



General Assembly

Sixty-fifth session

Official Records

Distr.: General
10 December 2010

Original: English

Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee)

Summary record of the 17th meeting

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Wednesday, 27 October 2010, at 10 a.m.

Chair: Ms. Zamora (Vice-Chairperson) (Costa Rica)

Contents

Agenda item 53: Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects (*continued*)

This record is subject to correction. Corrections should be sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned *within one week of the date of publication* to the Chief of the Official Records Editing Section, room DC2-750, 2 United Nations Plaza, and incorporated in a copy of the record.

Corrections will be issued after the end of the session, in a separate corrigendum for each Committee.

10-60535 (E)



In the absence of Mr. Chipaziwa (Zimbabwe), Ms. Zamora (Costa Rica), Vice-Chairperson, took the Chair.

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

Tribute to the memory of Néstor Kirchner, former President of Argentina

1. **Ms. Horta** (Chile), speaking on behalf of the Rio Group, expressed condolences to the people and Government of Argentina on the death of their former President, Néstor Kirchner.

At the invitation of the Chairperson, the members of the Committee observed a minute of silence.

2. **Ms. Millicay** (Argentina) thanked the Committee for its tribute. Mr. Kirchner had been President of Argentina between 2003 and 2007 and later the spouse of the current President while serving as a deputy in the Congress. His unexpected death just hours earlier was a great loss for her country.

Agenda item 53: Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects *(continued)*

3. **Ms. Anderson** (United States of America) said that the United Nations continued to deploy extremely complex peacekeeping missions in politically fragile and insecure conditions, across vast territories with limited infrastructure, and often — as in the three missions in the Sudan and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, which accounted for more than 50 per cent of all peacekeepers — in the midst of civilians who had endured shocking attacks and abuses. In addition, peacekeepers had been called upon to help Haiti recover from a devastating earthquake and Liberia and Timor-Leste to consolidate their hard-fought peace.

4. The New Horizons agenda had highlighted the importance of stronger partnerships among the Security Council, the Secretariat and Member States, particularly the troop- and police-contributing countries. Secondly, if peacekeepers were asked to take on challenging mandates, such as protecting civilians, they deserved to be equipped to do the job. The United States would be interested to hear from the Secretariat and the troop-contributing countries about any continuing gaps in capacities, such as military helicopters.

5. Protection of civilians, of course, also required the missions to be given practical, focused operational guidance, which had to be continually refined and adjusted at each level of command and in each particular situation. The development by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations of a field-based planning scenario therefore deserved support, and the Secretary-General's next report on the implementation of the recommendations of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations should include information on how that had progressed.

6. Women, the victims of unspeakable violence during conflicts, also held the key to durable solutions in peace processes and needed to be empowered. The Secretary-General's next report should also include specific updates on the prevention of sexual- and gender-based violence or the response to it, and on the steps being taken to enhance women's participation both in missions and peace processes.

7. The United States, convinced that the United Nations policing and peacebuilding capacities had to be enhanced, had committed \$13 million over the past year to predeployment training and equipment to support formed police units and would do the same in the coming year. It strongly advocated the expansion of the standing police capacity and the creation of the justice and corrections capacity and looked forward to an update on those units. The United Nations must also be able to attract and retain highly qualified civilian peacebuilding experts, and the United States had been privileged to play a leading role in the Peacebuilding Commission's recent mission to Liberia. It looked forward to discussing the civilian capacity review and the critical human resources management reforms in other forums; and hoped the Secretary-General's forthcoming report would indicate how the various initiatives to strengthen the United Nations capacities in the rule of law and peacebuilding were being harmonized across the entire system. The United States would also be keen to discuss in the Fifth Committee how the global field support strategy was delivering vital efficiencies and savings, and to learn from the Secretary-General's report how the strategy was leading to more rapid deployment and more effective support for troop- and police-contributing countries.

8. Lastly, the United States welcomed any measure that led to improved performance, whether through the articulation of performance standards for infantry battalions, medical units and staff officers, on which

the Department was now working, or through more stringent criteria for selecting and preparing senior mission leaders. High performance was what host populations most demanded from peacekeepers.

9. **Mr. Wetland** (Norway) said that in its peacekeeping work, the United Nations must deliver as one, which required an ability to prioritize and to think strategically across sectors and institutional divisions. Support for the Secretariat's ongoing efforts in that direction was crucially important. A key area requiring reform was human resources management, which should make it easier to move between postings within the Secretariat, funds and programmes and to recruit qualified field personnel. Also, while the Secretariat should harmonize allowances and work conditions, that must not end up solely as a downward harmonization to the lowest common denominator, and the issue should be addressed with the relevant agencies, funds and programmes as a common concern.

10. Peacekeeping mandates had to be properly resourced. Not only should there be a more vigorous dialogue among the Security Council, the Secretariat and the troop- and police-contributing countries and the United Nations funds and programmes regarding mission planning and implementation, but mandated tasks had to be correlated with the resources provided, and adequate funding should be ensured before mandates were finalized. Member States must be careful not to undermine mandated tasks by pursuing favoured national projects, individual reporting requirements or excessive earmarking of funds. The United Nations itself needed to improve its use of available resources, for which the New Horizon process would offer a solid basis. The upcoming session of the Working Group on Contingent-Owned Equipment should develop a set of economic incentives for a performance-based approach.

