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(Fourth Committee)**

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Chairperson: Mr. Hasmi (Malaysia)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

Agenda item 89: Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects (*continued*) (A/55/977 and A/55/1024 and Corr.1; A/56/478; A/C.5/55/46 and Add.1)

1. **Mr. Ramli** (Malaysia) said that his country had always supported and would continue to support the central role of the United Nations in the maintenance of international peace and security, as attested by the participation of its military personnel in more than 25 United Nations peacekeeping operations. The professionalism with which its troops carried out their duties was a matter of particular pride for Malaysia.

2. Peacekeeping operations were becoming increasingly complex. It was therefore a good time to strengthen the staffing of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations.

3. In 1996 the Ministry of Defence of Malaysia had set up the Malaysian Peacekeeping Training Centre, which was still the only institution of its kind in South-East Asia. The training of peacekeepers must be standardized. It was necessary to improve and further develop training guidelines and operating procedures, including concepts related to the use of military capability for peacekeeping. Malaysia was willing to cooperate with the Training and Evaluation Service of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations in producing the necessary manuals, drawing on its experience during the period from 1960 to 1985.

4. On the question of the procurement of logistics, his delegation believed that, in purchasing goods and services for peacekeeping operations, priority should be given to purchases from developing countries, especially those countries which contributed troops.

5. With regard to meetings between the Security Council and troop-contributing countries, his delegation welcomed the positive elements embodied in Security Council resolution 1353 (2001), and emphasized the urgency of strengthening the "triangular partnership" between the Security Council, the troop-contributing countries and the Secretariat. Consultations should be held in a timely manner, or at the request of countries prepared to contribute troops for new peacekeeping operations, in order to exchange views on the concept of the operation, the formulation of the mandate and the rules of engagement.

6. As for ongoing peacekeeping operations, before a decision was taken to change the concept of the operation, the troop-contributing countries must be consulted, and they must be immediately informed of any rapid or drastic deterioration in the situation on the ground which affected security.

7. He reiterated the strong belief of his delegation that, for peacekeeping operations to be successful, there must be strong and sustained international support. It shared the view of the Secretary-General that to implement the various recommendations before the Committee, political will was needed on the part of Member States, as well as human, material and financial resources. It was also to be hoped that, in reforming the mechanisms and systems of peacekeeping operations, the Secretariat would make maximum use of the existing resources of the United Nations system.

8. **Mr. Fragelli** (Brazil) endorsed the statement made by the representative of Chile on behalf of the Rio Group. The current meeting was taking place at a special moment because, in the view of his delegation, the Committee had completed a cycle.

9. The administrative and operational aspects covered in the report of the Panel on United Nations Peace Operations (the Brahimi report) (A/55/305-S/2000/809) had been exhaustively discussed, and the basic guidelines had been laid down for strengthening and reforming the Department of Peacekeeping Operations. In that regard, his delegation supported the strategic goals mentioned by the Under-Secretary-General. Progress had also been made in defining the concept of rapid deployment.

10. During the debate, the central role of logistics in peacekeeping operations had become clear. For that reason, in the view of his delegation, it was now necessary to focus on the process of procurement and contracting. That would be a means of ensuring that it was carried out in a transparent manner and that the principles and parameters established by the General Assembly were observed, especially with regard to the participation of developing countries, in particular those which were troop-contributing countries.

11. Progress had also been made on the question of the safety and security of United Nations personnel. The Special Committee had made concrete proposals to enhance the safety of those who risked their lives serving in the various missions of the Organization.

12. Among the important issues still to be addressed was the question of the relationship between the troop-contributing countries, the Security Council and the Secretariat. Mechanisms must be created to promote cooperation, which was crucial for the success of peacekeeping operations. Troop-contributing countries must have a voice when decisions were taken. The final decision must, of course, rest with the Security Council, but the prospects of success would be reduced without the active involvement of all participants. The process of redefining the mechanisms for consultation and cooperation would benefit from an exchange of views among all interested parties. To that end, it was important that the Working Group of the Security Council should open a dialogue with the members of the Special Committee.

13. A distinguishing feature of peacekeeping operations was their multidimensional nature. Their military aspect was not an end in itself, but part of a multidisciplinary process in response to difficult conflict situations which included conflict prevention, the promotion of internal political dialogue, humanitarian assistance, the promotion of human rights, the creation of institutional capacity and the rebuilding of peace in post-conflict situations, including the promotion of economic and social development.

14. In order to act more efficiently, there must be an understanding of how all the elements of a peacekeeping operation came together. It was necessary to think about the concept in a more global way, especially with regard to conflict prevention, because by increasing the effectiveness of conflict prevention it would become possible to draw nearer to the goal proclaimed 50 years before, "to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war".

15. **Mr. Loedel** (Uruguay), emphasizing the unswerving commitment of his country since 1948 to support for the peacekeeping activities of the United Nations, said that his delegation endorsed the statement made on behalf of the Rio Group.

16. Under the direction of the Under-Secretary-General, considerable progress had been made in strengthening the Department of Peacekeeping Operations. However, there was still room for improvement in the efficiency of peacekeeping activities in the areas of management, financing and security. Weak points in the Department's work were

the common management culture, the mechanisms for internal coordination, the capacity for planning and certain aspects of the support given to missions with regard to human resources, guidelines and operational materials.

17. His delegation shared the opinion of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) that staff management and staffing support played a decisive role in the success of the Department's work. There was a need at present to accelerate the process of selection and recruitment of the human resources required. In view of the increasing need to ensure professionalism among those taking part in peacekeeping operations, Uruguay had, from 7 to 9 November, organized a seminar in Montevideo on the theme of third generation peacekeeping operations: the context, facts and prospects, the aim being to review the 50 years of experience gained by Uruguayan military personnel in United Nations peacekeeping operations. In that connection, his delegation supported the proposal to set up committees for the joint management of the most complex operations, which would help to strengthen cooperation between troop-contributing countries, the Security Council and the Secretariat. Operational mandates must reflect the dynamic of events on the ground.

18. Uruguay would continue to contribute troops to United Nations peacekeeping operations, and would strive to ensure that missions began operating on the ground in the shortest possible time. However, when it came to paying off its debts to Member States for peacekeeping operations, the Organization did not act with due reciprocity. Delays in reimbursing expenditure placed a heavy burden on the developing countries, and if the situation continued Uruguay would have to reconsider the question of its participation in future operations, particularly since, in some cases, the monies owing to it for missions long completed, for example in Cambodia, had yet to be repaid.

19. His delegation supported the efforts of Argentina and Japan to enhance the security of those participating in certain operations. It was gratifying to note that standard operating procedures had been extended to all missions.

20. Uruguay, which was playing a significant role in the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC), was

pleased that the Government of that country was observing the ceasefire agreement, but at the same time it was deeply concerned that military action was continuing in the eastern part of the country.

