Peace operations are ultimately not an end in themselves. They can only create and maintain conditions conducive to the fundamental task of achieving lasting political solutions, including by contributing to sustaining dialogue and promoting confidence-building measures.

While they must be sufficiently equipped and supported to fulfil their functions, Member States ultimately bear the responsibility for building and sustaining peace in their own countries and, as such, contributing to the maintenance of international peace and security. In that regard, collective efforts are needed to address the root causes of conflicts and their consequences, prevent recurrence and uphold human rights with no exceptions.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Armenia.

Ms. Melikyan (Armenia): We thank the presidency of Denmark for convening this Security Council open debate on the theme of advancing adaptability in peace operations with a view to responding to new realities. We would like to thank the Secretary-General, António Guterres, and the briefer from the International Peace Institute for their comprehensive briefings, which outlined the activities of United Nations peace operations, challenges in implementing their mandates and ways to strengthen their efficiency.

Peace operations remain one of the most effective tools in maintaining international peace and security. In the context of current geopolitical challenges, including the use of force and threats of force, active military build-up, violent rhetoric and disinformation, multinational United Nations peace operations may play a stabilizing role, reducing the risk of escalation.

In the Pact for the Future (General Assembly resolution 79/1), Member States recognized the interdependence of international peace and security, sustainable development and human rights. Peace operations need to have a proper mandate, capacities and expertise to address peace and security issues in a comprehensive manner, while taking into account the aspects of human security, the humanitarian and human rights situation, the protection of vulnerable groups, food security and access to means of subsistence.

The Security Council needs to apply a tailor-made approach in designing peace operations in various regions to ensure that their mandates correspond to the realities and security threats on the ground. At various stages of the conflict cycle, from conflict management to post-conflict rehabilitation, reconstruction and peacebuilding, the mandates of peace operations need to be reviewed to address the evolving situation and shift from such activities as ceasefire monitoring; arms control; disarmament, demobilization and reintegration; and life-saving humanitarian needs to a stronger focus on human rights, long-term socioeconomic development, the rule of law, access to justice and reconciliation.

We attach importance to the engagement of the Security Council with relevant United Nations bodies and specialized agencies in shaping and reviewing the mandates of peace operations, with the aim of identifying the risks and challenges on the ground and incorporating humanitarian, development, human rights and human security perspectives into its activities, in line with the concept of comprehensive security.

Armenia has actively contributed to United Nations-led and United Nations-mandated peace operations in Lebanon, Kosovo, Mali, Afghanistan and Iraq. Armenian peacekeepers in the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon, alongside their international partners, remained on the ground throughout the recent escalations in Lebanon. Despite the security challenges, they continued to fulfil their peacekeeping duties, demonstrating Armenia's commitment to international security and stability.

Armenian peacekeepers in Kosovo continue to contribute to the maintenance of peace and security in the Western Balkans. In July 2023, when tensions were high and there was a risk of escalation, Armenia increased the number of its peacekeeping personnel in Kosovo.

From its own experience, Armenia realizes the importance of genuine peace efforts to promote peace and stability. As a responsible member of the international community, Armenia will continue its engagement in international peacekeeping and peacebuilding initiatives and operations in order to achieve a just and sustainable peace in conflict-affected countries and regions.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Romania.

Mr. Feruță (Romania): Romania aligns itself with the statement to be delivered by the representative of the European Union.

I would like to pay our deepest respects to the United Nations peacekeeping personnel — the brave women and men who work tirelessly for a better, more secure and peaceful world.

Peacekeeping has traditionally made up the very fabric of the United Nations. It is at the core of the peace and security pillar and is one of the Security Council's most relevant tasks. But, as the global security context is becoming more fragile, peacekeeping has been tested, and it needs to adapt to new realities. From our point of view, peacekeeping operations remain vital. Their mandates are an expression of our collective political will and are part of the solution in addressing armed conflicts and preventing further escalation and breaches of international law, international humanitarian law and the principles of the Charter of the United Nations.

Romania has been a committed contributor to peacekeeping since 1991, deploying military and police capabilities in some of the most challenging missions, and is currently present in 5 of the 11 United Nations peacekeeping operations. As we speak, several Romanian officers are on standby, ready to resume their duties in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and in South Sudan.

Rule of law activities in peacekeeping contribute to restoring and maintaining security, protecting civilians and creating the conditions for democratic transitions and sustainable peace. Romania continues to contribute government-provided personnel to the corrections component of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic. We offer capacity-building support for training courses organized by the Department of Peace Operations and by hosting specific predeployment training every year. Currently, Romanian police officers are present in 34 countries on four continents.

There is no alternative to peacekeeping in conflict situations. However, peacekeeping operations should not be used as a substitute for addressing the root causes of conflict. For increased effectiveness, those operations should have clear but adaptable mandates and timelines, appropriate command structures and adequate resources, based on a realistic assessment of needs and a coordinated approach in the field. Furthermore, the mandates should be regularly reviewed and adjusted, in cooperation with the host nation and reflecting the security challenges on the ground.

In connection with the Secretary-General's New Agenda for Peace and the implementation of the objectives of the Pact for the Future (General Assembly resolution 79/1), increased ownership by the host nation is critical, and regional support is welcomed, while ensuring full respect for international law and human rights. The upcoming United Nations peacekeeping ministerial conference, to be held in Berlin in May, the work of the United Nations working group on peace and security and the ongoing work on the peacebuilding architecture review are key steps. Romania advocates for greater accountability for atrocity crimes, justice for the victims, zero tolerance of sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment, and the implementation of the women and peace and security agenda. All these elements need to be factored into the planning and deployment processes.

We share a common responsibility as States Members of the United Nations to find appropriate and timely solutions, coupled with the political will to implement them. Those elements are vital for the core role of the United Nations in maintaining international peace and security to endure.

The President: I now give the floor to Mr. Lambrinidis.

Mr. Lambrinidis: I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union (EU) and its member States. The candidate countries North Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, Albania, Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Georgia, as well as Armenia, align themselves with this statement.

First, let me also thank Denmark for organizing this important debate and the briefers for their insightful remarks. We would also like to take this opportunity to honour, as others have, those who have made the ultimate sacrifice in the pursuit of peace.

United Nations peace operations are confronted with increasingly complex challenges, including political resistance, a growing trust deficit among host Governments and local populations and related disinformation campaigns aimed at undermining operational legitimacy and safety. Despite those challenges, United Nations peace operations remain one of the most effective multilateral tools for preventing and mitigating armed conflict, sustaining peace and responding to a broad range of threats to international peace and security. As such, they require the Security Council's firm support.

The European Union and its member States are steadfast supporters of and direct participants in United Nations peace operations. We jointly contributed almost one quarter of the United Nations peacekeeping budget last year, and we currently deploy almost 4,000 personnel to United Nations peace operations. The EU has been a strong supporter of resolution 2719 (2023), and we support the African Union/United Nations proposed hybrid financing option for the African Union Support and Stabilization Mission in Somalia as the first test case to implement that resolution.

In addition, the EU currently deploys 21 civilian and military missions and operations of its own, some of which were established in parallel with United Nations missions. There is excellent on-the-ground cooperation between the EU's missions and operations and United Nations peace operations, be it in the Central African Republic, Libya or Somalia. The EU-United Nations strategic partnership on peace and security is a key strand of our cooperation, and we are currently in the process of reinforcing it by agreeing on a new set of EU-United Nations joint priorities on peace and security for 2025–2027.

That said, today we operate in a changing geopolitical environment. We must therefore reflect on the roles that peace operations can and should play in order to remain fit for the future. We look forward to the review of the future of all forms of United Nations peace operations, as mandated by the Pact for the Future (General Assembly resolution 79/1). The upcoming United Nations peacekeeping ministerial

conference, to be held in Berlin, will be an excellent opportunity to continue discussions and to reflect on how United Nations peace operations can better adapt to the evolving global security landscape. We also look forward to the United Nations peacebuilding architecture review, and we will engage actively and constructively in order to achieve an ambitious outcome.

The European Union also fully supports the women and peace and security agenda and recently joined the Secretary-General's initiative for a Common Pledge for Women's Full, Equal and Meaningful Participation in Peace Processes.

In conclusion, I once again thank the presidency for taking the initiative to convene today's debate, and we look forward to the upcoming discussions and processes.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Japan.

Mr. Mikanagi (Japan): I thank the Secretary-General for his briefing.

United Nations peace operations remain indispensable tools for responding to diverse challenges in the maintenance of international peace and security. Japan reiterates its commitment to supporting United Nations peace operations and calls upon the Security Council to consider the following four points in order to make peace operations more effective and adaptable to current and future challenges.

First, the Security Council should recognize the importance of a whole-of-United-Nations approach, ensuring comprehensiveness and coherence in achieving sustainable peace and conflict prevention, based on the concept of the humanitarian-development-peace nexus. That approach is important in addressing the root causes of conflict, which is key to preventing relapse into conflict and to sustaining peace. In that regard, the Council needs to define appropriate mandates and ensure that exit strategies and viable transition plans are developed from the earliest stage possible, in close coordination with host countries and other relevant United Nations entities, including the United Nations country teams and resident coordinators.

Secondly, the Security Council must make sure that peace operations closely engage with host communities. Japan emphasizes the importance of the inclusion and engagement of all segments of society, including women and youth, in the implementation of peacekeeping mandates and, where mandated, in enhancing national capacities for peacebuilding and conflict prevention.

Thirdly, the Security Council should more actively utilize the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC). The Council can utilize the PBC by requesting and drawing upon its advice more actively and systematically to inform the Council's decisions, including mandate renewals, transitions and withdrawals. The importance of that coordination was also highlighted in presidential note S/2024/507, and we welcome the fact that the Peacebuilding Commission provided advice for today's open debate.