11. It was vital for United Nations troops to do more to protect civilians where and when they had the capacity to do so, even though it should be absolutely clear that it was not the direct and primary responsibility of the United Nations. Its role was first and foremost to assist host countries to strengthen their own capacity to protect; and good governance, security and justice sector reform were key in that regard. Any use of sexual violence against civilians as a weapon of war also had to be seriously addressed in the context of protection.

12. More must be done to engage and empower women to help protect civilians, and to include them in the peace process and the preparation and implementation of relevant programmes. UN Women should surely become involved in implementing the various Security Council resolutions on the question. Member States as well should seek to provide more women peacekeepers: Norway itself was looking forward to appointing a woman commander soon.

13. Enhanced cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations was important. The opening of a United Nations office to coordinate with the African Union in Addis Ababa was a welcome advance in the partnership between the two bodies.

14. Lastly, robust, genuine and inclusive political processes were needed if United Nations peacekeeping efforts were to succeed. The role of political operations, when mandated by the Security Council, and the extent to which they should receive assessed contributions, needed further discussion.

15. **Mr. Churkin** (Russian Federation), reviewing the capacity needs of peacekeeping operations, drew attention to the acute shortages in the area of air support, in particular of military utility helicopters. Those problems were further exacerbated by the growing scale and complexity of peacekeeping operations and the emergence of new, transboundary threats to peace and security. Where post-conflict peacebuilding was concerned, he said that peacekeeping forces should not be overburdened with early recovery tasks. Those should be pursued vigorously by such bodies as the Peacebuilding Commission and other specialized bodies of the United Nations system and by regional organizations. Noting the growing role played by the police contingents and civilian elements of peacekeeping operations, he said that greater attention should be given to that aspect of peacekeeping work.

16. Turning to the issue of the military expertise within the Security Council, he recalled the proposal by the Russian Federation to inject new vigour into the work of the Military Staff Committee and conveyed his delegation's readiness to discuss proposals for the work of that committee with all interested parties. He also drew attention to the need for more effective interaction between the United Nations and regional organizations in the area of peacekeeping. In touch with local conditions, regional organizations had

considerable potential in the area of preventive diplomacy and, when working in concert with global peacekeeping operations in a manner consistent with the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations, specifically its chapter VIII, could achieve significant results, as demonstrated by the operations in Darfur and Somalia. In that context, his delegation encouraged stronger cooperation between the United Nations and other non-traditional partners, in particular the Collective Security Treaty Organization and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization.

17. Noting the value of preventive diplomacy in warding off the emergence of new hotspots, he stressed the need for meticulous care by all sides in preparing such diplomatic initiatives and warned that there was no one-size-fits-all means of preventing conflicts. A balanced strategy, attuned to the linkages between security, social and economic development and human rights, had to be pursued and the process led by the governments themselves. In that context, he reiterated his Government's unswerving adherence to the principle that peacekeeping operations must be conducted in strict compliance with the Charter and the decisions of the Security Council.

18. Reviewing the contribution made by his country to peacekeeping operations around the world, he noted that its annual contribution to the Peacekeeping Reserve Fund amounted to some US\$ 2 million and conveyed its conviction that the United Nations should be concerned not just with responding to regional conflicts but should also work in vulnerable regions to eliminate the conditions conducive to their future destabilization. Lastly, he stressed that, in further developing its peacekeeping work, the United Nations should continue to give priority to the principles of national responsibility, the coherence, efficiency and flexibility of international assistance and the need for institution-building in countries returning to peace.

19. **Mr. Rai** (Nepal) said that as peacekeeping strategies evolved to meet changing challenges and settings, most countries were frustrated both by the slow deployment and the slow progress in achieving the mandates. Firm political support was needed to address the complex problems promptly and effectively.

20. Mandates must be clear and achievable and must reflect the available resources, while the Security Council, the troop-contributing countries and the Secretariat must be constructively engaged, and a true

global partnership formed to fill critical equipment gaps. The protection of civilians remained one of the most challenging tasks, requiring accurate and timely information and air mobility for the troops on the ground. The involvement of the United Nations in the predeployment training conducted by the various troop- and police-contributing countries would help to standardize training, which should always be tailored to the conditions in the field. The global field support strategy was promising in that regard.

21. Peacekeeping and peacebuilding went hand in hand as means of ensuring the host countries' socio-economic development and sustained stability. The incorporation of peacebuilding components in the early stages of peacekeeping would prevent a relapse into conflict and would help develop mutual understanding among the peacekeepers and the local population. Since the peacekeepers were the ones risking their lives in harsh conditions, it was high time to review the question of troop payments, which had not been done since 2002. Also, death and disability claims had to be processed quickly and the procedure for reimbursement streamlined.

22. Since 1958, Nepal had contributed more than 80,000 peacekeepers, and currently over 5,000 were deployed in 13 different missions, including the most challenging ones. It expected to increase the number of its female peacekeepers and was determined not to tolerate any sexual exploitation or abuse by its peacekeepers. Its own well-established peacekeeping training centre conducted three months' predeployment training for the contingents, the staff officers and the military observers, and included regional courses. There should be equitable recruitment for senior positions in field missions from all contributing countries, and the safety and security of the personnel in the field should be an absolute priority.

23. **Ms. Khan** (Bangladesh) said that peacekeeping missions had become multidimensional and more complex over the years and that, although there was only a thin line between them, the two complementary processes of peacekeeping and peacebuilding served to establish sustainable peace. Peacekeeping had opened up a new horizon for different nations to combine their thoughts, abilities and commitments in a common humanitarian cause.