21. Rapid deployment called for political will and more effective operational capacity, including an effective Standby Arrangements System. The idea of the Member States setting up standing troops to serve as a rapid reaction mechanism merited in-depth consideration.

22. In conclusion, he welcomed the completion of the process for awarding the Dag Hammarskjöld medal to the families of those who had given their lives for world peace.

23. **Mr. Benmehidi** (Algeria) said that his country, which valued highly the work of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, associated itself with the statement made by the representative of Jordan on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries.

24. Recent years had witnessed an unprecedented expansion in the peacekeeping activities of the United Nations, in the form of 12 operations involving 50,000 personnel. It should be borne in mind that the success of any peacekeeping operation depended on the observance of the fundamental principles: the consent of the parties, neutrality and the non-use of force except in self-defence.

25. With regard to the establishment of peacekeeping operations, the Security Council must ensure that the clearest and most specific mandates were devised, to reflect the aims of each operation and the volume of resources allocated to it. Changes in the mandates of peacekeeping operations must only be made following a comprehensive analysis, on a basis of transparency and taking into account the need to achieve the goals of the operation and ensure the safety of its personnel. To that end, the Security Council should take account of the concerns and opinions of the troop-contributing countries.

26. In that connection, progress in developing relations between the Council and the troop-contributing countries, on the basis of Security Council resolution 1353 (2001) merited attention. Consultations with the troop-contributing countries were taking place regularly, but they were of a general nature and apparently did not meet the many expectations of the countries concerned. It was to be hoped that the

consultation process would develop in a consistent manner, with a view to the determination of practical ways of involving those countries in decisions about the definition or alteration of the mandate of an operation in which their troops were engaged, so that a mechanism could be developed for consultations on the question.

27. The regional organizations were also partners of the Security Council and, on the basis of Chapter VIII of the Charter, they could contribute to peacemaking efforts in the framework of operations authorized by the Council. Cooperation with those organizations in that area was of paramount importance, especially in regions where tension prevailed and conflict was endemic. In that respect, it should not be forgotten that, according to Article 53 of the Charter, no enforcement action could be taken under regional arrangements or by regional agencies without the authorization of the Security Council. The cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity was a matter of satisfaction, especially in connection with the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE) and MONUC.

28. On the operational level, his delegation was convinced of the need to bring the structure of the Department into line with current requirements, although it believed that it would not be acceptable to create a new bureaucracy or expand the existing one. It was therefore opposed to having a multiplicity of structures which often had vague functions and which often lacked sufficient reason for their existence. In particular, it would like the Secretariat to explain why a new post of Assistant Secretary-General had been created within the Department.

29. His delegation attached great importance to the rapid and effective deployment of missions. However, fixing specific time limits was not appropriate, because every operation had its own specific features. Rapid deployment could only be guaranteed if Member States provided sufficient troops and they were assured of international support.

30. In the past year, United Nations operations had functioned successfully in various regions. In particular, it had been possible to halt the spread of a crisis in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, which had threatened to bring to nought all the efforts to preserve the principle of multi-ethnicity on which the future of that highly unstable region must be based.

31. As for increasing posts in line with the recommendations in the Brahimi report, it seemed to his delegation that the process was being carried out without transparency and contrary to the Organization's rules and procedures for the management of human resources. That process should be carried out on the basis of enhanced managerial effectiveness and the recruitment of the best qualified specialists in accordance with the principle of equitable geographical distribution.

32. **Mr. Hughes** (New Zealand) emphasized the importance of the Fifth Committee approving the necessary additional resources so that the proposals and recommendations contained in the report of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations (A/55/1024 and Corr.1) could be speedily implemented.

33. His delegation welcomed the proposals for improving the process of consultations between the Security Council and troop-contributing countries, put forward in the Security Council Working Group of the Whole on Peacekeeping Operations, and the involvement of those countries in decisions affecting their contingents, in keeping with the provisions of Article 44 of the Charter.

34. At the same time, such involvement should not erode the powers of the Security Council nor exclude the interests of other Member States. It was important not only to enhance the mechanisms for consultation but to institutionalize them so that, among other things, wide disparities in the practices of different Presidents of the Council in that area could be avoided.

35. **Mr. Krohmal** (Ukraine) said that one of the priority tasks of the United Nations, since the day of its creation, had been "to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war". At the dawn of a new millennium, humankind had finally realized that it was both necessary and possible to prevent war or conflict. Among the key proposals made by the President of Ukraine at the Millennium Summit was the proposal to develop a comprehensive United Nations strategy for conflict prevention, based on the large-scale use of preventive diplomacy and peace-building. His delegation was convinced that the peacekeeping philosophy of the United Nations should be built on that principle.

36. He was glad to note the increasing discussion of that topic within the United Nations, including the

report of the Secretary-General on the prevention of armed conflict (A/55/985-S/2001/574), which reviewed the progress achieved in developing the conflict prevention capacity of the United Nations system and made specific recommendations on how to enhance it further in cooperation with Member States.

37. He drew the Committee's attention to the proposal of the President of Ukraine in his address at the Security Council summit meeting the previous year on the active use of peace operations with a preventive mandate, in other words, conflict prevention operations. Operations of that kind could become a qualitatively new and more widely used instrument in the arsenal of United Nations conflict prevention measures. He was convinced that in the new century, conflict prevention operations would outnumber traditional peacekeeping and peace-enforcement operations.

38. For over nine years, Ukraine had shown its firm commitment to United Nations peacekeeping activities, and regarded its participation in those activities as an important factor in its foreign policy. In the past two years, it had increased 20 times the numbers of its troops and civilian personnel participating in United Nations peacekeeping operations. It now ranked among the 10 largest troop-contributors, having sent 1,551 military and civilian personnel to nine peacekeeping operations.

39. His country's commitment to United Nations peacekeeping stemmed from its conviction that peacekeeping was among the core activities of the global Organization in discharging its responsibilities for the maintenance of international peace and security. In view of the growing demand for the multifaceted operations of the United Nations to maintain peace and the complexity of contemporary crises, there was a need for a significant strengthening of United Nations peacekeeping potential, through the reform of existing mechanisms and the elaboration of new approaches. In that connection, it was difficult to overestimate the significance of the Brahimi report, which had given a powerful impetus to the process of reform in that field. Ukraine had been playing a full part in that process in both extraordinary and regular sessions of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations, and in the Security Council.

40. He welcomed the fact that the report had been and still remained the focus of close attention by the

Organization and its Member States, and also welcomed the submission by the Secretary-General of a comprehensive report on the implementation of the recommendations of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations and the Panel on United Nations Peace Operations (A/55/977). His delegation believed that the recommendations contained in the report were an important step in the right direction, aimed at further enhancing the Organization's peacekeeping capacity.

