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Chair: Mr. Bhattarai. (Nepal)

Contents

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

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

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

1. **Ms. Bolaños Pérez** (Guatemala) said that peacekeeping operations were central to maintaining international peace and security and their operational capacity and organizational structure should be strengthened. Her delegation looked forward to receiving more details on the scope, composition and structure of the High-Level Independent Panel on Peace Operations to be established by the Secretary-General to review United Nations peacekeeping operations. Any such review must be discussed by the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations, as the only forum for in-depth policy review in the area of peacekeeping, as well as with the troop-contributing countries. All peacekeeping operations should have clear, achievable and verifiable mandates adapted to each situation on a case-by-case basis. For the successful implementation of mandates, gaps in capacities, resources and training must be addressed through greater coordination between the Security Council, the Secretariat and the troop-contributing countries. The Security Council should consult troop-contributing countries, from the start, on all aspects of peacekeeping operations, particularly mandate adjustments, periodic mission assessments and troop size reconfigurations, and should recognize their views and capacities. The annual exchange with the commanders of missions deployed on the ground was a useful exercise that should continue.

2. Her delegation had serious misgivings about the implications and scope of so-called “robust” peacekeeping operations and stressed the exceptional nature of the mandate granted under Security Council resolution 2147 (2014) to the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO). There were questions about how to reconcile peace enforcement with the basic principles of United Nations peacekeeping, namely the consent of the parties, impartiality, and use of force only in self-defence or in defence of the mandate, and its impact on peacekeeping operations should be evaluated. Although modern technologies, including unmanned aerial vehicles, could be useful, they should be used only in accordance with the principles embodied in the Charter

of the United Nations and the risks involved should be recognized, in particular regarding the provisions of international humanitarian law on the distinction between civilians and combatants and between peacekeeping and peace enforcement. Her delegation looked forward to discussing the findings of the Expert Panel on Technology and Innovation in United Nations Peacekeeping.

3. Attacks on peacekeeping staff in 2014 were a tragic reminder that the States in which United Nations peacekeepers were deployed had a responsibility to guarantee their security, which should be an absolute priority. Measures should be adopted to speed up the pace of investigations into attacks, bring those responsible to justice and ensure that no similar incidents occurred in the future. The Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Field Support were to be commended for their rapid response to contain the Ebola epidemic in support of the peacekeeping operations in affected countries and for the preventive measures adopted to protect mission personnel. Peacekeeping operations should not be viewed as a subcontracting exercise, whereby the difficult and dangerous task of peacekeeping was outsourced by developed countries to low-cost troops from developing countries, but, rather, as part of the international community’s shared commitment to the purposes and principles of the United Nations. Since the long-term sustainability of peacekeeping operations would depend on the capacity of troop-contributing countries, troop cost reimbursements must be made promptly and efficiently. Guatemala remained committed to providing highly efficient and competent staff to United Nations peacekeeping missions.

4. **Mr. Toro-Carnevali** (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) said that some delegations, observing that most conflicts were now primarily intra-State in nature, argued for a more robust approach to peacekeeping, including through the use of intervention brigades and hybrid missions, as well as the deployment of drones. However, it should be noted that intra-State conflicts were not new — the case of the 1961 conflict in the Congo was just one example — while robust peacekeeping missions and intervention brigades had also been used in the past, as in the case of the United Nations Operation in Somalia established in 1992 and the United Nations Protection Force deployed in the early 1990s. Such missions had been controversial and had quelled enthusiasm for such operations for almost

a decade. Current developments in peacekeeping constituted a renewal of that cycle and should therefore be approached with caution. Regardless of whether there had been any change in the nature of conflict, the basic principles of peacekeeping must be preserved. Robust mandates were not the only way to address current peace and security challenges, including the protection of civilians, and operations should focus on using political influence to bring about a peaceful solution to conflicts, leading to reconciliation between the parties. In that regard, peacekeeping operations were instruments that contributed to negotiated solutions, and not an end in themselves.

5. His delegation joined the call for the protection of civilians, particularly women and children, and would remain attentive to the needs of each situation. An agreement regulating the use of new technology, in particular drones, should be reached as soon as possible. It was to be hoped that the current debate would enable the international community to find common ground on how peacekeeping operations could help to achieve the noble objective of settling disputes by peaceful means. The Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations was the body with the mandate to consider the development of new peacekeeping concepts and policies.