24. Bangladesh had played a cardinal role in contributing troops and police: since 1988 Bangladesh

had been involved in 36 missions, with approximately 97,000 peacekeepers, and currently had the most personnel in the field. Even the deaths of its peacekeepers — as many as 100 — had not weakened its determination. Bangladesh also favoured gender mainstreaming in all operations, and had recently deployed a full female police contingent in Haiti.

25. The success of a peacekeeping mission largely depended on the political support it received and on adequate and timely provision of financial, logistical and human resources. The United Nations must ensure the support of the host government, and ensure inclusive consultations between the Security Council, the Secretariat and the troop-contributing countries, whose views had to be heard when deciding on new missions and their initial mandates, extending them or amending mandates.

26. At the operational level, partnership must be forged through coordination with the host government and among all parties working in the field, between the United Nations and regional organizations, and within the United Nations system itself.

27. The safety and security of the peacekeepers should be the top priority for all. Having achievable targets, contingency plans and exit strategies would help in that regard. As peacekeeping became more complex, the process must be inclusive, decision-making must be representative and burden-sharing must be proportionate. Fair representation of the troop-contributing countries was needed in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Field Support.

28. **Ms. Gankhuurai** (Mongolia) said that peacekeeping remained a dynamic and essential part of the international community's response to international threats to peace and security. There had been encouraging progress in building partnerships and effective mechanisms for systematic triangular consultations between Member States, the Security Council and the Secretariat. The Security Council Working Group on Peacekeeping Operations was actively engaged in promoting understanding of the policy strategies and addressing the gap between mandates and their implementation on the ground. Useful thematic briefings had also been held to ensure the involvement of the troop- and police-contributing countries throughout all stages of operations.

29. The global field support strategy offered a broad and useful framework for making services more effective and expediting them. While recognizing the challenges faced by the Organization in providing logistical, administrative and communications support for peacekeeping operations, Mongolia, as one of the troop-contributing countries, welcomed the more integrated approach being taken to enable timely mission start-up and deployment and improve the quality of services delivered to field missions. Modularized service packages was one appealing element of the global field service strategy. The human resources dimension, including the recognition of the role of women in peace processes, was another. Her own Government's policy was to increase the number of Mongolian women peacekeepers in the years ahead. The legitimacy and universality of United Nations peacekeeping was unique and her country was proud to serve as a member of the peacekeeping family.

30. **Mr. Ng Chin Huat** (Malaysia) said that his delegation was encouraged that discussions had taken place between the Security Council, the troop- and police-contributing countries and the Secretariat and hoped that such triangular relations would continue. His delegation was also encouraged that the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Field Support were responding well to the demands they faced and were addressing those challenges through policy development, capability development, a global field support strategy and planning and oversight. In that regard, it was encouraged by the progress report on the New Horizon initiative, as well as the progress achieved thus far with the global field support strategy. It recognized the urgent need for and the importance of protection of civilians in armed conflicts where mandated, following the increasing incidence of sexual violence against civilians in armed conflicts.

31. In the light of all the challenges confronting United Nations peacekeeping operations, his delegation felt that training must be further strengthened. Training should be assessed and amended in line with peacekeeping demands, so as to ensure that mandated tasks, especially with respect to the protection of civilians, were fully understood and could be executed by peacekeepers in the field. His delegation was aware of the increasing cost of managing and maintaining all peacekeeping operations as well as the shortfalls in vital assets. It was critical for members of the United

Nations to continue to provide firm and unwavering support, especially in the areas of human, financial and vital logistical support. The Department of Field Support should continue prioritizing and identifying vital logistical needs in order to enable peacekeepers to conduct their roles and tasks effectively and efficiently. However, consultations with Member States should be held so as to ensure transparency in the procurement process.

32. Socio-economic progress could only be possible in a climate of peace, stability and security. In that regard, peacekeeping operations played a significant role in countries affected by conflict. Peacekeeping and peacebuilding should go hand-in-hand at the earliest possible time. However, peacebuilding was a national responsibility, and it was up to host nations to decide on their socio-economic development plan, while international partners should facilitate and assist them in realizing the goals set in the plan. Therefore, peacebuilding must be carefully calibrated, well-coordinated and implemented.

33. **Ms. Ojiambo** (Kenya) said that the complex multidimensional tasks involved in present-day peacekeeping operations required constant review in order to ensure that they adequately addressed modern conflict challenges and realities. Referring to the non-paper issued by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Field Support entitled "The New Horizon Initiative: Progress Report No. 1", she stressed that peacekeeping operations must remain rooted in the three basic principles of consent of the parties, impartiality and non-use of force except in self-defence and in defence of Security Council mandates.

34. Regional and subregional organizations were increasingly undertaking conflict resolution in accordance with Chapter VIII of the Charter. The African Union, for instance, had intervened to stabilize conflict situations in Burundi, Darfur and currently in Somalia, setting the stage for subsequent "re-hatting" by the United Nations. However, if the African Union was to successfully undertake such responsibilities in future, its peacekeeping capacity especially for tasks mandated by the Security Council, must be enhanced through sustained, predictable and flexible financing. Towards that end, the recommendations of the report prepared by the African Union-United Nations Panel on modalities for support to African Union peacekeeping operations should be expeditiously

implemented to enhance the partnership between the two organizations. Her delegation also welcomed the recent creation of the United Nations Office to the African Union, which would help in streamlining channels of interaction between the two partner organizations in future peace and security engagements.