Finally, for United Nations peace operations to be more adaptable to evolving challenges, the Council needs to maintain close communication with troop-contributing countries, police-contributing countries and missions on the ground in order to understand their capabilities and challenges. Japan continues to support the training and capacity-building of peacekeepers in partnership with the United Nations and Member States. Close cooperation with regional organizations continues to be important, and Japan supports the training of the personnel of African Union-led peace support operations through the United Nations Triangular Partnership Programme.

We look forward to the Peacekeeping Ministerial, the peacebuilding architecture review and the review of future peace operations. We hope that the views of all Member States will be reflected in those processes so as to enhance the United Nations role in the maintenance of international peace and security.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Guatemala.

Mr. Bríz Gutiérrez (Guatemala): (*spoke in Spanish*): We thank Denmark for convening this debate and the Secretary-General and Ms. Russo of the International Peace Institute for their important input.

My delegation aligns itself with the statement to be made by the representative of Uganda on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries and wishes to make some points in its national capacity.

Guatemala, as the fourth-largest contributor of troops and police in the Latin American and Caribbean region, has witnessed the positive impact of peacekeeping operations on the ground. We concur with the concept note for this debate (see S/2025/141) regarding the need to adapt peace operations to new realities, given the proliferation and evolving complexity of conflicts, combined with the crisis of legitimacy that some missions are experiencing. On top of that comes a new challenge: the lack of unity that we are seeing among Council members with regard to support for peace operations.

To respond to those challenges, we believe it crucial for the Security Council to promote political mechanisms, including mediation and good offices, to address the root causes of conflicts with a view to fostering sustainable and inclusive peace. It is therefore important to strengthen preventive and peacebuilding approaches and to make better use of the advisory role of the Peacebuilding Commission and synergies with agencies within the system and the international financial institutions. Moreover, it is our firm belief that the nexus between the human rights and peacekeeping agendas offers a unique strategy for shifting the paradigm. In that regard, the meaningful participation of women and youth is of vital relevance, as they offer unique perspectives and valuable skills that enhance the capacity to address conflict during peace processes.

We must deepen discussions on the future of peace operations. When it comes to the review to be undertaken by the Secretary-General, it is our hope that consideration will be given to the evidence accumulated over the course of missions' experience, enhanced contingency planning to respond to emerging crises and the promotion of innovation so as to improve the execution and implementation of prevention-based approaches.

Although we did not reach agreement on the recommendations of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations of the General Assembly, we hope that collective efforts can be pursued with a view to bolstering peace operations, in particular considering the commitments ensuing from the Pact for the Future (General Assembly resolution 79/1) and the implementation of the Action for Peacekeeping initiative, so that peacekeeping missions are more effective and thus achieve successful transition processes.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Vietnam.

Mr. Hoang Nguyen Nguyen (Viet Nam): I thank you, Madam President, and the Danish presidency for convening this important debate.

Viet Nam aligns itself with the statement to be delivered by the representative of Uganda on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries.

In an increasingly fragmented and volatile world, United Nations peace operations remain indispensable to promoting international peace and security. However, evolving conflicts, shaped by geopolitical rivalries, non-State actors and unconventional threats, demand new approaches. As a nation with a deep appreciation for peace, stability and development, Viet Nam stands ready to contribute to advancing the adaptability of United Nations peace operations in response to new realities, in particular in the following respects.

First, Viet Nam supports the Secretary-General's peacebuilding and peacekeeping initiatives, which emphasize a holistic approach to addressing conflicts and creating sustainable peace. Peacekeeping missions should not operate in isolation from broader political, humanitarian and development efforts. To that end, coordination within the United Nations system needs to be strengthened. The Security Council should work closely with the Department of Peace Operations, the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs and relevant United Nations agencies to ensure coherence in mission mandates from the outset and to establish long-term governance and development structures before missions complete their mandates.

Secondly, stronger regional cooperation is essential for effective peacekeeping. The United Nations and the Security Council should therefore deepen collaboration with regional organizations and local actors, whose insights and better understanding of local dynamics can guide more tailored and context-sensitive mandates. In addition, they can provide political and logistical support for United Nations operations, thus avoiding duplication of effort.

Thirdly, peace operations must be better equipped to address emerging security threats. Modern conflicts increasingly involve cyberwarfare and hybrid warfare. Mandates should therefore be adaptable to those changing environments. Enhancing missions' resilience against asymmetric threats will improve operational effectiveness. Strengthening early-warning systems through big data analytics and artificial-intelligence-driven prediction can help mitigate crises before they escalate.

Finally, we underscore the significance of resolution 1325 (2000), on women and peace and security. Increasing female leadership in peacekeeping missions, incorporating gender-sensitive conflict analysis and ensuring the protection of women and girls in conflict zones are essential to inclusive peace efforts. In that connection, Viet Nam remains committed to promoting the meaningful participation of women in peacekeeping operations, recognizing their invaluable contributions to fostering community engagement and promoting peaceful solutions.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Israel.

Mr. Miller (Israel): On behalf of the State of Israel, I wish to express our appreciation to the men and women serving in United Nations peacekeeping operations. We recognize their dedication and commitment and extend our utmost respect to those who have made the ultimate sacrifice in the pursuit of peace and stability worldwide.

Peacekeeping missions today face unprecedented and rapidly evolving challenges. The reality on the ground has fundamentally shifted. Non-State actors and terrorist organizations now exploit the international system, masquerading as non-governmental organizations and non-profit organizations to deceive the global community. They systematically misuse civilian infrastructure, turning schools, hospitals and even United Nations sites into command centres and weapon depots. Those groups not only disregard the safety and welfare of civilians but also put United Nations peacekeepers in harm's way, flagrantly violating international law and Security Council resolutions in doing so.

The United Nations faces a serious dilemma when peacekeeping forces operate in an environment in which non-State actors wield significant influence. The issue cannot be ignored or downplayed. It must be confronted head-on with full transparency, the public reporting of violations and the holding of host countries accountable. The United Nations must also ensure that non-State actors that threaten peacekeepers face meaningful consequences. At the same time, the primary mission of United Nations peacekeeping cannot be reduced to self-preservation. While we recognize that force protection is crucial, it should not become the overriding objective and one that prevents peacekeepers from fulfilling their mandates.

When the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) was established, its role was clear: to maintain peace and security along the Blue Line. However, its ability to fulfil that mandate has become increasingly obstructed, first and foremost by Hizbullah — an internationally designated terrorist organization. UNIFIL's core mission is to monitor the cessation of hostilities and prevent hostile activities in its area of operations. Yet for years, Hizbullah built up its military capabilities within UNIFIL's jurisdiction, openly launching rockets and missiles in close proximity to UNIFIL positions over the past year. By obstructing UNIFIL's operations, Hizbullah sends a clear message of defiance, not just to UNIFIL's mission but to the entire United Nations.

A challenging situation such as that makes the accurate reports from peacekeepers, which reflect the realities on the ground, even more critical. Reporting cannot be limited to a series of disconnected incidents; it must go deeper — identifying patterns, analysing trends and presenting clear conclusions. Without that, the international community is left with a distorted picture that does not accurately reflect the reality of the situation.

Equally critical is the integrity of peacekeeping reporting. The discovery of large stockpiles of weapons in southern Lebanon during the war — stockpiles that were never reported prior to the conflict — raises serious concerns about whether UNIFIL has effectively implemented its mandate. Peacekeeping reports must reveal the full truth and not conceal it.

The Security Council must unequivocally condemn Hizbullah's escalating attacks and formally designate it as a terrorist organization. In conclusion, around the world, we are witnessing a troubling pattern, the growing influence of non-State terrorist organizations replicating that dangerous model of Hizbullah in other regions of the world.

We call upon the Security Council to demand truthful, comprehensive reporting on threats to international peace and security to hold those who obstruct peacekeeping missions accountable, especially terrorist organizations, and ensure that peacekeepers can operate without interference in fully executing their mandates.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Ethiopia.

Mr. Senbeta (Ethiopia): At the outset, I would like to congratulate you, Madam President, on organizing this important open debate. We are also grateful for the briefing provided by the Secretary-General and Ms. Russo.

In our collective journey to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war, peace operations have been central to the promotion and maintenance of international peace and security. The eight-decade-long journey has required us to adapt to emerging challenges and devise tools to overcome impediments. Continuously evolving political and security dynamics have often led us to refine our approach to peace operations. Nonetheless, our efforts to evolve and adapt to the realities of our time still need to answer fundamental questions, both old and new.

Incidents of attacks and threats against peacekeepers have been growing in scale, frequency and complexity. The normative and practical paths to defending themselves and protecting civilians in such situations require conceptual clarity. That must go beyond having a clear mandate, concept of operation and rules of engagement.

That also relates to another persistent operational challenge in peace operations. Securing sufficient personnel with the necessary capacities, adequate resources and rapid deployment capability has not been a straightforward exercise. The speed, mobility and flexibility of personnel deployment in the field have also posed constraints on the operational effectiveness of missions on the ground.

Discussions on the reform of peace operations should also give due attention to the role of regional and subregional peace support operations. Such regional mechanisms, undertaken based on the principles of complementarity and the division of labour, play a critical role in advancing the agenda of peace operations. The African Union-led missions are examples of higher commitment to deploy forces on behalf of the international community in asymmetrical and hostile environments. Their role in advancing regional solutions remains indispensable. Despite those challenges, the lack of sustainable and predictable financing for African Union-led peace operations continues to deter the progress of regional peace operations.

As important as those discussions on peace operations are, it is essential to look beyond the technical fixes, particularly considering the magnitude and frequency of the challenges at hand. Peace operations can benefit from a review of the political aspects of decisions about when and how to deploy missions. The problems that peace operations aim to address should not be taken as self-evident. The broader structures of global politics should serve as the starting point for the debate on the effectiveness of peace operations. That will enable us to gauge the magnitude of the problems we desire to address through peace operations and develop corresponding mission strategies both in terms of resources and expectations. It will also enable us to design missions that actually reflect those realities rather than relying solely on pre-existing knowledge in peace operations. In the light of that, the challenges that United Nations peace operations face cannot and should not be viewed separately from the broader challenges facing our multilateral system.