6. **Mr. Forés Rodríguez** (Cuba) said that the multidimensional nature of peacekeeping operations was a constant challenge. Such issues as imprecise and complex mandates, dissimilar situations on the ground and the preparation and conduct of participating troops required thorough analysis in order to ensure the effectiveness of peacekeeping operations and maintain the credibility of the United Nations. Regardless of their complexity, peacekeeping mandates must be based on strict respect for the principles set out in the Charter of the United Nations, notably the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of States and non-intervention in the domestic affairs of States, and should be governed by the basic principles of peacekeeping. Precise mandates with clear objectives and related financing and material resources that were adapted to the reality on the ground would improve the effectiveness of peacekeeping operations; concerted action by the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations, the Fifth Committee and the Security Council was therefore essential.

7. Cooperation between host countries, troop-contributing countries, the Secretariat and the Security

Council was needed, with the active participation of host and troop-contributing countries in all stages of the decision-making process. Firm commitments regarding the troops to be deployed, clear forecasts of the resources required and a coherent exit strategy should be in place prior to the approval and deployment of each operation. Peacebuilding activities carried out in the early stages of a peacekeeping operation were fundamental to helping countries emerging from conflict to develop and strengthen strategies for sustainable development. The use of modern technology should be aimed at guaranteeing the security and protection of peacekeeping forces, in line with the basic principles of peacekeeping and the principles set out in the Charter of the United Nations. Eradicating hunger, poverty and inequality was the only way to overcome the cycle of conflict, build and sustain peace and avoid the need for further peacekeeping operations with high human and material costs.

8. States were the primary actors responsible for protecting civilians. The protection of civilians should never be used as a pretext to ignore the principles of the Charter or change the basic principles of peacekeeping; nor should it be used as an excuse for mandates that legitimized military intervention or action to bring down legitimate Governments. The role of regional arrangements should be regulated under Chapter VIII of the Charter, since primary responsibility for maintaining international peace and security rested with the United Nations.

9. **Ms. Morgan** (Mexico) said that peacekeeping operations were fundamental to the work of the United Nations to achieve international peace and security; they also promoted the security-development relationship. The ideal forum for discussions on questions relating to peacekeeping operations was the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations, which should become a space for substantive debate leading to agreements between Member States and the Secretariat that were reflected in the fulfilment of mandates on the ground. The Security Council should maintain regular consultations with troop- and police-contributing countries, in order to take their opinions into account when renewing mandates; they should be involved in decision-making and policy design at all stages and for all processes affecting a given mission.

10. In 2014, Mexico had announced its intention to resume its participation in peacekeeping operations,

with an emphasis on humanitarian work that benefited civilians, and to put its experience in humanitarian assistance at the service of the international community. The decision to renew its involvement was consistent with the financial contribution made by Mexico to the peacekeeping budget and the responsible role it sought to play on the international stage. It wished to contribute to missions with a clear mandate, aligned with the basic principles of Mexican foreign policy and authorized by the Security Council. Its participation would be determined on the basis of its assessment and analysis of each operation. It hoped to begin collaboration with troop-contributing countries and the Secretariat in the near future and sought to increase exchanges of experience and information on the deployment of peacekeeping operations.

11. Successful peacekeeping operations required clear, objective, realistic and measurable mandates and the United Nations must remain faithful to the basic principles of peacekeeping. Her delegation reiterated its concern about peace enforcement mandates and hoped that they would not become established practice because they compromised the impartiality and legitimacy of peacekeeping operations. Mexico paid tribute to the staff, soldiers and volunteers of peacekeeping operations, whose sacrifice was proof of the shared responsibility of Member States to maintain international peace and security.

12. **Mr. Sunaryo** (Indonesia) said that his delegation wished to pay tribute to all fallen peacekeepers, their families and their countries, including those killed recently in the discharge of their mandates. As peacekeeping missions assumed ever more complex duties in the face of very real dangers, the United Nations and the international community must increase support for them. All stakeholders in United Nations peacekeeping operations should make a vigorous and sustained effort to establish a common understanding of the challenges to peacekeeping and it should be emphasized that, while more robust mandates had been created, contributing countries continued to face challenges that prevented them from responding swiftly to requests from the United Nations.

13. The establishment of an Intervention Brigade and the use of unmanned aerial vehicles, without any clear procedural legal framework, had given rise to lengthy debate. The Department of Peacekeeping Operations should therefore present the relevant policy on those matters for consideration by Member States. Although

the basic principles of peacekeeping were, at times, challenged owing to increasingly complex and multidimensional mandates, adherence to agreed principles and the implementation of set aims were crucial to success, and those principles remained valid and relevant. Ambivalent mandates not only affected the safety and security of peacekeepers but also compromised the safety of the populations they were supposed to protect. Indonesia commended the work of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations and underscored its essential role as the broadest intergovernmental forum for discussing all aspects of peacekeeping operations, including responses to contemporary challenges. His delegation took note of the forthcoming review of United Nations peacekeeping, which would benefit from constructive dialogue and consultation with Member States and regional organizations. The significance of open dialogue, cooperation and coordination between stakeholders could not be overemphasized.