35. Kenya would continue to support United Nations and African Union initiatives in the maintenance of international peace and security, especially in the Great Lakes region, including through the provision of Kenyan peacekeepers and the hosting of peace summits in the region.

36. Noting that enhanced dialogue and interaction among the Security Council, the United Nations Secretariat and the troop-contributing countries was essential to success in peacekeeping operations, she called for stronger and transparent triangular cooperation through consultations during all stages of a peacekeeping operation. Expressing concern over the reimbursements owed to troop-contributing countries and the low rates of reimbursement, she said that her delegation looked forward to future expeditious processing of reimbursements and to the deliberations of the forthcoming 2011 Working Group on Contingent-Owned Equipment tasked to carry out a comprehensive review of reimbursement rates.

37. Since the quality of troops was more desirable than sheer numbers, she encouraged troop-contributing countries to contribute properly trained personnel to peacekeeping operations. That could only be achieved where predeployment training modules were standardized and delivered in a coherent and coordinated manner in the various leading peace support centres based in troop-contributing countries with extensive experience in peacekeeping operations. The International Peace Support Training Centre based in Kenya was an existing capacity in Africa which could be utilized with the assistance and support of the United Nations Secretariat.

38. Referring to the growing concern over the safety and security of United Nations peacekeepers, she said that, while her delegation condemned the killing of United Nations peacekeeping personnel, including targeted attacks against them, the best assurance against such risks was to ensure that peacekeeping missions were only deployed to support an all-inclusive political process which enjoyed the commitment of all parties to the conflict while

peacekeeping troops were also provided with clear, achievable and well-resourced mandates.

39. The low numbers of female uniformed personnel serving in United Nations peacekeeping missions was a betrayal to the spirit of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000). Since women brought an essential dimension to peacekeeping, deliberate efforts needed to be made to increase their role in peacekeeping. Her delegation accordingly welcomed the Department of Peacekeeping Operations/Department of Field Support Guidelines on Integrating a gender perspective into the work of the United Nations military in peacekeeping operations.

40. Peacekeeping missions were increasingly being mandated to undertake protection of civilian tasks. While that was the primary responsibility of the national authorities, clear guidelines on the protection of civilians should be formulated that underlined distinct roles of the various actors involved in the protection of civilians in field missions.

41. **Mr. Kohona** (Sri Lanka) said that the huge scale and complexity of mandates of peacekeeping operations dictated that reform initiatives should be kept under careful review so as to develop a better model of sustainability. In that regard, the mandates for peacekeeping missions should not only be clear and operable, but should be developed, wherever possible, in consultation with recipient States. To achieve sustainable peace, there must be a clear emphasis on economic development, institution-building and strengthening of national security structures. Noting that exit strategies were also central to the proper management of peacekeeping operations, he stressed the need for a continuous review of goals which took into account local sensitivities and needs.

42. Improvement of the quality of peacekeeping was an important step in the Organization's peacekeeping capacity-building. In that regard, he welcomed the Secretariat's efforts to provide support to potential troop contributors and expressed the hope that developed countries with the relevant financial and technical capabilities would play an active role in that area. His delegation welcomed the Secretariat's efforts to strengthen and upgrade the logistical support system, optimizing operational procedures and speeding up the deployment of peacekeeping missions.

43. Stressing the need to encourage more countries to engage in peacekeeping as troop contributors, he said

that the Department of Peacekeeping Operations should also integrate the gender dimension in all peacekeeping missions. Sri Lanka, which was now in a position to increase its United Nations peacekeeping troop contribution, had considerable experience in combating terrorism, and its troops possessed considerable operational experience and expertise that could be put to good use in United Nations peacekeeping and peacebuilding efforts. Recently, Sri Lanka had also expressed its interest in deploying women peacekeepers at battalion strength. It also stood ready to deploy its naval assets to assist in combating pirates in Somali waters or any other place where required under the United Nations umbrella.

44. **Mr. Kodama** (Japan), said that the most critical challenge facing the international community with regard to peacekeeping was the urgent need to address capacity gaps between Security Council mandates and their implementation. He welcomed the steady progress made on the New Horizon initiative and encouraged the Secretariat to continue its endeavours to strengthen and bolster the effectiveness of peacekeeping operations. His delegation also looked forward to the completion of the civilian capacities review being undertaken by the Peacebuilding Support Office.

45. As Chairman of the Security Council Working Group on Peacekeeping Operations, Japan had contributed to revitalizing discussions, particularly with a view to enhancing cooperation with major troop- and police-contributing countries, along with other stakeholders, including major financial contributors, the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations and regional organizations. It would remain committed to finding solutions to the current challenges facing peacekeeping operations even after chairmanship of the Working Group ended in 2010. Peacekeeping and peacebuilding were inter-connected activities and should be conducted in parallel. While discussions on those two issues were important, what was really crucial was making a difference on the ground. Success stories in that regard were the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL), which had recently been placed on the agenda of the Peacebuilding Commission, and the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste (UNMIT), which was expected to complete its mission by 2012. The international community must see to it that those missions would succeed in achieving sustainable peace. Japan stood ready to support that goal.

46. **Mr. Nyakarundi** (Rwanda) said that the fluid nature of conflicts today made a comprehensive review of peacekeeping operations particularly pertinent. In that respect, his delegation welcomed the progress report on the New Horizon Initiative and looked forward to continued open and transparent consultations among all stakeholders.