In conclusion, peace operations have provided a mechanism for resolving conflicts by reducing the risk of calamitous escalation over the years. They remain a critical tool for mobilizing the international community to advance the maintenance of peace and security by providing, among other things, a means to further negotiations for a peaceful resolution of conflicts. However, our potential to continue building on those merits entirely depends on how willing and committed we are to pursue solutions that go beyond operational and technical adjustments to address the fundamental challenges we face.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of El Salvador.

Ms. Baños Müller (El Salvador) (*spoke in Spanish*): We would like to thank the presidency of Denmark for convening this open debate of the Security Council and the Secretary-General and the representative of the International Peace Institute for their valuable briefings.

This is indeed a timely discussion. The developing conflicts and the changing global landscape are compelling the Security Council to reflect on how to ensure the effectiveness of the Organization's efforts to maintain international peace and security.

El Salvador agrees that innovation and reforms of peacekeeping operations must go hand in hand with the leadership and political will of Member States. The unity of the Security Council is fundamental. No peacekeeping operation will achieve the expected results if the Council is divided, if it lacks determination or if it does not consistently support its missions on the ground, especially in times of crisis.

In that regard, we believe that the Council must redouble its efforts, in consultation with host States and troop- and police-contributing countries, to design clear, realistic, sequenced and achievable mandates. Mandates that preserve the primacy of political solutions and allow peace operations to address the changing nature of conflicts and contribute to long-term stability.

El Salvador reiterates that peace operations must not be a substitute for efforts to address the root causes of conflict. It is therefore essential to strengthen the complementarity and coherence within the United Nations system to ensure more

comprehensive and effective responses throughout the life cycle of missions. In that regard, we recognize the important role of the Peacebuilding Commission in integrating the efforts of the United Nations. We call for strengthening the interaction of the Peacebuilding Commission with the Security Council, in particular through requests for advice prior to the renewal of mandates.

We also reiterate that it is essential to maintain a multilateral approach to peacekeeping. Both the Security Council and the General Assembly, through the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations, have essential roles to play in that collective effort. In addition, we believe that, today more than ever, we need a shared commitment that includes diverse actors both within and outside the United Nations system. That is why we support the review on the future of all forms of United Nations peace operations, mandated in the Pact for the Future (General Assembly resolution 79/1), being carried out in full consultation with Member States, in particular with those that contribute police and troops and other relevant actors.

For peace operations to effectively fulfil their mandate, it is imperative that the resources allocated to them be commensurate with the tasks entrusted to them. Investment in adequate capabilities to address complex threats must be increased. That implies ensuring, from the outset and throughout the life cycle of the missions, the necessary human, logistical and financial resources.

At the same time, building trust with host States is essential. Local and national ownership must be promoted through strong partnerships, realistic expectations and communication strategies that counter disinformation, the spread of misinformation and hate speech directed against missions and peacekeepers.

Furthermore, peace operations are most likely to succeed when they create tangible and sustainable benefits for local communities. That is why, based on the experience and perspective of El Salvador, we believe that meeting their requests within the mission's capabilities strengthens its legitimacy and effectiveness.

The security and protection of peacekeepers remains a priority for El Salvador, and we strongly condemn all threats and attacks against Blue Helmets and call for strengthened measures to end impunity and ensure accountability. We also reaffirm our commitment to the full, equal, meaningful and safe participation of women in peace operations. El Salvador is actively working to achieve a balance in the participation of women and men in its deployments, and we urge continued progress in achieving gender parity for uniformed personnel.

Today more than ever, peacekeeping requires flexibility, strategic vision and political leadership. The Council can count on El Salvador to support those endeavours. We currently contribute troops and police forces who serve with professionalism, dedication and courage in five peace operations. We therefore firmly believe that it is our collective responsibility to ensure that United Nations peace operations continue to be effective tools in the service of international peace and security.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Iraq.

Mr. Al-Fatlawi (Iraq) (*spoke in Arabic*): I would like to thank Denmark for presiding over the Security Council for the month of March. I thank you, Madam President, for convening this very important meeting to discuss the role of peace operations and maintaining international peace and security.

Peace operations are a crucial tool for the United Nations to carry out its lofty goals in conflict prevention and peacekeeping. Those operations contribute to rebuilding institutions and protecting civilians, bolstering human rights and providing humanitarian aid.

Given the growing challenges that critical regions are facing, these peace operations are more important than ever. They play an essential role in strengthening

international peace and security. Peace operations and missions are a crucial tool for our collective security system. They have demonstrated their effectiveness in many missions, even if they have sometimes had less success due the nature of certain crises and the forces present there.

Those peace operations must remain relevant to attain the goals for which they were established. They must adapt to changes and to the political transformations that may emerge before, during or after a conflict breaks out. That is why we must strengthen their capacity for anticipation in order to enable them to provide effective responses to the various challenges they face, be they political, security or social. In that context, we would like to reaffirm the need for respecting the sovereignty of host countries and listening to their views, especially when it comes to assessing the actions and mandates of these missions, so that we can achieve their goals through joint coordination and cooperation.

Iraq is of the view that it is critical to take a comprehensive approach to crises, moving from preventive diplomacy to a different response to tackle various situations. If a conflict breaks out, diplomacy should shift to finding sustainable political solutions, followed by post-conflict recovery and sustainable peacebuilding. Effective solutions need to address the root causes of conflicts and enhance national reconciliation. In addition, peacekeeping operations cannot be limited to military presence alone, as they should also seek diplomatic solutions tailored to each conflict, taking into consideration political, social and economic contexts that differ from one conflict to another.

Strengthening the involvement of women in peacekeeping and peacebuilding efforts is a cornerstone for lasting peace. Women play an essential role in bringing together the social fabric and attaining long-term peace. That is why we like to step up the involvement of women at all stages of the life cycle of peace operations, in accordance with resolution 1325 (2000). The participation of young people is also of vital importance. They are one of the most impacted categories, and young people can play a crucial role in bringing about positive change.

In conclusion, we underscore the importance of coordination and cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations. We must also step up partnerships with civil society and other local stakeholders in order to guarantee the success of peace operations. That coordination could allow us to provide those operations with the resources and expertise they need to be more effective. We also call upon the international community to support these peacekeeping forces and provide them with the necessary tools to succeed in their missions. We believe that peace is the bedrock for stability and development, while respecting the sovereignty of States and their partnerships with those missions is essential for attaining peace and security.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of India.

Mr. Parvathaneni (India): I wish to thank the Danish presidency for bringing focus to United Nations peace operation through today's discussions.

We gather today at a pivotal moment for United Nations peacekeeping. This institution has served as a beacon of hope and stability. It is therefore imperative that we reflect on the lessons of our past and adapt our strategies to meet the challenges of the present and future. At the same time, it is important to underline that any re-evaluation and remodelling of the peacekeeping infrastructure must be rooted in consensus.

In that context, I would like to emphasize the following key elements.

First, United Nations peacekeepers today have to contend with the presence of non-State actors, armed groups, terrorists and transnational criminal networks.

Technological advancements have created new challenges in the form of misinformation, disinformation, malinformation and hate speech, as well as new-age weapons, including drones and improvised explosive devices. These are but a few new realities that peacekeepers are up against.

Second, adapting peace operations to new realities cannot happen unless those on the ground — the troop- and police-contributing countries — are made part of the mandate formulation process at every stage.

Third, countering modern challenges to peacekeeping demands that missions are adequately funded and resourced. Resources need to be commensurate with the mandate. The current state of uncertainty over funding and the mandate resource mismatch is neither sustainable, comforting or desirable, particularly for countries from the global South that contribute the lion's share of troops.

Fourth, rationalization of peacekeeping missions is essential for the efficient allocation of resources. Redundant missions that continue on political life support without operational rationale, for propaganda purposes only, divert resources from urgently required peacekeeping missions and undermine the credibility of the United Nations.

Fifth, with respect to peacebuilding by peace operations, national ownership should remain the core principle in all peacebuilding initiatives and activities. We encourage greater coherence and coordination between resident coordinators and the United Nations entities so as to support the national peacebuilding priorities of host States by peace operations, including during mission transitions. Further, we strongly support the women and peace and security agenda and the youth, peace and security agenda, as well as greater engagement of the Peacebuilding Commission with international financial institutions to provide financing for peacebuilding activities.

Sixth, adapting peace operations to new realities also involves enhancing the critical role of women peacekeepers, both qualitatively and quantitatively. I am pleased to share that in February, India organized the first-ever conference for women peacekeepers from the global South, bringing together representatives from 35 troop- and police-contributing countries to deliberate on this key issue. It is no longer a question of whether women can do peacekeeping, but rather whether peacekeeping can do without women.

Seventh, peacekeeping is not a zero-risk effort. The safety and security of peacekeepers must remain paramount. In an era marked by complex conflicts and asymmetric threats, we must ensure that those who risk their lives for peace are adequately protected and that perpetrators of crimes against peacekeepers are brought to justice.

Eighth, troop- and police-contributing countries need to focus on enhancing the capabilities of their personnel to address emerging challenges in order to operate effectively in hostile environments. India is willing to curate and offer courses that address the specific demands of modern peacekeeping at our Centre for United Nations Peacekeeping, which has been training national and international peacekeepers for more than two decades.

Ninth, the use of advanced surveillance, communications and data analysis tools should be integrated into peacekeeping operations to improve situational awareness and rapid-response capabilities. India stands ready to share its expertise as a technology enabler in that regard.

Tenth, even as we deliberate on adapting peace operations to new realities, it is important to acknowledge that peacekeeping missions cannot exist in perpetuity. Missions must have viable transition plans and exit strategies that ensure that peace is sustained.

Lastly, peacekeeping cannot be the sole solution to conflicts. Peace holds when peacekeeping operations are accompanied by political solutions, which can emerge only when there is coherence within the Security Council. It is therefore imperative to reform the Security Council in both categories to make it more reflective and representative of current geopolitical realities.