41. There was no doubt that the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, which was responsible for the conduct, management, planning and preparation of peacekeeping operations, should be strengthened through restructuring and the allocation of additional staff and resources. At the same time, his delegation was convinced that many problems could be solved through the optimal use of available resources and the improvement of procedures and working methods. In considering the proposed recommendations on additional staffing for the Department, priority should be given to the major troop-contributing countries. Ukraine was ready to submit qualified and experienced candidates for the additional posts in the Department.

42. His delegation had always supported the development of a rapid deployment capacity for the Organization, by such means as the strengthening of the Standby Arrangements System. The proposal regarding the creation of lists of experienced, well-qualified military and civilian officers within that system would be helpful.

43. Given the increasing role of civilian police in peacekeeping operations, his delegation supported efforts aimed at improving the management of that component in the Department and agreed with the recommendation regarding the establishment of separate civilian police and military divisions within the Department and the upgrading of the rank of the civilian police adviser. For its part, Ukraine would continue to enlarge its contribution to that component of peacekeeping.

44. Unfortunately, the issue of the security of United Nations peacekeeping personnel and humanitarian personnel was one of the most acute in connection with the Organization's peacekeeping operations. Ukraine strongly condemned any violent or hostile acts against peacekeeping and humanitarian personnel. The central element of any peacekeeping operation or mission must

be to ensure an adequate level of security for its personnel. He welcomed the fact that the Department had undertaken a comprehensive review of security requirements in peacekeeping operations, and asked it to continue its efforts to improve the level of security for personnel in the field, particularly through the further implementation of the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel.

45. Ukraine fully shared the perception that the mechanism for consultations between troop-contributing countries, the Security Council and the Secretariat needed to be further streamlined and institutionalized. Close triangular cooperation was one of the major factors ensuring that peacekeeping operations were conducted successfully at all stages. His delegation was satisfied with the real progress which had been achieved in that field following the adoption of Security Council resolution 1327 (2000) and General Assembly resolution 55/135. A further major step forward had been the adoption of Security Council resolution 1353 (2001), which had introduced a number of very important innovations, in particular, the holding of consultations with troop-contributing countries in the form of public or private meetings of the Council, as well as a set of new measures and arrangements to improve the effectiveness of such consultations.

46. At the same time his delegation considered that the new arrangements were far from exhaustive. The Security Council Working Group of the Whole on Peacekeeping Operations should, in accordance with its mandate, continue to seek ways to improve triangular cooperation. His delegation supported the idea of establishing Security Council committees for complex peacekeeping operations. That would help to create real partnership between the Security Council and countries contributing troops to specific operations.

47. In conclusion, he said that, despite the progress made in implementing the recommendations of the Brahimi Panel, much more remained to be done. The issue of peacekeeping operations should therefore remain at the top of the agenda, and the strategy for moving forward should include ensuring expeditious completion of the peacekeeping reform process with the aim of strengthening the efficiency and effectiveness of United Nations peacekeeping.

48. **Mr. Gatilov** (Russian Federation) said that his delegation was gratified that agreement had been

reached on a number of practical steps to meet the requirements of the Organization's peacekeeping capability. The Security Council had recently adopted two resolutions — 1327 (2000) and 1353 (2001) — which had become important milestones on the way towards the development of cooperation with troop-contributing countries and had facilitated the evolution of peacekeeping activities as a whole. The Organization's peacekeeping activities should continue to conform strictly to the goals and principles of the Charter, including the rule that any operation with elements of coercion could be allowed only with the Council's approval.

49. Much remained to be done to enable the Organization to respond appropriately and promptly to emerging crises and conflicts. Efforts to fulfil that task were being made at various levels, including efforts within the framework of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations and the Security Council Working Group of the Whole on Peacekeeping Operations. Those bodies should not be seen as competing against each other, since their status was essentially different and also because the Working Group had been designed to enable the Council to carry out in-depth reviews of general issues and of the concrete requirements of peacekeeping operations. The two bodies should therefore cooperate actively with each other.

50. The Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations had considered the recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General, which provided clarifications on the substance of proposals put forward by the Brahimi Panel (A/55/977). The Special Committee had also taken an important step forward but, at the same time, his delegation regretted that the issue of strengthening the Organization's information and analytical capability had not been resolved. That must be achieved so that the Organization could not only respond to emerging hotbeds of tension, but also take preventive measures. The proposal of the Secretary-General regarding the establishment of a small unit to perform analytical tasks and coordinate the activities of the United Nations system was entirely reasonable, and his delegation believed that it was important to return to consideration of that issue.

51. Peacekeeping operations should be closely linked with efforts aimed at the political settlement of conflicts. As for the humanitarian component of

peacekeeping, his delegation reaffirmed that it rejected the idea of humanitarian intervention in circumvention of the Charter. The solution to humanitarian problems should be sought through improvement of the Organization's peacekeeping capability and through the development of the practice of multifunctional operations. He stressed the need for the earliest possible establishment of an effective system of standby arrangements, which would help to increase significantly the effectiveness of peacekeeping activities.

52. An integral part of efforts to improve peacekeeping capabilities was the reform and strengthening of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations. On the basis of the recommendations contained in the Brahimi report, it had been decided that 93 additional staff would be recruited, but those posts had not yet been filled. It was to be hoped that the Secretariat would adopt a more efficient recruitment system.

53. Another important aspect was the diversification of logistical support and the rationalization of the procurement system for peacekeeping operations. It was gratifying that certain recommendations in the report of the Brahimi Panel the usefulness of which had been questioned by his delegation had been revised in the report of the Secretary-General. It was also important that the newly established Contract Management Group should establish a system of control over local procurement services within peacekeeping operations.

54. He drew attention to his delegation's position paper setting forth an initiative concerning the revitalization of the Military Staff Committee (S/2001/671). In the opinion of his delegation, an effective way to resolve the problem of the deficit of military expertise would be to use that Committee in an enhanced format. For a number of reasons, the Military Staff Committee had so far been unable to fulfil the role intended for it. His delegation would like to take a creative approach to the interpretation of the relevant articles of the Charter, which envisaged involvement by non-permanent members of the Security Council and even non-members of the Council. He drew attention to Article 47, paragraphs 2 and 4, of the Charter, which clearly raised the possibility of cooperation with the Military Staff Committee by Member States. That perspective should be of interest to the troop-contributing countries, since his

delegation's suggestion corresponded to their ideas regarding more active involvement in decision-making in the area of peacekeeping operations. The Russian initiative could supplement other measures currently under discussion concerning the strengthening of interaction between the Security Council, troop-contributing countries and the Secretariat.