47. Having been a victim of the failure of a United Nations peacekeeping mission, over the years Rwanda had demonstrated a strong commitment to improving peacekeeping operations. At present, Rwandan peacekeepers were serving in seven United Nations peacekeeping missions around the world, and Rwanda was still committed to provide support in addressing existing shortfalls. Regional peacekeeping efforts should be strengthened, as regional organizations were able to deploy rapidly and had a unique advantage in being able to intervene in a timely and decisive manner. In that regard, he welcomed the recent report of the Secretary-General on Support to African Union peacekeeping operations authorized by the United Nations.

48. One of the key requirements for the success of a peacekeeping mission was a clear and achievable mandate that reflected the realities on the ground. Troop-contributing countries should be consulted in the development and implementation of mandates, which should be matched with adequate resources to ensure their effective execution. Peacekeeping would also benefit from a larger presence and representation of troop-contributing countries at the managerial and operational levels, both at Headquarters and in the field.

49. While the Department of Field Support had improved the rate at which it processed claims for death and disability, much remained to be done, to shorten bureaucratic procedures. He urged the United Nations to settle the arrears to troop-contributing countries and put in place an adequate system that would allow for timely reimbursement, which was essential to the effective execution of peacekeeping mandates.

50. The safety and security of United Nations peacekeepers also gave cause for concern. There was a critical need for air cover and air reconnaissance in support of mounted patrols. Furthermore, he urged the United Nations to improve accommodation for troops, as provided for in the relevant memorandum of understanding, in places like Darfur.

51. His delegation, which deplored the suffering of civilians in armed conflicts, urged all stakeholders, including peacekeepers, to do their utmost to alleviate such suffering without prejudice to the responsibility of the host nation. Peacekeepers should be provided with adequate resources, mandates and training to enable them to carry out that task in support of the host nation.

52. He stressed the importance of improving women's participation in United Nations peacekeeping operations and called for their involvement at all levels, including in decision-making. In addition to the number of women in the existing contingent, Rwanda had recently deployed 90 female police officers and was ready to continue working with the United Nations in order to achieve the existing targets.

53. **Mr. Mgokwere** (Nigeria) said that the enormous challenges and increasing complexity of peacekeeping made the Brahimi peace-reform agenda relevant. While some strategic and institutional changes had been made to improve the Organization's peacekeeping efforts, much remained to be done. International peace and security were a collective responsibility that must be addressed primarily by the Security Council. It was therefore necessary to strengthen regional and subregional rapid deployment capacities. In that connection, the Secretary-General might wish to consider the implication of supporting initiatives such as the Nigerian Army Peacekeeping Centre in Jaji, with a view to strengthening its capacity and upgrading it to train and prepare the African Standby Force and the critical manpower required for early peacebuilding.

54. The shortage of key equipment required to carry out United Nations mandates in many missions — including helicopters, which were critical to the mobility of peacekeepers, the protection of civilians, and the realization of the missions' overall mandates — had created a yawning gap between expectation and performance. He called for a paradigm shift from need-driven to capacity-driven peacekeeping. While the former was a recipe for disastrous peacekeeping outcomes, the latter had a high probability of success.

55. There was a need to maximize synergy arising from better coordination and coherence within the United Nations system and between the system and troop-contributing countries, as well as the Secretariat. The nexus between peacekeeping, peacebuilding, security and development was so close that neglecting one rendered the others futile. In that context, no

enduring peace could be achieved without laying a solid foundation for sustainable development. In addition, the United Nations must pursue a credible funding option which would guarantee that peacekeeping resources — material, human and financial — were predictable, sustainable and flexible.

56. Local conflicts should be understood within the broader context of the region and subregion in which they occurred. In that connection, there was a strong need for collaboration between the Security Council and the various regions in accordance with Security Council resolutions 1625 (2005) and 1631 (2005), as well as with Chapter VIII of the Charter.

57. Peacekeeping should give priority to the protection of the most vulnerable members of society, particularly women and children. Nigeria shared the view that there should be zero tolerance for gender-based violence such as mass rape. Adequate provision should be made for the protection of civilians in armed conflicts in accordance with international law.

58. **Mr. Thomson** (Fiji) said that regular review and reform by the Secretariat of peacekeeping operations, and the improved dialogue between the Security Council troop- and police-contributing countries and host countries, had in fact produced better strategies, renewed political consensus and better coordination, cooperation and partnerships. Fiji welcomed the New Horizon process as an essential framework for such a global partnership.

59. All peacekeeping operations must be given sufficient logistical and administrative support. Accountability and transparency were important, but even more critical was the focus on performance, with regular reviews to ensure that valid service was being provided. His delegation thus supported the development and implementation of the global field support strategy, to ensure efficiency in the field with smoother deployment processes. The success of peacekeeping missions relied also on command and control, with clear channels of command between the officers in the field and the decision makers in New York to ensure that informed, timely decisions were made.

60. Peacekeeping should be firmly rooted in Charter principles. At the same time, it should not detract from the main task at hand, that of addressing the root causes of conflict. Mission mandates should be based on thorough, ongoing assessment, sound intelligence

and availability of the requisite funding. While assessed contributions had served the United Nations well in the past, other funding possibilities could be considered. The kind of triangular cooperation on which Fiji relied from its development partners could be designed to produce cost-effective and mutually advantageous models to better meet some of the demands of United Nations peacekeeping and peacebuilding.

61. Fiji was committed to meeting the goals set out in the four broad thematic areas of the system-wide action plan for the implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000): for instance, it strongly encouraged the recruitment of women in its own security forces and their deployment, with equal opportunities, to peacekeeping missions, where it hoped to increase the number of women police officers to 20 per cent by 2014. Fiji also supported the subsequent Security Council resolutions that had reinforced the principles set out in resolution 1325 (2000) by calling for greater participation by women in decision-making and an end to sexual violence and impunity.