India is compelled to note that the representative of Pakistan yet again resorted to unwarranted remarks on the Indian union territory of Jammu and Kashmir. Such repeated references neither validate Pakistan's illegal claims nor justify its State-sponsored cross-border terrorism. Jammu and Kashmir was, is and will always be an integral part of India. Pakistan continues to illegally occupy the territory of Jammu and Kashmir, which it must vacate. We would advise Pakistan to refrain from trying to divert the attention of this forum to drive its parochial and divisive agenda. India will refrain from exercising a more elaborate right of reply.

In conclusion, India, a nation deeply committed to the principles of multilateralism and global peace, has been a steadfast partner of the United Nations in its peacekeeping endeavours, with a history of deploying nearly 300,000 troops across more than 50 missions to date. We pay tribute to the more than 4,000 United Nations peacekeepers — including 182 Indian personnel — who have made the ultimate sacrifice in the service of peace, and, in that regard, we seek the earliest possible completion of the memorial wall in their honour. As we look to the future, India reaffirms its unwavering commitment to United Nations peacekeeping and pledges its continued support to the United Nations in its pursuit of international peace and security. Our vision for reform highlights the need for a more balanced, inclusive and effective approach to United Nations peacekeeping in an era of limited resources, geopolitical volatility and upheaval.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Albania.

Mrs. Janina (Albania): Allow me to start by expressing my appreciation to the Danish presidency for convening this high-level open debate on such an important and timely topic.

Albania aligns itself with the statement made on behalf of the European Union.

At the outset, I would like to echo the recognition of United Nations peace operations as valuable tools for international peace and security. Political support is an essential factor for the success of peace operations, and the Security Council bears a significant responsibility, as a divided Council undermines its ability to deliver on the much-needed United Nations presence on the ground.

Coming from the region of the Western Balkans, I would like to emphasize the indispensable role of the United Nations peacekeeping missions that stopped the genocide and ethnic cleansing during the bloody wars of the 1990s in Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Kosovo. I take this opportunity to express Albania's gratitude to all those men and women who have served, and continue to serve, in United Nations peacekeeping operations.

Albania has shown continued commitment to international cooperation and peacebuilding efforts. For the past three decades, more than 9,000 Albanian military personnel have contributed to peace operations. With around 300 troops currently deployed across eight international missions, the Albanian armed forces continue to support initiatives led by the United Nations, NATO and the European Union, as well as coalitions with its strategic partners.

As we celebrate this year the twenty-fifth anniversary of resolution 1325 (2000), Albania recognizes the important role of women in peacekeeping and peacebuilding efforts. In fact, Albania's contribution to the United Nations Mission in South Sudan is represented entirely by female military personnel.

The increased complexity and geopolitical changes in the world dictate the strong need for adaptation. The Pact for the Future (General Assembly resolution 79/1), on which we agreed in September 2024, emphasizes the need to review all forms of United Nations peace operations. Albania supports those United Nations initiatives aimed at increasing the efficiency of United Nations peace operations in the future. The fourth United Nations peacekeeping architecture review is an opportunity to strengthen and refine United Nations peacebuilding efforts worldwide. The Ministerial Meeting on the future of peacekeeping, which is to be held in May in Berlin, will give the right incentive to that discussion.

It is important to reform the United Nations approach to peacekeeping, aligning resources with actual needs and ensuring that peacekeeping operations remain relevant and efficient. It is therefore essential to periodically reassess each mission's effectiveness and relevance. In that context, let me be clear on Albania's stance that the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) has long since completed its role. Since the Mission's inception in 1999, the situation has changed fundamentally, with Kosovo now being an independent democratic State with functional institutions. A gradual closure of UNMIK would reflect a pragmatic approach to peacekeeping that balances cost efficiency with evolving political realities on the ground. Shifting the focus to areas where United Nations peacekeeping could have a more substantial impact is a logical next step to ensure that resources are directed where they are most needed.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Poland.

Mr. Miarka (Poland): I would like to thank Denmark for organizing this debate and the briefers for their presentations.

We align ourselves with the statement delivered on behalf of the European Union (EU) and would like to add some considerations in our national capacity.

United Nations peacekeeping is a force for good. Poland is proud of its long-standing contributions, since our first mission in Korea in 1953. Today our participation in the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon, the presence of military observers in other United Nations operations and our contributions to the Peacebuilding Fund underscore that commitment. In our capacity as Vice-Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC), we have consistently taken a proactive role in advancing such efforts.

The adaptability of peacekeeping operations relies on a flexible, context-specific approach to both conflict prevention and recovery. To achieve that, the Security Council should ensure targeted and flexible mandates with clear, achievable goals, including well-defined exit strategies and transition plans. Host nation ownership, which entails authorities and society and effective coordination with regional and local actors, are crucial to their success. So too is predictable and adequate funding, which is equally necessary and deserving of appropriate practical recognition within the Secretariat and missions on the ground to broaden the sense of ownership of all stakeholders, with EU member States providing more than 40 per cent of the peacekeeping budget or, to put it differently, with NATO allies providing almost 70 per cent.

To ensure that mission design remains agile and responsive, it is essential to implement adaptive management practices, such as dynamic threat assessments, and to strengthen peacekeeping's capacity to address evolving security challenges, including cybersecurity, new forms of violence and the growing threat of mis- and dis-information. Those by now well-emerged threats undermine peace operations by destabilizing public perception, sowing division and eroding trust in the peace process. Operations must be intelligence-informed, with robust accountability

mechanisms in place. Ensuring peacekeepers' safety is crucial, as attacks on United Nations personnel destabilize missions and hinder peace efforts.

A truly effective approach to peacekeeping demands a systemic perspective that recognizes the inherent interdependence of security and development. It is clear that there can be no sustainable peacekeeping without robust peacebuilding efforts. That necessitates fostering strong synergies between peacekeeping and peacebuilding initiatives, ensuring that, as peacekeeping operations evolve or draw down, the critical work of peacebuilding continues, cementing gains and preventing a relapse into violence. Transitions are crucial, requiring careful planning and coordination to maintain momentum and build a foundation for lasting peace, which is why we especially welcome the PBC's written advice on advancing adaptability in United Nations peace operations.

The Security Council must stand united in its commitment to global peace and security, not despite but because of the complex challenges we face. Failure to enforce that only prolongs suffering, deepens insecurity and puts the lives of civilians and peacekeepers at risk. The Council must remain resolute, compassionate and unwavering in its mission to create a safer, more peaceful world for all.

Lastly, I would like to honour those who have paid the highest price to service the United Nations: peacekeepers. Their sacrifices echo in the hearts of those they saved, and their legacy is forever engraved in the history of the United Nations.

The President: The representative of Pakistan has asked for the floor to make a further statement. I now give him the floor.

Mr. Sarwani (Pakistan): My delegation has been compelled to take the floor to respond to the statement made by the delegation of India.

No amount of obfuscation can change the legal, political and historical reality. Jammu and Kashmir is not, and never has been, a so-called integral part of India. It is a disputed territory, the final disposition of which is to be decided by the people of Jammu and Kashmir through a United Nations-supervised plebiscite, as required by numerous resolutions of the Security Council. The disputed status of Jammu and Kashmir is acknowledged by the United Nations and the international community. Every official United Nations map depicts Jammu and Kashmir as disputed territory.

India is under a legally binding obligation, under Article 25 of the Charter of the United Nations, to implement the resolutions of the Security Council and enable the people of Jammu and Kashmir to exercise their right to self-determination. India holds Kashmir by brute force, with more than 900,000 troops and paramilitary troops in the occupied territory. India has killed more than 100,000 innocent Kashmiris since 1989. It has imposed the densest occupation in history, with one Indian soldier for every eight Kashmiri men, women and children. India's gross violations of human rights in occupied Kashmir have been recorded in two reports of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and several reports of the special mechanisms of the Human Rights Council.

We also heard a reference regarding terrorism. India raises the bogey of terrorism to divert attention from its violation of international law in occupied Jammu and Kashmir. It is most ironic that India, which is committing the worst form of State terrorism in occupied Jammu and Kashmir, is portraying itself as the victim. It is a familiar ploy of all occupiers and colonizers to paint the legitimate struggle for freedom and liberation as terrorism. Instead of maligning others for terrorism, India should reflect on its own campaign of orchestrating targeted assassinations, subversion and terrorism in foreign countries.

It is India that supports and finances terrorism against Pakistan through Tehrik-e Taliban Pakistan, the Balochistan Liberation Army and the Majeed Brigade.

In conclusion, I would advise the delegation of India to consult the United Nations map and Security Council resolutions on Jammu and Kashmir before making baseless statements in this Chamber.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Peru.

Mr. Román Morey (Peru) (*spoke in Spanish*): I would first like to thank Denmark for its invitation to participate in this important debate, as well as for its diligent work as President of the Security Council this month. We also welcome the participation in the debate of His Excellency Mr. Lars Løkke Rasmussen, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Denmark.

Improving the level of adaptability of our contingents deployed in peacekeeping operations is a core part of our multilateral commitment to the principles set out in the Charter of the United Nations and to preventive diplomacy and peacekeeping, on the basis of the peaceful settlement of disputes. Peru's support for the implementation of the New Agenda for Peace, the Action for Peacekeeping Plus initiative and the uniformed gender parity strategy 2018 to 2028 is unwavering.

We believe that very recent and painful realities are an even greater impetus to take action aimed at ensuring the security of the civilian population above all other objectives. Such action must be supported by approaches aimed at promoting resilience in conflict-affected areas, taking into consideration non-military preventive perspectives that address the root causes of conflict. In that context, our work requires not only better technology for military or police operations, but also adequate training to implement measures on care for the environment, energy efficiency, healthcare, social responsibility and gender equality.

Since the 1970s, Peru has deployed more than 10,000 military troops in United Nations peace operations, on the basis of a coherent and permanent State policy, the main goal of which is to protect the civilian population. We currently have 266 military and police personnel deployed in peace operations, in addition to a rapid reaction force of 250 troops who can be deployed immediately and who receive ongoing training, not only in the military field but also in tasks such as de-escalation and good relations with civilians, in order to protect them more effectively from constant and diverse threats. Those threats are often marked by the proliferation of armed groups, the deterioration of the rule of law, violent extremism and terrorism.