55. His delegation intended to continue to participate actively in the work of the relevant bodies, and to introduce its suggestions in the interests of increasing the effectiveness of peacekeeping operations.

56. **Mr. Maitland** (South Africa) said that his delegation associated itself with the statement made by the representative of Jordan on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries. He expressed his gratitude to the Under-Secretary-General for his comprehensive briefing on the work of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations.

57. His delegation was generally pleased with the outcome of the consideration by the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations of the Secretary-General's comprehensive review of the Department's structure and working methods. The recommendations of the Special Committee demonstrated the commitment of the international community to provide the United Nations with the necessary capacities to pursue its responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security. His delegation was particularly pleased that a number of the Special Committee's recommendations had already been implemented, particularly those pertaining to the integrated planning and management of peacekeeping operations. The success of peacekeeping operations depended not only on the planning and management capacities of the Secretariat, but also on the willingness of Member States to provide the necessary human, financial and logistical resources. That was particularly valid for peacekeeping operations in Africa.

58. His delegation was closely following the discussions in other legislative bodies of the General Assembly on the budgetary and programme implications of the Special Committee's recommendations. He hoped that those recommendations would be the subject of a constructive review and that the priorities identified would be appropriately reflected in the decisions of those legislative bodies.

59. In that connection, his delegation considered it necessary to make some observations. Given the importance of integrating lessons learned and best practices into the planning of peacekeeping operations, the Special Committee had firmly supported the Secretary-General's recommendations to strengthen the Organization's capacity in that sphere. At the recent United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, the international community had agreed that there was a vital link between disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes and the building of durable peace in post-conflict situations. The Department was often called upon either to design disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes or to facilitate their implementation. His delegation was therefore disappointed with the manner in which the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) had dealt with that matter in its report to the Fifth Committee. Consequently, it urged the relevant legislative bodies to provide the required resources to enhance the Department's capacity in that area. The findings of ACABQ on the establishment of gender focal points in the Department were also a cause for concern to his delegation. Since peacekeeping operations were increasingly deployed in armed-conflict situations where women and children constituted the most seriously affected groups of society, the Department needed to be prepared and able to deal with those realities.

60. Cooperation between the Security Council, the Secretariat and troop-contributing countries was of vital importance to the success of United Nations peacekeeping operations. His delegation therefore commended the adoption of Security Council resolution 1353 (2001), which provided an encouraging framework for enhancing consultation and cooperation between the key partners in peacekeeping operations. However, recent experiences pointed to the need for the further improvement of the system and mechanisms of cooperation.

61. His delegation was of the view that the time had come for the Security Council to consider establishing a formal cooperation mechanism, focusing on the planning and management of peacekeeping operations from the earliest stages possible. Proposals in that respect had already been put forward. Being a matter of great importance, it should be discussed in a more representative forum such as the Special Committee.

62. **Mr. Duval** (Canada) said that his country had staunchly supported peacekeeping in the past and would continue to do so in the future. It attached great importance to the United Nations peacekeeping reform process. The reforms must be supported, and it was of the utmost importance that the resources needed for their implementation should be allocated.

63. The reform effort must not be seen as an end in itself, but as the driving force behind a longer-term process of continual change, providing for regular and systematic review of the Organization's ability to plan, implement and support peacekeeping operations and to make adjustments whenever necessary.

64. The Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations would have a critical role to play in that regard. Another crucial component of the ability of the United Nations to manage operations was close consultation with troop-contributing countries. The invitation by the Secretariat to members of the Special Committee to participate in consultations on rapid deployment capabilities had been a welcome and productive initiative. The Security Council had already held a number of briefing sessions with troop-contributing countries on the progress of missions. Those were important first steps forward, and the consultation process must be advanced on two parallel tracks, heading in one direction.

65. A key initiative in that regard would be the establishment of mission-specific management committees for complex missions, composed of Secretariat representatives, Security Council members and troop-contributing countries. The problem was that, unless troop-contributing countries were actively involved in the management of complex operations, participation in such operations would not be of interest to them. The United Nations must move from a process of consultation to one of cooperation.

66. At its next session, the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations should focus on the following three issues. First, effective analysis and distribution of information from the field and from public sources was absolutely critical. The Special Committee must revisit the need to establish an effective information and analysis capability. Second, it was necessary to strengthen strategic capacity in support of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, humanitarian affairs, and the gender components of peacekeeping operations. Until that was done, policies

and support structures would have to be reinvented for each new mission. Lastly, simply collecting lessons learned was not sufficient; the Organization must ensure that such lessons were systematically transmitted and implemented in the field.

67. The United Nations peacekeeping reform process was far-reaching and paved the way for practical measures to enhance the Organization's capability in that area. In order to succeed, the reforms needed the full political and financial support of Member States.

68. **Mr. Vienravi** (Thailand) said that his country fully supported United Nations peacekeeping efforts and had, in accordance with its capabilities, contributed military and civilian personnel to many United Nations peacekeeping operations, notably in East Timor. Two Thai generals had successively served as Force Commanders of the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET); Thailand welcomed that as a sign of the Organization's confidence.

69. In the past two years, there had been a surge of new peacekeeping operations addressing conflicts of a complex and multifaceted nature, such as those in Kosovo and East Timor. Those missions, mandated by the Security Council, had been set wide-ranging tasks that encompassed civil, economic and social aspects.

70. His delegation was of the view that peacekeeping was one of the means to maintain or re-establish peace. The United Nations should give equal importance to conflict prevention, especially in the context of preventive diplomacy and peacemaking. Acting under the principle that prevention was better than cure, it could avert conflicts by creating political and socio-economic formulations which would promote peace and development.

71. That was not to say that Thailand was seeking to evade collective responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security. As a Member State, it reaffirmed its support for peacekeeping operations with respect for the principles of the consent of the parties, impartiality and the non-use of force except in self-defence. On the other hand, the United Nations, particularly the Security Council, should react promptly to any crisis in a non-discriminatory and non-selective manner. In that regard, his delegation supported the development of measures which would improve the information-gathering and analysis

capabilities of the Secretariat, which were essential for decision-making and the formulation of mandates.

72. He reiterated that the mandates of peacekeeping operations must be feasible, with clearly defined objectives and backed by secure funding. Those issues were particularly important for troop-contributing countries. Furthermore, the views of those countries should be taken into account in the early stages of planning missions and defining mandates, as well as in the renewal and modification of mandates. He therefore welcomed the adoption of measures pursuant to Security Council resolution 1353 (2001) for the institutionalization of consultations between troop-contributing countries, the Security Council and the Secretariat. There was merit in further strengthening the triangular cooperation by considering a new mechanism of consultation.