62. His delegation, in addition, reaffirmed its support for Security Council resolution 1894 (2009) emphasizing that mandates for peacekeeping operations should properly address the issue of civilian protection. It was, furthermore, important to maintain high standards of discipline and professionalism among peacekeepers, for acts of misconduct undermined a mission. The United Nations and the troop contributors could ill afford to send troops that were not physically and mentally prepared for field missions, and thus there must be strong emphasis on predeployment training and counselling to ensure exemplary performance. Specialized training — with international assistance and an exchange of best practices — would also be required to meet the growing demand for specialized capabilities.

63. At times peacekeeping was a thankless task. The United Nations asked much of its peacekeepers and peacebuilders, who were shouldering burdens of danger, loneliness and boredom. At the very least, since peacekeeping and peacebuilding were a collective international endeavour, those at Headquarters should give those on the ground the very best of their support.

64. **Mr. Sefue** (United Republic of Tanzania) commended the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Field Support for their work in managing and supporting 16 United Nations peacekeeping missions worldwide, the highest number ever in the history of the operations. Their joint leadership was generating visionary initiatives to improve both the normative and the operational aspects of peacekeeping to meet new challenges in the twenty-first century.

65. They had made welcome efforts to develop operational partnerships with regional organizations to enhance peacekeeping operations. The useful and legitimate partnership between the United Nations and the African Union should be expanded, in order to improve the planning, deployment and management capacity of African peacekeeping operations and to ensure predictable, sustainable and flexible funding. The current financial frameworks for partnership in peacekeeping operations were not conducive to building a long-term strategy. His Government thus especially welcomed the Secretary-General's commitment to putting the support package for the African Union Mission in Somalia, in particular, on a par with that of United Nations peacekeeping operations, and the same should be done for the reimbursement rate for contingent personnel, and for the funding of contingent-owned equipment reimbursements. The African countries that had committed troops to the Somalia mission must be given the additional support needed to make deployment possible and timely.

66. Although the host government had the primary responsibility for the protection of its civilians, there had been cases where United Nations missions had had to assume that responsibility. That presupposed that the requisite financial, material and personnel resources would be available and that troop and police personnel would be given standardized training. The exponential growth in peacekeeping operations made them, at the current budget of over \$7 billion, the most expensive activity of the United Nations. Action had too often been triggered by the sudden outbreak of violence rather than by the need to prevent conflicts. Peacekeeping had been turned into a firefighting rather than a fire-prevention mechanism. Not only was peacekeeping expensive, troop deployments were at best only temporary, and often ill-equipped to provide durable solutions to conflicts. The international

community must do more to address the intrinsic elements that ignited and fuelled conflicts. That was why in Africa the focus had been first on conflict prevention, then conflict management and finally conflict resolution.

67. His Government encouraged both Departments to continue developing strategies that incorporated and facilitated a seamless transition to peacebuilding activities by addressing the areas of humanitarian response, transitional governance, and reconstruction and development in post-conflict situations, in partnership with regional organizations.

68. **Mr. Mana** (Cameroon), welcoming the recent informal analysis of ways of achieving a new partnership in United Nations peacekeeping, said that the essential principles that should guide any peacekeeping operation were: the consent of the parties, the non-use of force except in self-defence, respect for the Charter principles of sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence of States; neutrality, and universality. The Security Council, the Secretariat and the General Assembly had to work together to make peacekeeping operations more effective.

69. The very concept of peacekeeping had evolved over the past 60 years because of the growing complexity of the conflicts and it had become a crisis-management mechanism. Peacekeeping missions were now multidimensional, with both military and civilian components, and were moving into the complex area of peacebuilding, which itself required caution and overlap. Missions now often incorporated the peace initiatives of regional organizations working in conjunction with the United Nations, as in the case of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur. The number of troops deployed had obviously increased as the scope of missions widened, with serious financial implications. The management of peacekeeping operations had also become correspondingly complex and challenging, often in an unfavourable local and international environment.

70. The considerable political, human and financial cost of peacekeeping missions and the severe constraints under which they operated might prompt troop contributors to become disengaged. Yet the imperative of keeping the peace demanded that the contributing countries not succumb to the temptation but instead increase their contributions.

71. The New Horizon initiative clearly aimed to perfect current and future United Nations peacekeeping operations by making them more effective within the available resources. Such a reform should be a collective endeavour and the fruit of a dialogue between all involved that enabled the various partners to agree on a programme of feasible objectives.

72. Quality training for the personnel to be deployed was one of the prime objectives. Accordingly, Cameroon had in 2008 set up an international school for security forces that provided training for military, police and civilian personnel, and was part of the effort to create an African crisis-management capacity. With the support of partner countries and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, the school would soon provide the standard of training required for all peacekeeping missions. It had already helped to train police and law enforcement personnel for deployment in United Nations peacekeeping operations in Africa. Cameroon encouraged Member States from all continents to help implement the crisis-management mechanisms developed by the African Union and various subregional organizations.

73. In the past year, Cameroon had increased the number of civilian and military personnel it had contributed to a number of United Nations missions and African institutions and had offered logistical support to missions in neighbouring countries.