We believe that the adaptability of capacities must also include training our personnel in explosive ordnance detection and disposal, given the significant increase in the use of explosive ordnance by armed groups. In that regard, I would like to refer to the Peruvian explosive ordnance disposal unit, deployed to the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic since July 2022. As the only Latin American country currently contributing an explosive ordnance disposal unit to United Nations peacekeeping operations, I reiterate our recognition for the courageous and hazardous work of Peruvian armed forces personnel in the city of Bouar in the western part of the Central African Republic, locating and disposing of explosive ordnance of all kinds. That work is supported by important efforts to raise awareness among the population about the scourge of unexploded ordnance, thereby safeguarding the physical integrity of approximately 150,000 inhabitants whose lives are at constant risk owing to explosives planted by rebel groups.

I would like to conclude by reiterating that Peru renews its commitment to strengthening preventive diplomacy to settle disputes, through concrete actions and efforts aimed at ensuring the adaptability of the capacities of its military and police personnel currently deployed in peace operations, in accordance with the new realities on the ground I mentioned.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Malta.

Mrs. Frazier (Malta): I begin by thanking Denmark for organizing such a timely discussion on the future of United Nations peace operations. I also extend my gratitude to the Secretary-General and to the briefer for sharing their invaluable insights with us.

Malta aligns itself with the statement delivered earlier in the debate by the observer of the European Union.

For nearly 80 years, United Nations peace operations have been a cornerstone of international peace and security. They have played an indispensable role in supporting peace agreements, protecting civilians and strengthening governance structures. However, as conflict dynamics grow in their complexity, we need to ensure that peacekeeping efforts evolve to remain effective. As the Pact for the Future (General Assembly resolution 79/1) underscored, it is imperative that we ensure that peace operations are more adaptable, flexible and responsive to new realities.

Malta is a strong advocate for effective peacekeeping and peacebuilding, particularly in times of transition. During our tenure on the Security Council, we worked to strengthen peace operations by emphasizing the protection of civilians and ensuring that peacekeeping transitions do not leave behind vulnerable communities. Resolution 2764 (2024), penned by Malta, adopted in December 2024 and co-sponsored by more than 100 countries, highlights the need to facilitate adequate and sustainable child protection capacities in United Nations peace operations, including in the context of transitions to and from United Nations missions.

Malta is deeply committed to multilateralism. We believe that lasting peace can be achieved only through collective action, strategic partnerships and a comprehensive approach to conflict prevention, peacekeeping and post-conflict recovery.

With those principles in mind, Malta views the peacebuilding architecture review as a critical opportunity to think boldly, innovatively and constructively on how we can strengthen the multilateral system to meet today's challenges. In an increasingly complex geostrategic climate, we must build an architecture for peace and security that is inclusive, resilient and responsive to the needs of those most affected by conflict. As we navigate an era of new evolving threats, it is crucial to recognize and address the emerging challenges reshaping the global security landscape. The peacebuilding architecture must be adapted to new realities. In that manner, we ensure that operations remain relevant and effective in mitigating those risks.

Malta has consistently advocated a comprehensive approach to peacekeeping, one that recognizes the interconnected nature of modern conflicts. We call for better integration of human rights, gender equality and youth engagement into peacekeeping efforts. Moreover, peacebuilding and peacekeeping must extend beyond immediate post-conflict recovery to include governance reforms, development and institutional capacity-building, ensuring that the root causes of conflict are effectively addressed.

We recognize the essential role of the Peacebuilding Commission, the Peacebuilding Fund and the Peacebuilding Support Office in sustaining peace. However, those mechanisms require adequate resources, flexibility and a strategic vision to deliver real impact. In that regard, Malta strongly supports sustained and predictable funding for peacebuilding initiatives, particularly those led by women and youth organizations, whose contributions are essential for long-term stability. This discussion comes at a crucial time, as we prepare for the upcoming United Nations Peacekeeping Ministerial in Berlin and the broader review of United Nations peace operations. As we reflect on past lessons and shape a forward-looking vision, it is vital to ensure that peacekeeping missions are politically driven, strategically focused and aligned with the realities on the ground.

In conclusion, Malta looks forward to working together to shape a more effective, inclusive and adaptable United Nations peacekeeping framework.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Tunisia.

Mr. Salah (Tunisia) (*spoke in Arabic*): At the outset, I would like to thank you, Madam President, for presiding over the Security Council this month and for convening this important meeting.

While United Nations peacekeeping operations have made it possible to achieve peace and restore stability in many regions, our world is still facing many threats to peace and security. Many regions of the world, especially on the African continent, are witnessing an increase in the intensity of conflicts and the accumulation of many factors of fragility that have given rise to complex and multidimensional challenges.

In view of that alarming state of affairs, Tunisia calls for strengthening international solidarity and cooperation to confront the factors that are fuelling conflicts and for the appropriate capabilities and mechanisms to be employed to pre-empt conflicts, especially armed ones, while continuing to support preventive diplomacy. My country also emphasizes the need for all States to demonstrate the political will to commit to supporting United Nations peace operations in a participatory manner by working to equip them with the means to ensure their success, especially by establishing specific mechanisms, accommodating the specificities of host countries and coordinating closely with them, providing sufficient funding, equipment and logistical and technical capabilities to ensure the security of missions and enable them to face increased risks and adapt to the vicissitudes of political climates. In that context, Tunisia underscores the need to prioritize enhancing the security of peacekeepers and once again calls for the necessary assessments to be conducted in order to ensure their security, health and protection. We also express our strong condemnation of attacks targeting peacekeepers and call for investigations into those incidents.

Tunisia, which is proud to have contributed actively to United Nations peacekeeping operations since the 1960s, believes that the effectiveness of peacebuilding operations requires helping countries, first, to entrench internal stability, and then, to gradually transition from a context of fragility to the recovery phase. That process requires a vision that takes into account the interdependence and interconnectedness of the various threats and that focuses on providing the necessary guarantees for the maintenance of international peace and security. In that context, we stress the need to mobilize the efforts of all States and competent authorities, without exception, to formulate comprehensive peacebuilding strategies that focus on building the capacities of the countries concerned and enhancing their ownership of programmes to eliminate the factors of poverty and fighting.

My country also calls for investment in the outcomes of the Summit of the Future, especially the Declaration on Future Generations (see General Assembly resolution 79/1), and the New Agenda for Peace. We also emphasize the importance of actively involving women and youth in all plans and efforts aimed at countering terrorism and violent extremism and in all stages of peacebuilding, stabilization and sustainable development.

In conclusion, my country looks forward to the Peacekeeping Ministerial Meeting that is scheduled to take place in Berlin in May to discuss the future of peacekeeping, and it reiterates its commitment to continue contributing to the promotion of international peace and security and of the success of all efforts and initiatives aimed at ridding the world of conflicts and wars.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

Mr. Moncada (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) (*spoke in Spanish*): The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela has the honour to speak on behalf of the Group of Friends in Defense of the Charter of the United Nations, whose member States

express their gratitude for the convening of this high-level open debate and for the briefings delivered earlier today, including that of the Secretary-General.

In recent years, the mandates of United Nations peacekeeping operations have been evolving in scope, from their traditional role of maintaining ceasefires to a variety of complex tasks that, in many cases, fall within the purview of host States. Those tasks range from the monitoring of elections, the strengthening of the rule of law and the implementation of demobilization, disarmament and reconciliation programmes to the protection of civilians, which is, without a doubt, a primary responsibility of host States.

Nevertheless, there are situations in which the intensity of a given armed conflict makes it nearly impossible for States to actually provide and ensure the protection of their civilian populations, as is the case in Palestine. In that context, we take this opportunity to reiterate our call for international protection to be provided to the Palestinian civilian population in the occupied Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip, in accordance with international law, including international humanitarian law, and on the basis of the relevant General Assembly and Security Council resolutions.

We cannot overemphasize that those most recent changes in the manner in which United Nations peacekeeping missions operate must be approached with caution and in strict adherence to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations in their entirety and interconnectedness, including those purposes and principles related to the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of States and to non-interference in the internal affairs of States and the self-determination of peoples. That also applies to any measure that may be proposed as part of so-called preventive diplomacy, which in recent history has been both misused and abused for the sole purpose of advancing interventionist and petty political agendas.

Moreover, the principles that govern the overall framework of peacekeeping operations, including the consent of the parties, impartiality and the non-use of force except in situations of self-defence, must be rigorously observed. Only by doing so can the legitimacy and efficiency of the United Nations in the field be strengthened, while also guaranteeing the sovereignty and independence of the nations in which such missions are deployed. That is critical to avoid both the mistrust of local populations and host countries and the misperception on their part that peacekeeping missions are being misused as tools to meddle in matters that are essentially under those countries' domestic jurisdiction.

We firmly believe that the emphasis of peacekeeping operations should be on the use of their political influence, as provided by the United Nations framework under which they operate, to support the parties to a conflict in the search for peaceful solutions. United Nations peacekeeping operations must therefore avoid becoming part of the conflict at all costs. Similarly, and in contradiction with the affirmation set out in the concept note prepared for this debate (see S/2025/141), we are of the view that United Nations peacekeeping operations must not be deployed for the purpose of addressing the root causes of conflicts or for managing the conflicts themselves. Nevertheless, we believe that the peace efforts promoted by the United Nations in conflict-affected societies must be accompanied by a simultaneous and sustained effort by the international community to provide, if so requested, cooperation and economic assistance to address the structural causes of conflict, such as poverty and inequality, with a view to ultimately securing a truly lasting peace.