73. Thailand accorded the highest priority to the safety of United Nations and associated personnel. It would be unrealistic and unjustified to expect troop-contributing countries to be willing, as stated in the Brahimi Panel's report, "to accept the risk of casualties on behalf of the mandate" (A/55/305-S/2000/809, para. 52). In that respect, there was a need for improvement in the Secretariat's capability for risk assessment that would help troop-contributing countries in their decision-making. The Department of Peacekeeping Operations should work closely with the United Nations Security Coordinator in developing precautionary measures and guidelines to provide field personnel with adequate protection. Personnel should also receive pre-mission and in-the-field training on safety.

74. The issue of reimbursement of contingent-owned equipment remained a serious concern for his delegation. It was unfair for troop-contributing countries, particularly developing countries, to bear the financial burden for missions by advancing their own national resources for a prolonged period. In that connection, he urged all Member States to pay their assessed contributions in full, on time and without conditions.

75. The participation of any Government in peacekeeping operations required the blessing and support of its people. In that regard, dissemination of impartial, reliable and objective information to improve public understanding of peacekeeping operations was vital. Objective coverage could enhance

not only the success of operations but also personnel safety. The local population also had a right to information on the objectives and goals of the mission.

76. In conclusion, he emphasized that peacekeeping operations should never replace initiatives by the concerned parties in conflict resolution and that such operations, despite their multi-dimensional character, should be merely a temporary means to help pave the way to a long-term solution. Thailand therefore supported the idea put forward in the Brahimi report that every peacekeeping operation should have a well-planned entry and exit strategy. An example of that approach was provided by the Secretary-General's recent report on East Timor.

77. **Mr. Villacis** (Ecuador) said that, under the Charter, the main purpose of the United Nations was the maintenance of international peace and security, and the Members of the Organization should give it every assistance in its activities undertaken in accordance with the Charter and primarily Articles 43 and 44.

78. However, in addition to timely assistance in specific cases, Member States must at the political level promote the performance by the Organization of that most important task and promptly provide it with the necessary resources for the conduct of peacekeeping operations. Ecuadorian troops were serving, inter alia, in the United Nations Verification Mission in Guatemala (MINUGUA).

79. Clearly, hotbeds of instability would remain all over the world, unless extreme poverty was eliminated or at least reduced, unless education was improved at all levels and health-care plans were implemented and unless cooperation was intensified with developing countries. In other words, developed countries must structure their policies and economies in such a way that the less developed countries could access the necessary financial resources to solve their problems. The problem of inequality and unfairness in trade was of particular importance in that connection and its solution would relieve tension and enhance cooperation, as well as creating healthy competition reflecting the purposes of Article 55 of the Charter.

80. All peacekeeping activities must be conducted with the consent of the parties concerned and without the use of force, except in self-defence, and on the basis of respect for the sovereignty of States and non-interference in their internal affairs. In addition to

engaging in peacekeeping operations, it was necessary to seek ways of eliminating the root causes of conflicts. In that connection, his delegation welcomed the Brahimi Panel's report, which marked the beginning of the process of critical evaluation of United Nations activities.

81. The further propagation of a culture of peace at the global level was extremely important in order to end discrimination, racism, xenophobia and religious intolerance. In conclusion, he endorsed the statement made by the representative of Chile, which reflected the genuine aspirations of all member countries of the Rio Group.

82. **Mr. Al-Otaibi** (Kuwait) thanked the Secretary-General and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations for the report and supported the statement by the representative of Jordan on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries.

83. Peacekeeping operations played an effective role not only in the settlement of conflicts but also in a number of other areas, including provision of humanitarian assistance, monitoring of respect for human rights and institutional capacity-building. Kuwait wished to dwell on a number of issues related to the strengthening of peacekeeping activities. Firstly, operations should have clearly defined aims and command and management structures. Secondly, consultations should be continued between the Security Council and troop-contributing countries on all aspects of peacekeeping. Thirdly, the role of the United Nations in the area of early warning and preventive diplomacy should be expanded. Fourthly, Member States should respect the provisions of Article 17 of the Charter and contribute to meet the needs of peacekeeping operations, while special responsibility in that regard was borne by the permanent members of the Security Council. Fifthly, staff training needs in connection with peacekeeping activities must be evaluated.

84. The United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission (UNIKOM) had been operating in the territory of Kuwait since 1991, monitoring the ceasefire and the demilitarized zone and thus promoting the establishment of peace in the region. However, Iraq was by its actions creating a situation of tension and instability and causing others to doubt its peaceful intentions.

85. For that reason, Kuwait believed that United Nations forces should remain in the region. In 1993, it had decided to cover two thirds of UNIKOM expenses, so that the Mission would not encounter the difficulties faced by other peacekeeping operations. In addition, during all those years, Kuwait had provided to UNIKOM not only military assistance but also civilian and administrative support, to enable the Mission effectively to fulfil its mandate.

86. He expressed special gratitude to Argentina, Bangladesh and Germany for providing contingents. Every effort should be made to ensure the safety of the Mission troops. In conclusion, he supported all the recommendations and conclusions in the report of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations (A/55/1024).

87. **Mr. Serdyukov** (Belarus) said that the Belarusian delegation endorsed the approach of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries to the issue of peacekeeping operations, outlined in the statement by the representative of Jordan. Belarus considered United Nations peacekeeping operations to be a crucial component of the Organization's efforts to maintain international peace and security and believed that their effectiveness would be directly determined by the process of optimization of machinery for the planning and deployment of peacekeeping operations and their management along the lines recommended by the Brahimi Panel.

88. Belarus had decided to substantially increase its involvement in peacekeeping operations. In the current year, it had become the thirty-sixth State to sign a memorandum of understanding with the United Nations concerning its contribution to the Standby Arrangements System. Following testing by the civilian police selection assistance team, nine nationals of Belarus had been selected for future service as national civilian police in United Nations missions.

89. In 2002, Belarus planned to conduct jointly with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations training courses on the subject of peacekeeping operations. The provision by Belarus of specific elements within the framework of logistics support for operations was being seriously considered. The Republic was unwavering and consistent in the fulfilment of its obligations for the financing of the Organization's peacekeeping operations and had been among the first

to pay its contributions to the peacekeeping budget in the past two years.

90. With regard to the most significant areas of reform concerning peacekeeping operations, requiring Member States to give their support in principle, Belarus agreed with the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries on the importance of formulating clear, achievable and credible mandates for peacekeeping operations, which should be based on the principles of consent of the parties, impartiality and use of force only in self-defence and as an exceptional measure. It was appropriate to include in operational mandates programmes for disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, as well as specific measures to ensure the safety and protection of peacekeeping personnel. It was important to implement the recommendations of the Brahimi Panel on the creation of a new mechanism of consultation between the Council and troop-contributing countries.