74. **Mr. Al Habib** (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that the United Nations, having the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security, should act in accordance with Charter principles, especially the principles of sovereignty, territorial integrity and non-intervention in the internal affairs of States; and its peacekeeping missions should be conducted in full conformity with the Charter and the established principles of peacekeeping. Any new concepts developed to address emerging needs and the demands of complex, multidimensional peacekeeping operations should also conform to the agreed principles and guidelines governing peacekeeping and should be consistent in the use of agreed terminology. The General Assembly and the Special Committee could best help to devise responses to emerging issues.

75. Peacekeeping and peacebuilding were interrelated and it was critical to incorporate peacebuilding into the early phases of mission planning. In order to have a seamless transition between peacekeeping and

peacebuilding, the basis must be laid for lasting socio-economic development of the host country, and locally owned capacity-building processes must be created that would enable the host country to perform key security and governance functions independently.

76. The protection of civilians was primarily the responsibility of the host country, but where a mission had been given a mandate to protect civilians, a comprehensive approach should be taken that encompassed timely and adequate resources, logistical support, training, and clear and achievable objectives.

77. Although peacekeeping operations had reportedly entered a consolidation phase, the challenges being faced had not yet diminished and still required comprehensive consultations among the major stakeholders — the Security Council, the Secretariat, the troop contributors and the host countries. All Secretariat strategies and policies on peacekeeping should be the product of an open and inclusive intergovernmental dialogue.

78. Peacekeeping by regional arrangements and agencies should conform to Chapter VIII of the Charter and their operations should in no way be a substitute of those of the United Nations, circumvent full application of the guiding principles of the United Nations on peacekeeping, or absolve the Organization of its primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security.

79. If peacekeeping operations were to be successful, the Organization should address the root causes of conflict and crises. A number of missions had been set up in response to military aggression and occupation — such was the case of all three peacekeeping missions in the Middle East — and the only way to ensure their success was to put pressure on the aggressor State to withdraw unconditionally from all occupied Territories.

80. **Mr. Santa Cruz Arandia** (Plurinational State of Bolivia) said that his country, a pacifist nation, endorsed the established guiding principles of peacekeeping operations. International peacekeeping created the conditions of peace and stability that were prerequisites for comprehensive and sustainable development in the States concerned.

81. Even though the Secretariat had made efforts to set out clear policies and guidelines for the troops in the field, more needed to be done to establish clear mandates, adequate capabilities and resources, suitable

training, the security and well-being of the peacekeepers and the necessary incentives for effective peacekeeping missions. That required a timely exchange of information, transparency and active coordination between the host country, the Special Committee and the troop- and police-contributing countries. In that regard, his Government was concerned when decisions were adopted without informing, coordinating with and consulting the troop- and police-contributing countries — mainly developing countries — which were going to great lengths to help preserve peace.

82. He welcomed the informal proposals the Secretariat had developed as part of its New Horizon initiative and urged it to produce its recommendations for reform in consultation with the troop- and police-contributing countries. The goal should be to strengthen operational capacities and organizational structures primarily in the field and to reinvigorate the administration, planning and conduct of the peacekeeping operations, in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter.

83. His delegation recognized the progress made in implementing the United Nations Comprehensive Strategy on Assistance and Support to Victims of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse by United Nations Staff and Related Personnel. It also noted the efforts of the Secretariat to improve and standardize training procedures for peacekeeping personnel and to provide training in the concept of peacekeeping, all efforts that required constant interaction among all involved.

84. The Secretariat was also making an effort to reimburse the troop- and police-contributing countries rapidly and adequately, but it should establish practical methods that were fair to all Member States, in terms also of contingent-owned equipment.

85. Bolivia would continue to contribute its most precious human resources to peacekeeping missions.

86. **Mr. Christian** (Ghana) said that United Nations peacekeeping activities were taking on a more complex and demanding dimension that required long-term strategic planning and appropriate reforms. In that regard, he reaffirmed Ghana's support for the reform agenda being undertaken by the Departments of Peacekeeping Operations and Field Support, in close consultation with troop- and police-contributing countries, within the context of the New Horizon initiative and the global field support strategy. The

Secretariat should continuously and genuinely engage troop- and police-contributing countries to ensure the successful execution of mandates in peacekeeping operations. The ability of the United Nations to overcome emerging challenges with regard to bridging the gap between operational capabilities and the expectations of the localities where peacekeeping activities took place depended on the adoption of unambiguous, realistic and achievable mandates. The Security Council needed to refine mission mandates to take into account the expected challenges in the field, notably by adjusting the rules of engagement for field personnel as and when the need arose, providing practical deployment and exit timelines and increasing authority to field operations. It was imperative for the Security Council to elicit the views of potential troop- and police-contributing countries, as well as identifiable political actors on the ground, before its consideration and adoption of mission mandates, as well as prior to the renewal or review of existing mandates. Troop- and police-contributing countries should be involved early and fully in all stages and aspects of mission planning, since that would contribute to a more inclusive decision-making process.

87. He noted, with regard to reimbursements owed to troop- and police-contributing countries, that, while there had been some improvement, despite financial constraints, the Secretariat should do its utmost to return the situation to normalcy to enable troop- and police-contributing countries to maintain their participation in current United Nations peacekeeping assignments.

88. Referring to the payment of compensation for the death and disability of peacekeepers, he said that more needed to be done by the appropriate bodies within the Secretariat to ensure the rapid processing of such claims.

89. As one of the top contributors of troops and police personnel, Ghana remained unwavering in its commitment to the ideals and objectives of the United Nations and would continue to provide materiel and troops, both military and police, in support of United Nations peacekeeping operations around the globe to ensure the fulfilment of the mandate of the Organization.