We take this opportunity to underscore the need to pay greater attention to the unintended consequences of measures under Chapter VII of the Charter on those countries in which peacekeeping operations are being deployed, in particular as regards the humanitarian rationale advanced for such measures, given the need to ensure that the communities in those States subject to such measures do not, directly

or indirectly, become the victim of them and are not deprived of a livelihood and means of development. More must be done to ensure that those measures, applied to a number of the countries in which those peacekeeping operations are deployed, do not become a factor that prolongs conflict and thus compounds problems on the ground, including with regard to the fulfilment of peacekeeping operations' mandates. We further emphasize that the role of peacekeeping operations must be geared towards the affected State — not as a victim needing protection, but as an all-important and sovereign actor with a stake in the definition and implementation of a long-term peace and development project, in line with its right to determine its political, economic and cultural models and its national plans and strategies in those areas.

We must point out that each peacekeeping mission must begin with a plan that is fully coordinated with the national Government, through a clear, realistic and achievable mandate and in consultation with troop-contributing countries. That alone is capable of ensuring that the mission is credible and effective. We call for greater engagement among the countries hosting peacekeeping operations, the countries contributing military or police personnel, the Secretariat and the Security Council in designing and implementing the mandates given to each of the missions, including their exit strategies, so that, at all times, they act in a coherent and concerted manner, which will undoubtedly result in better implementation of their mandates and the achievement of the established objectives.

Before concluding, we would like to emphasize that the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations is the competent body for comprehensively addressing all issues pertaining to United Nations peacekeeping operations, including those of an emerging nature, and is the most appropriate forum for discussing new concepts and policies and for providing guidance on United Nations peacekeeping operations. Accordingly, we consider that any review on the future of all forms of United Nations peacekeeping operations, as contemplated in Action 21, paragraph (b), of the Pact for the Future (General Assembly resolution 79/1), must be spearheaded by States as part of an inclusive and transparent intergovernmental process under the umbrella of the General Assembly.

Lastly, we would conclude by acknowledging the work of United Nations peacekeeping operations, despite the complexities they face on the ground, and its real impact on the civilian population and positive contribution to the maintenance of peace and security. In that connection, we categorically repudiate any attack or threat against civilian and military personnel of United Nations peace operations, while expressing our full solidarity and paying tribute to the memory of those who paid the ultimate price in performing such a laudable task. We stress the importance of ending impunity and ensuring accountability for attacks perpetrated against those who, day in day out, display their commitment and dedication to peace on the ground under our United Nations flag.

The President: I wish to remind all speakers to limit their statements to no more than three minutes in order to enable the Council to carry out its work expeditiously. Flashing lights on the collars of the microphones will prompt speakers to bring their remarks to a close after three minutes.

I now give the floor to the representative of Slovakia.

Mr. Hulényi (Slovakia): I thank Denmark for convening this important debate.

Slovakia aligns itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the European Union, which allows me to be brief and make a few additional points.

First, for more than 75 years, United Nations peacekeeping operations have played a crucial role in maintaining international peace and security. However, conflicts have become more frequent, complex and protracted. We therefore welcome the adoption of the Pact for the Future (General Assembly resolution 79/1), which broadly

affirms the importance of peace operations. The document also reinforces the need to better link them to political solutions and support them with sustained financing.

Secondly, Slovakia commends the dedication and commitment of peacekeepers and strongly condemns all attacks against them. The safety and security of peacekeeping personnel must remain a priority in increasingly volatile environments. The Security Council must take decisive steps in that regard.

Thirdly, Slovakia supports regular mandate reviews, more adaptable peacekeeping models and greater use of peacekeeping intelligence. In that respect, we look forward to the Secretary-General's forthcoming comprehensive review of peace operations. We support the recommendations to enhance technology, intelligence and partnership.

Last but not least, Slovakia remains strongly committed to supporting United Nations peacekeeping. Slovakia's largest contribution is to the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus, and it also provides experts to the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization, in the Middle East. In addition, we are seeking to expanding our engagement, including through potential demining efforts and helicopter support.

In conclusion, as peacekeeping evolves, Slovakia remains fully committed to supporting adaptable, responsive and politically supported peace operations that meet today's challenges and contribute to sustainable peace. We will actively participate in the United Nations peacekeeping conference to be held in Berlin at the ministerial level.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Sri Lanka.

Mr. Perera (Sri Lanka): At the outset, I wish to take this opportunity to pay tribute to all peacekeepers, including my 25,000 fellow Sri Lankans who have been involved in peacekeeping operations for the past six decades in pursuit of global peace.

My delegation aligns itself with the statement made by Uganda on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

As global conflicts grow increasingly complex, multifaceted and protracted, the United Nations must continuously evolve to meet those challenges effectively. In that context, Sri Lanka appreciates Denmark's convening of this timely debate. Its theme, "Advancing adaptability in United Nations peace operations", underscores the critical need for flexibility, innovation and responsiveness in our approach to peace operations. Adaptability is not a choice. It is an imperative. From rapidly changing conflict dynamics to asymmetric threats, including terrorism, organized crime and cyberwarfare, peace operations must be agile and prepared to respond to those emerging realities. Most importantly, introducing robust mandates for peace operations is imperative in responding to those growing complexities. Such mandates must take into account the needs of all Member States and troop- and police-contributing countries and the priorities and responsibilities of the host countries. It is also important to ensure that the mandates facilitate the protection of civilians, while ensuring the operational effectiveness and credibility of United Nations peacekeeping.

Peacekeepers are a lifeline in many challenging environments. In order to make United Nations peace operations fit for purpose, we believe that specialized forces equipped with technology designed to respond swiftly, navigate terrain with agility and leverage cutting-edge technology to maintain stability and protect civilians are imperative. Such initiatives would also enhance resilience, reduce costs and minimize environmental footprints — essential factors in overcoming the present liquidity crisis and other challenges encountered by peacekeeping operations. Sri

Lanka would appreciate opportunities to share its experiences and the innovative skills developed by its peacekeepers in that regard.

Gender-inclusive peacekeeping is a critical component of successful peacekeeping missions. Women peacekeepers can bring unique perspectives and skills to the conflict zones. The contributions of women peacekeepers are invaluable not only in the context of protecting civilians, but also in fostering long-term peace and rebuilding efforts in post-conflict-ridden areas.

Sri Lanka also wishes to highlight the importance of addressing the concerns associated with misinformation, disinformation and hate speech targeting peacekeepers and civilians. We emphasize the need to establish more effective mechanisms on the ground to ensure information integrity.

In conclusion, Sri Lanka believes the Security Council must consider introducing a transparent and equitable mechanism for selecting troop- and police-contributing countries based on performance, capabilities, commitment and alignment with mission-mandated objectives, while also respecting geographic balance. Such a mechanism is essential to ensure the effectiveness of peacekeeping operations in modern-day conflict-related situations.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Ukraine.

Ms. Hayovyshyn (Ukraine): The delegation of Ukraine is grateful to Denmark's presidency for organizing this important high-level debate, as well as to all briefers for their insightful remarks.

Ukraine has aligned itself with the statement of the delegation of the European Union on behalf of its member States.

For over 75 years, United Nations peace operations have played an essential role in maintaining international peace and security. However, as global security challenges evolve, so too must peace operations. The Pact for the Future (General Assembly resolution 79/1), adopted in September last year, underscores the urgent need for adaptable, responsive and effective United Nations peace operations.

Ukraine fully supports the call for peace operations to be guided by people-centred, context-specific, political strategies. It is imperative that peacekeeping mandates be realistic, flexible and sequenced, reflecting the primacy of political solutions and the necessity of civilian protection.

As highlighted in resolution 2594 (2021), transitions must be understood as strategic processes that begin well before the end of a mission and focus on sustaining peace. Recent events, such as the escalation of hostilities in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo and Abyei, including the attacks against the personnel of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the detention of the personnel of the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei by the Rapid Support Forces, accordingly demonstrate the critical need to improve agility and rapid response mechanisms.

We must note the importance of the adoption of resolution 2719 (2023), which authorized support for African Union-led peace support operations from United Nations assessed contributions.

Before the Russian Federation's full-scale invasion in 2022, Ukraine was a steadfast contributor to United Nations peacekeeping, actively participating in 26 peacekeeping operations worldwide. Ukrainian military personnel served with distinction in missions across Africa, Europe and the Middle East, including in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, South Sudan, Mali, Côte d'Ivoire, Liberia, Sierra Leone, the Sudan, Ethiopia and Eritrea, Lebanon, Cyprus and Kosovo. Our service men and women provided crucial support for stability, humanitarian assistance and

conflict resolution in some of the most challenging operational environments. While our nation's defence forces are currently engaged in defending our country from the Russian aggressor, we remain committed to the principles and future of United Nations peace operations. We are also considering a phased return of our qualified personnel, such as staff officers and observers, to United Nations missions once conditions allow.

While supporting collaboration between the United Nations and important regional arrangements, Ukraine reaffirms that any cooperation between the United Nations and the Collective Security Treaty Organization is unacceptable. Peacekeeping efforts must remain free from the influence of aggressor States to preserve the credibility and effectiveness of United Nations peace operations.

Finally, we encourage the Secretary-General to champion innovative, modular and integrated approaches to peacekeeping rooted in diplomacy, guided by political solutions and equipped to meet contemporary security threats. The Security Council must ensure that United Nations peace operations continue evolving to meet new realities while upholding the fundamental principles of international law and the Charter of the United Nations. Ukraine stands ready to contribute to those discussions and to the broader efforts to strengthen United Nations peace operations in an era of unprecedented challenges.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Thailand.

Mr. Chaivaivid (Thailand): At the outset, I commend Denmark for organizing this important debate amid increasing challenges to peace operations.

Thailand aligns itself with the statement to be delivered on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries.

The world is facing heightened levels of threats, violent conflicts and instability. To sustain unique and critical tools to maintain international peace and security, peace operations need to be adapted to better respond to existing and evolving realities.

Thailand wishes to highlight the three following points.