91. Believing that it was extremely important to pursue the progress achieved in recent years in the strengthening of rapid deployment capacities, Belarus stressed the need to create on-call lists of officers and civilian police staff and to enhance the standby capabilities and training of civilian police.

92. Consideration must be given to alternatives for creating a strategic reserve at the United Nations Logistics Base in Brindisi and to the outline of a global strategy for the recruitment of civilian personnel to take part in peacekeeping operations.

93. The increasing problem of delays in the reimbursement of costs of troop-owned equipment was a source of concern. Belarus supported the Secretariat's approach of introducing more flexibility, accountability and transparency in the procurement system. Further action was needed to improve the comprehensive and coordinated planning and management of peacekeeping operations and system-wide information-gathering and analysis in that area.

94. Belarus strongly advocated further upgrading of the Organization's peacekeeping activity.

95. **Mr. Sinha** (India) regretted that only two meetings of the Committee were to be devoted to such an important agenda item. A formal debate would clearly not suffice but he was grateful to the Chairman for permitting a brief interaction on the subject of

peacekeeping operations with the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations.

96. India associated itself with the statement by the representative of Jordan on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries. It thanked the Secretary-General for his detailed report, which had formed the basis for the discussion in the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations. India was confident that the necessary resources would be given to the Secretariat to effectively plan and conduct United Nations peacekeeping operations. However, it again warned that the problems plaguing United Nations peacekeeping could not be solved through the mere infusion of additional resources.

97. An issue of crucial importance was the strengthening of the triangular partnership between the Security Council, troop-contributing countries and the Secretariat. In order to avoid a repetition of past failures, there must be a genuine partnership between those three parties and not simply a strengthening of the Peacekeeping Best Practices Unit in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations.

98. The Security Council Working Group of the Whole on United Nations Peacekeeping Operations was actively considering proposals made by troop-contributing countries. Ironically, certain members of the Security Council which were entrusted with primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security were continuing to oppose the will of the majority. It was to be hoped that the majority of those countries would support the culture of consultation with troop-contributing countries, which influenced the decisions impacting directly on the lives and the security of their troops. India appealed to those countries to contribute to strengthening cooperation with troop-contributing countries and thereby strengthen peacekeeping as a whole.

99. India supported the idea of the creation of a strategic reserve at the United Nations Logistics Base in Brindisi and other measures to enhance the Organization's rapid deployment capacities so that it could deploy peacekeeping operations within 30 to 90 days. The Secretariat's proposals on that subject deserved serious consideration by the relevant organs of the General Assembly and the support of the general membership, and particularly the major financial contributors, was essential.

100. His delegation endorsed the five strategic goals to underpin the reform efforts of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations outlined by the Under-Secretary-General and looked forward to working with him to implement them. It also urged the relevant bodies of the General Assembly to study the recommendations and proposals of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations concerning the conduct of peacekeeping operations.

101. Having a wealth of experience in United Nations peacekeeping, India was not an armchair theorist on the subject. India had helped to forge that instrument and wanted it to serve better the collective purposes for which it had been created and not have its work undermined by such problems as lack of funds, false political doctrines or attempts to divert it to serve other agendas.

102. **Mr. Ouattara** (Burkina Faso) said that, despite the shortage of staff and funding, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations had achieved remarkable success in implementing the Brahimi Panel's recommendations. As a member of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations, Burkina Faso endorsed the report of the Special Committee (A/55/1024 and Corr.1). In addition, his delegation associated itself with the statement by the representative of Jordan on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries.

103. After the end of the cold war, there had been an unprecedented increase in the number and complexity of peacekeeping operations, so that the world community needed more than ever before to reflect urgently on the underlying causes of conflicts. His delegation therefore fully supported the idea of strengthening United Nations monitoring capacity. For that reason, Burkina Faso looked forward to the establishment of the group on the enhancement of African peacekeeping capacity. Burkina Faso was impressed by the effectiveness of the triangular cooperation between the Security Council, the Secretariat and troop-contributing countries.

104. With regard to the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, Burkina Faso wished to emphasize the continuing imbalance between the various regions of the world, among which the African continent always appeared to be on the losing side. It also attached great importance to the achievement of gender balance, and believed that the situation could not be explained by a

shortage of qualified experts, since the Organization had facilities to train senior staff and upgrade their skills. In that connection, his delegation strongly supported the idea that it was urgently necessary for mission staff to be given appropriate instruction in the skills which they needed not only to do their work but also to be really safe.

105. Burkina Faso, which attached the highest importance to the right to life, paid a tribute to the memory of the men and women who had given their lives in the cause of peace. His country was prepared to participate in peacekeeping operations whenever its contribution was needed.

106. **Prince Zeid Al-Hussein** (Jordan), speaking on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, stressed the usefulness of the informal consultations held on 11 and 12 October 2001 on rapid mission deployment and strategic deployment stocks.

107. The Movement of Non-Aligned Countries consistently maintained that United Nations peacekeeping operations must abide strictly by the guiding principles articulated in the concluding documents of the Eleventh Conference of Ministers of Non-Aligned Countries and of the Twelfth Conference of Heads of State and Government of Non-Aligned Countries, and in paragraphs 39 to 41 of the report of the Special Committee (A/55/1024 and Corr.1). The Movement noted the Secretariat's stated position that, unless there was a sustainable ceasefire in Afghanistan, the conditions were not ripe there for a United Nations peacekeeping presence. That view accorded with the general position long held by the Movement.

108. Unlike in previous years, the statement on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries would be relatively brief, because the Fifth Committee was still considering the reports of the Special Committee and of ACABQ (A/56/478). The Movement was aware that a working group of the Security Council was considering the issue of consultations. However, it believed that all proposals made recently on that issue needed to be considered seriously in order to forge an eventual consensus.

109. With regard to claims and reimbursements, the Movement placed special emphasis on the need for the Secretariat to provide additional posts for the Claims and Information Management Section in the Financial Management and Support Service. In the opinion of the

members of the Movement, that issue deserved to be constantly revisited.

110. The Movement of Non-Aligned Countries welcomed the increasing frequency of reimbursement of troop-contributing countries but noted that much still remained to be done in that regard. Regrettably, it was necessary to emphasize yet again that all Member States must pay their assessed contributions in full, on time and without conditions and that the permanent members of the Security Council bore a special responsibility.

111. The Movement wished to restate its position, stated four months previously, that no Force Commander or other senior officer should be appointed to a mission if his or her country was not making a sizeable contribution to that mission in the form of troops.

112. The Movement was proud to have been represented by its members in almost every operation since 1948 and, in recent years, to have supplied the majority of troops to United Nations peacekeeping missions, especially in dangerous regions. It deeply appreciated the contribution made by the more than 1,500 peacekeepers who had lost their lives while in the service of the United Nations.