90. **Mr. Kim** Bong-hyun (Republic of Korea) said that close cooperation and coordination among the Secretariat, the Security Council and troop- and police-contributing countries, as well as countries that made

financial contributions, were absolutely essential to the success of peacekeeping operations. His delegation, a firm supporter of the New Horizon process launched in 2009 in an effort to enhance partnerships with troop- and police-contributing countries, welcomed the first progress report on the New Horizon initiative.

91. Beyond more streamlined and effective coordination among various actors and stakeholders, a global rapid deployment system was absolutely key to ensuring that operations were effective and efficient. In that regard, his delegation welcomed the recent efforts by the Department of Field Support to provide regular briefings on its work, including its implementation of the global field support strategy, as a measure to promote greater transparency and accountability. However, rapid deployment must not be the only aspect of planning during the early stages of a mission. As operations had become increasingly multidimensional, peacekeeping should be pursued systematically alongside cohesive peacebuilding efforts.

92. In order to ensure sustainability and success, peacekeeping must extend beyond meeting immediate needs, such as overseeing ceasefires and protecting civilians, to laying down the foundations for sustainable peace. Only when the basic infrastructure for sustainable peace was in place could peacekeeping operations disengage successfully, resulting in a smooth transition and a timely exit.

93. His delegation welcomed the remarkable increase in the number of women serving in the field, including in senior civilian positions, and hoped that the role of women in promoting peace and security could be enhanced in all United Nations peace operations.

94. His delegation was still concerned about the lack of resources and support for key missions of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, including the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO), which was struggling to protect civilians from armed groups roaming over areas and that committed atrocities, including mass rapes. In that regard, his delegation hoped that there would be increased coordination between the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict and the mission heads.

95. **Mr. Sorreta** (Philippines) said that the sixty-fifth anniversary of the United Nations had been commemorated in the Philippines by honouring three

Filipino peacekeepers, two of them female peacekeepers, who had lost their lives during the devastating earthquake that had struck Port-au-Prince at the start of 2010. While grieving for the loss of its troops, the Philippines celebrated the millions of lives that were saved every day by the bravery of its heroes. The Philippines stood firm in the belief that peacekeeping continued to be an indispensable instrument for ridding the world of conflict and paving the way for peace.

96. He reiterated the need to ensure the safety and security of peacekeepers and the Government welcomed the commitment made by the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations to re-open the investigation into the unnecessary death of a Filipino, Lieutenant-Colonel, who had died of malaria in 2007 while serving as a military observer in the Sudan. The Philippine position remained that the United Nations doctor who had failed to extend prompt medical attention to the Filipino Lieutenant-Colonel should be dismissed and barred from serving in other peacekeeping missions.

97. His delegation welcomed the first progress report on the New Horizon reform initiative and the heightened interaction and dialogue among the Secretariat, the General Assembly, the Security Council, troop- and police-contributing countries and other key stakeholders. As a troop- and police-contributing country involved in seven peacekeeping missions, the Philippines believed that its experiences in the field would contribute to the four focus areas of the reform agenda, namely, policy development, capability development, the global field support strategy and planning and oversight. The new dynamics in the field of peacekeeping also presented an opportunity to look more closely into the relationship between peacekeeping and peacebuilding. His delegation supported the ongoing peacebuilding architecture review and looked forward to a debate on the issue in the General Assembly.

98. As in previous years, his delegation reiterated its call on more developed Member States to take on major peacekeeping roles. Their presence and active participation in peacekeeping missions would undoubtedly provide a major boost to global peacekeeping efforts.

99. **Mr. Zhao** Baogang (China) said that he wished to reaffirm China's support for United Nations

peacekeeping efforts, including the reform of its peacekeeping to align it more closely with the three Hammarskjöld principles of neutrality, the consent of parties, and the non-use of force except in self-defence. The Organization's peacekeeping mandate should be consistent with its actual capacity. Indeed, some peacekeeping operations were seriously overstretched, while others were required to support government forces against rebels, creating the risk of their becoming party to the conflict. Highlighting the need to step up assistance to troop-contributing countries, he called on the developed countries to ensure an adequate response to the human resources and technological needs of peacekeeping operations.

100. In addition, he highlighted the need to strengthen, coordinate and clarify the distinction between peacekeeping and peacebuilding work. Peacekeeping and peacebuilding efforts should incorporate an exit strategy, and the limited peacekeeping and peacebuilding resources should be focused on those areas of greatest need. The assistance of the business sector, international financial institutions and relevant regional organizations should be mobilized in that effort, with a view to helping countries emerging from conflict to achieve long-term stability.

101. He also drew attention to the need to provide logistical support for peacekeeping operations and to avoid inefficiency and waste of resources. To that end, he endorsed the recommendation in the Secretary-General's report on the global field support strategy (A/64/633) that the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi should be strengthened and the existing base in Entebbe reprofiled as a regional hub. China looked forward to hearing the views of other Member States on that initiative, with a view to ensuring its sound implementation.

102. Lastly, China was of the view that, as most United Nations peacekeeping operations were deployed in Africa, the United Nations and the African Union should step up their cooperation in the field of peacekeeping, with due respect for the aspirations and choice of African countries. To that end, more support should be provided in such areas as institution-building, training and information exchange, and efforts made to set in place predictable, sustainable and flexible funding arrangements.

The meeting rose at 12.50 p.m.