First, peace operations must be planned for different circumstances. Peace operations must contain clear, prioritized and realistic mandates resulting from close consultations with all relevant stakeholders. In addition, predictable and adequate financing to fulfil those purposes must be guaranteed. Scenario-based planning is also essential to ensure a smooth transition and minimize risks from rapid withdrawals or sudden termination of peace operations. To realize that approach, Thailand advocates for innovative dialogues, including tabletop exercises, to share knowledge and best practices, build capacity and enhance preparedness among States and relevant stakeholders.

Secondly, peace operations should aim to address conflicts in a holistic manner. Peace, security and development are interconnected. Sustainable development is key to creating peaceful societies, reducing people's vulnerabilities and enhancing inclusivity. Thai peacekeepers are tasked with promoting self-reliance through community-led development, fostering a sense of ownership and shared responsibility. With that, we are preventing conflicts from reoccurring while ensuring that peace is sustained.

Thirdly, adaptive peace operations require greater participation of women. We firmly believe that women's participation in conflict resolution and peace processes can reduce the likelihood of conflicts relapsing and increase the chances of peace. Our experiences throughout Thailand's past 70 years in peacekeeping operations, suggest that women peacekeepers bring diverse perspectives and skills that enhance the flexibility and responsiveness of the missions. Their presence on the ground also contributes to community trust and engagement. With that in mind, Thailand is fully

committed to increasing the number of women peacekeepers and gender experts in United Nations peacekeeping operations, in line with the Uniformed Gender Parity Strategy 2018 — 2028.

To prevent and address current conflicts which are multidimensional in nature, it is of the utmost importance to enhance dialogue and complementarities, wherever possible, between the work of the Security Council and other United Nations bodies and entities.

Thailand reaffirms its commitment to supporting United Nations peacekeeping and looks forward to further discussions on this issue, particularly at the United Nations Peacekeeping Ministerial to be held in May in Berlin.

Now is the time to be innovative to ensure the continued effectiveness of peace operations in an evolving global landscape.

Mr. Pary Rodríguez (Plurinational State of Bolivia) (*spoke in Spanish*): I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the Plurinational State of Bolivia. We appreciate the convening of this debate on strengthening and adapting United Nations peace operations to meet the evolving challenges of our time. We are pleased that the Security Council has opened this forum for reflection, especially with a view to the upcoming United Nations Peacekeeping Ministerial Meeting to be held in Berlin.

Bolivia reaffirms its unwavering commitment to peace, guided by article 10 of its Political Constitution, which declares that Bolivia is a pacifist State that promotes a culture of peace and categorically rejects wars of aggression.

However, we are fully aware that attempts by certain hegemonic Powers to exert their dominance — whether through economic blockades, unilateral coercive measures or political interference — continue to undermine confidence in multilateral frameworks. These practices erode development, exacerbate inequalities and often aggravate situations that peace operations seek to address.

The importance of the primacy of politics in peace operations is undeniable. Missions need clearly defined and context-specific mandates that prioritize inclusive negotiations, ensure the protection of civilians and promote transparent coordination with regional entities. They must also be empowered to respond quickly to emerging threats, including deliberate attempts to obstruct humanitarian assistance. Unfortunately, we see a clear example of this in the occupied Palestinian territory, where the blockage of urgently needed aid, including a ban on the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), exacerbates an already complex humanitarian crisis.

UNRWA has long been an indispensable resource for millions of Palestinians. Its suspension or curtailment anywhere in the occupied territory deprives children and families of essential services: education, medical care and emergency assistance. Those restrictions violate international humanitarian law, contravene the obligations of an occupying Power and contradict the spirit and letter of the relevant Security Council resolutions. Peace operations cannot thrive where humanitarian access is systematically obstructed. The Council must be unequivocal in demanding that vital aid be allowed to reach the civilians who depend on it.

A successful peace operation is one that consistently safeguards the impartiality and independence of humanitarian actors, including UNRWA, and upholds the rights and dignity of affected communities. This holistic approach must also engage host authorities, civil society and local communities as key actors, ensuring that mandates are people-centred and responsive to changing circumstances.

Looking ahead, Bolivia urges the Security Council and the Secretary-General to incorporate these lessons in upcoming reviews and at the 2025 Berlin Peacekeeping

Ministerial Conference. We urge the international community to oppose any measures that hinder impartial humanitarian assistance.

By addressing structural injustices, promoting inclusive political dialogue and ensuring unrestricted humanitarian access, peace operations can bring us closer to a reality where peoples, including the Palestinian people, can exercise their right to self-determination, free from fear and want.

In conclusion, Bolivia stands ready to work with all of its partners towards a truly multipolar and humane international order where cooperation prevails over division and peace operations truly serve the interests of those most in need.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Paraguay.

Mr. Candia Ibarra (Paraguay) (*spoke in Spanish*): Paraguay welcomes the holding of this debate, and we congratulate the Danish presidency for chairing the Security Council during the month of March. And we would like to thank the Secretary-General and the Director Russo for their briefings.

Peacekeeping missions, in all their forms, are a primary tool for the implementation of the decisions on the most delicate situations that the Organization face. Their effectiveness and efficiency are therefore an integral part of the positive evolution of the peacekeeping architecture that we are reviewing this year.

Historically, Paraguay has committed forces and supported actions in various peacekeeping missions, always consistent with our conviction that the international use of force by the United Nations is a last resort and that the primary path to the effectiveness of the international peace and security pillar should be dialogue and multilateralism. That commitment remains unchanged. We therefore take seriously our responsibilities to support peacebuilding and peacekeeping missions in situations of conflict, to the best of our ability. It is also important for to ensure the effectiveness of our actions in order to ensure the continuity of peace once the mission withdraws.

The effectiveness of a peacekeeping mission hinges on its temporary nature and its capacity to lay the foundations so that the region in which it conducts its operations remains a region without conflict upon the conclusion of its mandate. The empowerment of national Governments and, in particular, the empowerment and full involvement of women in the peace process and in the normalization of life in their countries and communities are, without a doubt, a *sine qua non* for political stability. The United Nations resolutions on women and peace and security and on youth, peace and security are as applicable today as when they were adopted.

We also believe that the path to lasting peace and respect for international humanitarian law involves addressing the needs and demands of all affected parties, as well as coordinating efforts and maximizing the efficient use of resources. That, in turn, requires that all parties work together. The Pact for the Future (General Assembly resolution 79/1) reaffirms the importance of peacekeeping missions and the need to adapt them to the ever-increasing complexity of situations that we are seeing. We must remember that the primacy of national political processes is necessary if we are to remedy the causes that lead to conflict. This is a positive step towards a future that will allow us to heal the wounds left behind by those conflicts.

The presence of Latin American and Caribbean countries in United Nations peacekeeping operations over the years has been continuous and important, particularly with regard to missions on our continent. That is why it is important to reaffirm the conditions that enable that efficient, united and optimized participation. As part of its firm commitment to international peace and security and in keeping with its aspirations of regional integration, my country has assumed the pro tempore presidency for 2024–2025 of the Latin American and Caribbean Network for Cooperation in Peacekeeping Operations. In that capacity, we will host the third

Conference on Latin America and the Caribbean on Peace Operations on 8 and 9 October in Asunción. In line with the need to improve the adaptability of current and future peace operations, a theme that has been explored during this presidency is the necessary linguistic skills to ensure that peacekeeping personnel can fulfil their tasks effectively in the country where they are deployed.

We stress that the more damage done to civilian population and infrastructure, especially critical infrastructure, the harder it is to set up sustainable peace processes. In that regard, we note that the exit strategies of peace missions should not leave the population impoverished or with weak national political processes at the mercy of the same forces that caused the conflict, but in worse conditions.

In conclusion, we underline that, as we approach the eightieth anniversary of the creation of the United Nations, the review of the Organization's work, post-2030, is more important than ever. We also note that the ability of peace missions to adapt to new challenges includes addressing the development of the affected States, as well as the adequate funding of the missions themselves. That will ensure that said missions can be effective in bringing about peace and, if necessary, can be reconfigured for post-conflict situations.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of the United Arab Emirates.

Ms. Mohammad (United Arab Emirates) (*spoke in Arabic*): I would like to thank Minister Rasmussen for convening this debate. We thank the Secretary-General for his valuable insights this morning.

We align ourselves with the statement delivered by the representative of Jordan, on behalf of the Group of Arab States, and with the statement delivered on behalf of the Group of Friends of Climate and Security.

United Nations peace operations face an increasingly complex web of challenges, compelling us to embrace innovative solutions in line with today's requirements and people's aspirations for stability. It is necessary to enhance the ability of peacekeeping operations to respond rapidly and be flexible in the face of unforeseen circumstances, such as natural disasters, and humanitarian, political and social crises.

In that regard, the United Arab Emirates would like to recommend three ways to bolster the preparedness of peace operations.

First, the flexibility of the mandate of peace operations is key, especially in the light of the complex and uncertain circumstances of today's world. In that regard, we urge the Security Council to consider flexible mission frameworks that incorporate emerging technologies, including artificial intelligence, as recommended by *The Future of Peacekeeping, New Models and Related Capabilities* study issued last year by the Department of Peace Operations. That approach will not only enhance missions' ability to adapt to changes, but it will also ensure their continued effectiveness and relevance in addressing future challenges. On the other hand, mandates should have clear objectives and defined goals, with the ability to adapt to rapid developments. Rigid mandates that lack clear and specific exit strategies might prolong missions without achieving tangible or sustainable goals, thereby draining human and financial resources and diminishing confidence in those operations. Peacekeeping mandates must therefore allow for periodic adjustments and evaluations, including the gradual reduction or reorientation of operations when necessary to align with actual needs.

Secondly, the Security Council must incorporate strategic communications into the mandates of United Nations peace operations and ensure their implementation at all levels, both locally and internationally. That requires a proactive approach to providing accurate and timely information and countering false narratives, which could distort their image or obstruct their work and exacerbate the risk of the spread

of hate speech and violence, which could jeopardize the safety of peacekeeping forces. In that connection, I would like to refer to resolution 2686 (2023), on tolerance and international peace and security, which highlights the importance of strategic communications as an effective tool for peacebuilding. I call for its full implementation, including the establishment of procedures within peacekeeping operations to monitor and periodically report on hate speech, racism and extremism.