113. **Mr. Kennedy** (United States of America) said that his delegation believed that progress was being made in collaborative action to reform United Nations peacekeeping operations, as well as operations at United Nations Headquarters that had an impact on operations in the field, and that the Special Committee's report provided a roadmap towards that end. The complexity of current operations demanded a multifaceted approach. To meet that challenge, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations could draw on successful aspects of the operations in Kosovo and East Timor, while preserving features from traditional missions.

114. His delegation believed that civilian policing required increased emphasis. Police operations provided a significant exit strategy for peacekeeping missions. Local populations must be able to provide for their own public security through civil police institutions, not heavily armed military forces.

115. His delegation continued to support additional capacity for the Department of Peacekeeping Operations. It was deeply involved in the Fifth

Committee process to ensure that appropriate and justifiable resources were allocated to the Department.

116. His delegation recognized that rapid deployment capability was the basis for an effective United Nations crisis response and it believed that Member States should be encouraged to contribute as conscientiously as they could to stand-by arrangements. It welcomed the progress made at the Special Committee's most recent session with regard to the strategic reserve, as well as the briefing provided by the Assistant Secretary-General.

117. His delegation believed that Security Council resolution 1353 (2001) was a good step towards addressing many of the legitimate concerns expressed by troop-contributing countries. Some of those countries were suggesting the formation of an additional mechanism of consultation with the Security Council, in which "major" troop contributors would participate.

118. The Security Council Working Group of the Whole on Peacekeeping Operations had taken up that issue. In the course of complex discussions, many potential issues had been raised. How would smaller troop-contributing nations or nations which provided other forms of support react to the establishment of a forum from which they were excluded? What impact would the establishment of such a forum have on the role of the Secretariat or the Military Adviser? Could safeguards be incorporated to ensure that a process of such close consultation and cooperation would not create a de facto form of Security Council membership for non-elected countries? Would that increase in the Council's mandatory responsibilities have an impact on the ability of its members to address the full range of issues before them?

119. His delegation continued to strive for a United Nations peacekeeping capability that encouraged: peacekeeping operations with clear mandates; early, frequent and effective consultations with troop-contributing countries; improved mission leadership selection to facilitate rapid deployment; a strengthened Department of Peacekeeping Operations with staffing levels that enable it to respond to the demands created by the planning and deployment of missions; an improved Standby Arrangements System; strengthened coordination and improvement of continuous flows of information; improved troop training, including for awareness of human immunodeficiency virus/acquired

immune deficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS); and strengthened civilian police units and an enhanced role for the Civilian Police Adviser.

120. **Mr. Susanto** (Indonesia) said that his delegation associated itself with the statement made by the representative of Jordan on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries.

121. His delegation held the view that, while work should continue on such pending issues as the establishment of a further post of Under-Secretary-General, the rationalized Information and Strategic Analysis Secretariat and some aspects pertaining to tripartite consultations, a more strategic examination of United Nations peacekeeping operations must be undertaken. His delegation appreciated highly the analysis and sound recommendations contained in the Brahimi report, but had been struck by the fact that the report placed more emphasis on the managerial, administrative and technical aspects of such operations.

122. His delegation attached great importance to conflict prevention. Peacekeeping missions were expensive; the fewer conflicts there were, the fewer missions were deployed and thus the more resources could be allocated to other critical needs. His delegation also emphasized the need for post-conflict peace-building in order effectively to preclude the recurrence of conflicts.

123. His delegation believed that the implementation of the recommendations of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations should adhere to the principles of transparency, effectiveness and efficiency. Some recommendations could be implemented without delay, whereas others required further clarification. His delegation was particularly interested in the implementation of the Integrated Mission Task Force concept.

124. His delegation appreciated the Secretariat's initiative in convening an informal consultation in October 2001 on rapid deployment and strategic deployment stocks. It believed that the planning assumption should be maintained for both complex and traditional missions. In its view, the conclusions of the informal consultation should be implemented in a transparent manner.

125. In addition to strategic deployment stocks, other factors needed to be addressed, such as strategic lift, logistical support, readiness of resources and

administrative preparations, as well as the political will of troop-contributing countries. His delegation attached great importance to the United Nations Standby Arrangements System and the development of on-call lists of personnel.

126. His delegation was pleased to note that tripartite consultations had been held regularly and wished to see the further implementation of Security Council resolution 1353 (2001).

127. The economic difficulties currently experienced by some troop-contributing countries often forced them to divert national resources allocated for participation in United Nations peacekeeping operations into other areas of urgency. His delegation believed that international cooperation would be instrumental in mitigating the impact of such difficulties on the national capacity of troop-contributing countries.

128. The experiences of the United Nations Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina (UNMIBH), the United Nations Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) and UNTAET indicated that civilian police were a critical element of peacekeeping operations. His delegation attached great importance to close consultation between the Secretariat and Member States in the efforts to draw up standardized civilian police administrative guidelines.

129. Specific, practical measures to enhance personnel safety and security should be included in status-of-forces and status-of-mission agreements. His delegation believed that special attention should be given to the security and safety of United Nations peacekeepers when a mission was established and when its mandate was changed. It was also imperative that individual peacekeepers should be made more aware of and carefully responsive to the security environment.

130. His delegation believed that careful analysis of a peacekeeping mission based on information from the field could contribute to its success. Information activities in the field could include providing the local population with accurate, impartial and comprehensive information about the mission's goals. Objective information from the United Nations or other international agencies could enhance not only the success of operations but also personnel safety and security.

131. His delegation acknowledged the importance of expeditious processing of claims and accelerated

reimbursement to countries contributing personnel and equipment to peacekeeping operations.

132. His delegation noted the increasing significance of cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations. The relevance of regional organizations in conflict resolution was indisputable, as they were uniquely qualified to deal with problems emanating from their regions. The success of regional efforts would depend on good relationships among the member States of such organizations, a concurrent political commitment from each of them and the support of the international community through the United Nations.

133. **Mr. Yadav** (Nepal) said that the fundamental principles of United Nations peacekeeping operations remained valid. His delegation recognized fully the logic of providing additional resources to such operations. The urgency of building a system of closer tripartite consultations at all phases of operations could not be overlooked. Nepal was grateful for the assistance provided to it by a number of countries. His delegation believed that United Nations peace efforts had proved instrumental in the maintenance of world peace.

134. **Mr. Droba** (Slovakia) said that his delegation associated itself with the statement made by the representative of Belgium on behalf of the European Union and associated countries.

135. The fact that most of the conflicts currently faced by the international community were internal increased the scope and complexity of peacekeeping operations. It was therefore of vital importance that the Department of Peacekeeping Operations should receive strong support within the structures of the United Nations, as well as from the Member States, and that it should be given sufficient financial, human and technical resources to plan and carry out such operations effectively.

136. His country, which contributed both personnel and equipment to peacekeeping operations, had participated actively in the most recent session of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations. It welcomed the successful outcome of the Committee's work and endorsed its recommendations.

137. The upcoming year, like the past one, would not be an easy one for peacekeeping. The third phase of MONUC was being discussed and planned. UNMIK

continued to play a critical role in its region, and his delegation commended the Mission's contribution to the recently held peaceful elections. The United Nations had also contributed to a great extent to the first free elections in East Timor.

138. His country remained deeply committed to the cause of peace in the world. Its participation in United Nations peacekeeping operations had increased significantly in the past two years: the number of its military and civilian personnel serving in the various missions had reached 600, six times higher than at the end of 1999. In addition to participating in traditional missions such as the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) and the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO), it was operating a hospital set up under UNTAET. Slovak demining experts were working in all three sectors of UNMEE and the Slovak contingent was the lead contingent in one sector of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP).

139. In conclusion, his delegation commended all the men and women serving in United Nations peacekeeping missions for their courage and dedication and paid a special tribute to those who had lost their lives in the noble cause of peace.

140. **Mr. Łuczka** (Poland) said that his delegation agreed fully with the concept of reform of peacekeeping operations presented in the Secretary-General's report (A/55/977). It subscribed to the statement made by the representative of Belgium on behalf of the European Union and associated countries, including Poland, but wished to emphasize the points that were of particular importance to it.

141. Peacekeeping operations continued to be one of the key instruments available to the United Nations for the maintenance of international peace and security. Poland's participation therein would be maintained at the current level or increased.

142. There had been a number of recent developments in United Nations peacekeeping. In that regard, it was important to underline that some of the recommendations of the Brahimi Panel had already been or were being implemented. Current discussions showed that the most crucial issues to be solved were: the decision-making process and mission deployment, especially in the context of cooperation between the Security Council and troop-contributing countries; and further organizational changes within the Secretariat,

including enhancement of its analytical and planning potential.

143. His delegation attached great importance to enhancing the United Nations rapid deployment capacity. In that context, it had decided to allocate one mechanized battalion and 30 military observers for that purpose.

144. His delegation also supported measures to enable the United Nations to conduct multifunctional peace operations effectively. Efforts should focus on securing the participation of a wide range of United Nations agencies and organizations in planning and conducting such operations and, consequently, in ensuring sustainable peace.

145. His delegation actively supported the Department of Peacekeeping Operations in its efforts to improve its internal procedures for recruitment and training.

146. His delegation welcomed the European Union's efforts to build capacities that would allow its active participation in United Nations peace operations. It also hoped for wider cooperation between the United Nations and African States in the areas of conflict prevention, peacekeeping and peace-building.

147. The steadily rising costs of peacekeeping operations made timely reimbursement of the costs borne by troop-contributing countries very important.

148. Ensuring the safety and security of personnel was one of the highest priorities. Progress in the ratification of the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel and the inclusion in the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court of provisions criminalizing attacks against personnel involved in peacekeeping operations would significantly enhance the protection of personnel serving in United Nations missions.

149. **Ms. Ognjanovac** (Croatia) said that, in the past few years, there had been major political and structural changes in peacekeeping operations. The mandates of UNMIK and UNTAET included not just peace-building and peacekeeping, but the organization of elections, institutional capacity-building, restoration of the rule of law and many other responsibilities. Her delegation supported the Special Committee's efforts to reform classical peacekeeping and admired the valuable work done by the Brahimi Panel.

150. However, it was necessary to reform not only peacekeeping operations but also the relationship among the three main organs of the United Nations, namely, the General Assembly, the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council. For instance, the expertise and experience of the Economic and Social Council could be of the utmost importance for the complex tasks of modern peace-building, especially in the fields of protection of human rights, crime prevention and criminal justice, and social and health-related problems. In that regard, the conclusions in the report on the high-level retreat held recently on the theme "The United Nations system in the new millennium: fostering substantive and operational linkages in the implementation of peace" (A/56/607-E/2001/106) deserved attention and further discussion.

151. Her delegation welcomed the Security Council's new approach to the exchange of views with troop-contributing countries, which gave a corrective perspective on events on the ground and improved cooperation among Member States, the Secretariat and the Security Council.

152. Her country was currently participating in two peacekeeping operations, the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL) and UNMEE, in which a modest number of Croatian military observers were serving. It intended to increase its participation in peacekeeping operations, however, to which end appropriate funds had been allocated in its national budget for the coming year.

153. Croatia, which had had five peacekeeping missions on its territory and was itself a contributor to peacekeeping operations, was ready to share its experience and to extend its support to future efforts to reform peacekeeping operations.

154. **Mr. Kwon** Tae-myon (Republic of Korea) noted the considerable progress made in the area of peacekeeping since the publication of the Brahimi report. His delegation was particularly concerned about the strengthening of Headquarters capacity in that area, inter alia, through the expected recruitment of over 200 staff to the corresponding offices, mainly the Department of Peacekeeping Operations. It hoped that that would contribute to enhancing capacity in terms of developing policies for peacekeeping and supporting field missions. Given the ever-changing size and scope of peacekeeping operations, a review of the

Department's structure and staffing level should be conducted regularly and systematically.

155. His delegation was also concerned about rapid and effective deployment capacities. It was not easy to meet the goal of deploying peacekeeping operations within 30 to 90 days after the adoption of the corresponding Security Council resolution. His delegation appreciated the Secretariat's efforts to implement the relevant recommendations in the Brahimi report, including continuous improvement of the Standby Arrangements System. It fully recognized the need to reserve enough materials and equipment for rapid deployment to the field and hoped that the project to create a strategic reserve would be implemented as soon as possible.

156. His delegation was also concerned about ensuring close coordination among all actors engaged in the fields of conflict prevention, peacekeeping and peace-building. There should be continuous discussions among those actors with a view to ensuring a clear division of responsibilities, the prevention of overlapping roles and cost-effective forms of collaboration.

157. Lastly, many troop-contributing countries believed that, as currently conceived, the Secretariat's meetings with them were not meaningful and were mere formalities. Consequently, his delegation hoped that the Security Council would give more serious consideration to that long overdue matter and would find other ways to foster a better trilateral, interactive partnership among the Security Council, the Secretariat and troop-contributing countries.

158. In recent years, peacekeeping missions had expanded not only in size but also in scope. The roles and mandates of such missions tended to become broader and more complex each year. The magnitude of the crisis in Afghanistan, which required United Nations engagement in one form or another, meant that a sense of balance was needed as never before.

159. Under those circumstances, his delegation especially appreciated the work of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations. It fully supported its recommendations and encouraged it to take further measures to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of United Nations peacekeeping operations.

The meeting rose at 1.15 p.m.