Thirdly, we must listen closest to the voices of those who are most closely affected by the conflict. That includes regional partners, given their familiarity with cultural and social contexts, their practical experience and their close relationships with the relevant parties. We must also promote holistic peacekeeping strategies that engage and involve all host country stakeholders on the ground, particularly women and youth. Their participation is essential to achieving a sustainable peace that will extend for generations to come and reflects the aspirations for a better future.

In conclusion, we must move beyond the constraints of a one-size-fits-all approach, which might not meet the needs of every individual situation and instead adopt a modern and dynamic framework based on flexibility, integration and creativity. That framework is the way to ensure that peace operations remain effective, viable and adaptable to a rapidly shifting landscape.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Timor-Leste.

Mr. Alves (Timor-Leste): I thank you, Madam President, for organizing this high-level open debate.

We align ourselves with the statement to be delivered by the representative of Uganda on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries.

Timor-Leste deeply appreciates the pivotal role of adaptive peacekeeping in fostering sustainable peace and security worldwide. In the rapidly evolving landscape of global conflicts and their dynamics, traditional peacekeeping approaches often encounter significant challenges. Contemporary realities, such as hybrid threats, cyberwarfare, climate-induced displacement and the proliferation of non-State actors, require a more flexible and responsive framework within United Nations peace operations.

Timor-Leste recognizes that adaptability is not merely a strategic advantage but a fundamental necessity for the effectiveness and legitimacy of peacekeeping missions in the twenty-first century. We understand that the bureaucratic and operational system often impedes peacekeeping operations within each mission. It requires strict observation and often limits peacekeepers from making proper and professional adaptations in the field. Simple psychological issues, such as the fear of losing their job or financial cuts, force them to worry more about mitigating adaptation and risks than working on adaptation itself. That needs attention, as each peacekeeping operation is equipped with a specific mandate.

Our journey to sovereignty has served to underscore the importance of adaptable strategies. The transition from protracted conflict to fragile peace in Timor-Leste highlighted the need for peace operations to be agile in addressing diverse sectors, including security, governance and socioeconomic development. That multifaceted approach is essential in addressing the root causes of conflict and ensuring long-term stability.

Furthermore, integrating local perspectives and capacities is crucial to enhancing the adaptability of peace operations. Timor-Leste advocates for a partnership model whereby host nations actively contribute to designing, implementing and evaluating peace missions. Such collaboration ensures that interventions are culturally and contextually appropriate and empowers local institutions to sustain peace beyond the presence of international forces.

Investing in capacity-building for peacekeepers and host nations is imperative in order to advance adaptability. Continuous training and professional development tailored to emerging threats and complexities can significantly enhance the responsiveness of peace operations. Also, fostering innovation by adopting new technologies and methodologies can provide peacekeepers with tools to navigate the intricate dynamics of modern conflicts effectively.

Timor-Leste also emphasizes the importance of robust mechanisms for monitoring and evaluation. Establishing adaptive feedback loops allows peace operations to learn from on-the-ground realities and adjust strategies in real-time. That iterative process fosters a culture of continuous improvement and ensures that missions remain relevant and practical amid changing circumstances. Moreover, ensuring adequate resources and political support is vital for enabling adaptability. Flexible mandates and sustained funding streams empower peace operations to respond swiftly to unforeseen challenges without compromising their core objectives. Timor-Leste supports the efforts to conduct further studies on the mandate and future adaptation of the United Nations peacekeeping framework to improve and continue providing the necessary support to enhance its adaptive capacities. The path to advancing adaptability in United Nations peace operations lies in embracing flexibility, fostering collaboration, investing in capacity-building and ensuring sustained political and financial support. Timor-Leste stands ready to contribute its experiences and insights to that collective endeavour, while reaffirming our commitment to a peaceful and secure world.

Let us work together to transform the resilience of our peace operations and ensure that they are equipped to meet the challenges of today and tomorrow with unwavering efficacy, adaptation and compassion.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Myanmar.

Mr. Tun (Myanmar): I wish to thank the Danish presidency for organizing this important debate. I also thank the Secretary-General and Ms. Russo, of the International Peace Institute, for their presentations.

United Nations peace operations are critical multilateral tools in the promotion and maintenance of international peace and security. As global conflicts become more multilayered and complex, involving armed violence, the smuggling of weapons and transboundary threats, peace operations should adapt to their evolving nature to achieve their objectives. Fundamentally, peace operations should be guided by people-centred strategies, galvanized by political will and enforced in a timely manner. Myanmar reaffirms the importance of clear, realistic and achievable mandates, in consultation with host countries, troop- and police-contributing countries and local actors. Myanmar would like to ask the Secretary-General to consider the role of local partnership in his forthcoming review of United Nations peace operations.

In Myanmar, the breakdown of the rule of law and political institutions, the rise of corruption and the prevalence of insecurity after the illegal military coup in February 2021 have turned the country into an epicentre of cybercrimes and human and drug trafficking, in addition to the tremendous suffering of the people. Since then, more than 6,400 people have been killed by the military, more than 3.5 million people have been displaced and almost 20 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance. I am dismayed to note that Myanmar currently has the highest level of organized criminality in the world, according to the Global Organized Crime Index.

It is crystal clear that urgent global interventions are long overdue to address the root causes of the situation in Myanmar, along with the surge in transnational organized crime. I thank our neighbours for their crackdown and rescue efforts. However, it must be highlighted that the military junta, along with its affiliated border

guard forces, are creating safe havens for criminal syndicates, mainly by providing security for them and facilitating their operations. Therefore, we are of the view that interventions should be comprehensive, sustained and multidimensional, while addressing the root cause of proliferation and involving all relevant stakeholders.

In their statement in January 2025, the National Unity Government and the allied federal democratic forces of Myanmar expressed their readiness to cooperate with international efforts and work towards the restoration of justice and governance, while combating the escalating crisis of cybercrime and human exploitation.

I have repeatedly pointed out these alarming developments in my statements to the Council and relevant United Nations meetings. The situation in Myanmar is indeed affecting regional peace and security. Despite the gravity of the situation, the Council continues to dismiss any attempt to take action. Despite the urgency of the situation, the Council continues to be inactive. Despite the growing evidence of threats to regional peace and security, the Council continues to fail to perform its primary responsibility. Despite the frequent pleas from the people of Myanmar to help them and save their lives, the Council continues to ignore their voices and fail them.

Over the four years since the coup, the Council has adopted one resolution on Myanmar, with no follow-up or a review of its implementation or a regular reporting mechanism. Every passing day, the Council fails to act decisively. More civilians are indiscriminately killed by the military junta. More atrocities are committed. And more innocent victims worldwide are lured by surging scams operations. The lack of effective and coordinated action by the United Nations on Myanmar is creating immense frustration among the people of Myanmar. Their frustration turns into indifference. Their indifference will eventually grow into distrust of the United Nations system. We have serious concerns that that will have a major implication in any future partnership between the United Nations and Myanmar when they engage in peacebuilding, reconciliation and recovery efforts. Clearly, we need the whole of the United Nations system to work for the people of Myanmar by listening attentively to their voices and aspirations.

In conclusion, people always look to the United Nations for how much and how far it can serve them, and that is the way the United Nations is judged for its credibility and relevancy in the international order, especially in the maintenance of international peace and security. Myanmar views fostering trust among local actors to be important for a more robust and tailored response in peace operations. Local and national ownership are integral to supporting peace operations across the full peace-continuum, from preventive measures to peacekeeping and post-conflict recovery.

For Myanmar, achieving sustainable peace should be centred on listening to, and acting in line with, the will and the interests of the people of Myanmar. The people are loud and clear in their determination to end the military dictatorship and build a federal democratic union. Therefore, I wish to again urge the Council to act decisively by cutting the flow of weapons, jet fuel and dual-use items to the military junta, so that the people of Myanmar can meet their aspirations.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Bangladesh.

Ms. Ara (Bangladesh): I thank you, Madam President, and the Danish presidency for organizing this high-level open debate and for successfully steering the work of the Security Council.

My delegation aligns itself with the statement to be delivered on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries.

This open debate is being held at a critical time at which we are witnessing an increased number of conflicts in different parts of the world. In that context, the need for United Nations peace operations is indispensable in maintaining international peace and security. However, we must recognize that peacekeeping operations need to adopt innovative approaches, considering the changing political landscape and multidimensional global challenges.

For Bangladesh, ensuring the safety and security of peacekeepers is of paramount importance. As a co-Chair of the Group of Friends to Promote Accountability for Crimes against Peacekeepers, we emphasize holding perpetrators accountable, even after the drawdown of missions.

As a member of the Peacebuilding Commission, we are confident that its advice to the Council provides effective guidance in addressing the challenges of peacekeeping operations.

In addition, we wish to highlight the following points.

First, for peacekeeping operations to be effective, the Security Council must ensure well-calibrated mandates, which are crucial for the ultimate success of operations. They should be realistic and aligned with the realities on the ground. Inclusive consultation among the Security Council, the Secretariat and troop- and police-contributing countries should be ensured. The views of the troop- and police-contributing countries should be reflected when taking decisions on operations or making any change to the mandate of existing missions. National authorities and other stakeholders in host countries should also be taken into account, especially when establishing mandates.

Secondly, given the acute financial crisis being faced by the United Nations, the Council needs to resolve the issue of ensuring the sustainability of peacekeeping operations.

Thirdly, as a proponent of the women and peace and security agenda in the United Nations, we call for the increased participation of women peacekeepers in missions.

Finally, to improve the overall performance of peace operations, we call for equitable geographical representation, both in the field and at Headquarters.

The President: There are still a number of speakers remaining on my list for this meeting. Given the lateness of the hour, I intend, with the concurrence of members of the Council, to suspend the meeting until tomorrow, 25 March, at 3 p.m.

The meeting was suspended at 6.10 p.m.