14. Indonesia was committed to international peace and security, and peacekeeping would remain an important element of its foreign policy; over 1,830 Indonesian peacekeepers were deployed in nine United Nations peacekeeping missions. The deployment of a composite battalion to the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) and the provision of three helicopter units to another peacekeeping operation would mark a significant increase in its contribution. Indonesia remained focused on further enhancing the multidimensional strengths of its peacekeepers through multifaceted training, since troops needed to be prepared for rapid deployment, capable of performing robust counter-terrorism and disaster relief tasks and equipped with strong local knowledge. The Indonesia Peace and Security Centre prepared peacekeepers for increasingly complex demands and mandates and Indonesia was keen also to make use of it to enhance the region's capacity to deal with peacekeeping situations. At the Summit on United Nations Peacekeeping held on the sidelines of the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly in September 2014, Indonesia had pledged to host a regional meeting to strengthen the coordination of regional peacekeeping capacities.

15. United Nations peacekeeping was not by itself the remedy for conflict. Relevant actors from within and outside the United Nations should work together to strengthen a comprehensive approach to conflict

resolution, involving diplomacy, mediation, credible political processes, peacebuilding and development.

16. **Mr. Hamed** (Syrian Arab Republic) said that peacekeeping operations were intended to calm conflict, maintain peace and ensure an environment conducive to post-conflict peacebuilding. The principles set out in the Charter of the United Nations regarding the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of States and non-intervention in the domestic affairs of States should be respected without discretionary decisions or politicization. His delegation affirmed the importance of implementing the basic principles of peacekeeping, which required the consent of the host country and cooperation in all matters pertaining to the forces deployed. Although the Syrian Arab Republic supported efforts to develop peacekeeping operations at all levels, such operations were no substitute for permanent solutions that addressed the root causes of conflict. Peacekeeping operations addressing the protection of civilians should discharge their mandates without encroaching on the host country's primary responsibility in that regard. The protection of civilians should not be used as a pretext to interfere in a State's internal affairs and it was vital to reach a common legal definition of civilian protection before establishing standards for the concept.

17. His country had always had excellent relations with the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO) and the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF), and was committed to supporting those missions by all possible means. Although their mandates had been established for a limited period, Israel's continued aggression, occupation and refusal to abide by relevant international decisions had forced United Nations peacekeeping forces to remain in the Middle East for decades, at great financial and human cost. His delegation therefore urged the United Nations to exert pressure on Israel to end its occupation of Arab land and cease its aggression against the countries and peoples of the region so that peacekeepers could return home to their families.

18. His delegation expressed concern about threats to peacekeeping personnel that challenged work on the ground and threatened the lives of personnel, including in the Golan region, where terrorist attacks and kidnappings had led some UNDOF forces to withdraw temporarily from certain places. Those attacks were not

a coincidence and had confirmed the warnings of the Syrian Arab Republic about certain countries' support, in breach of international law and United Nations resolutions, for terrorist groups linked to Al-Qaida that were active in the area of disengagement. The Organization's failure to take account of the repeated early warnings about attacks had resulted in certain groups, including the Al-Nusra Front, increasing their activities and enjoying free rein in the area of disengagement. His delegation called on the United Nations to put an end to the support lent by some States and by Israel, the occupying Power, to the groups acting in the Golan region, including the area of disengagement.

19. **Mr. Haniff** (Malaysia), paying tribute to peacekeepers, who brought hope to millions affected by conflicts around the world, said that United Nations peacekeeping operations were evolving to address the challenges of the twenty-first century and were increasingly required to take a multidimensional approach in order to promote comprehensive and durable peace. Expanded mandates involved new tasks, such as humanitarian aid distribution, security and defence sector reform and the protection of civilians. Malaysia played its part in maintaining international peace and security and currently had personnel serving in seven United Nations peacekeeping missions, including the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL).

20. Peacekeeping operations were becoming more complex and demanding, and unconventional threats were increasingly faced; as a result, missions needed additional support for their multidimensional mandates. The Organization's efforts to improve effectiveness by using existing resources to increase the situational awareness of peacekeepers should be commended. It was essential to modernize equipment and deploy modern technology, as long as the legal implications of doing so were taken into consideration. Well-equipped peacekeepers enhanced the effectiveness of operations, while doing more with less could lower morale. Nonetheless, missions needed to manage their limited resources carefully. The multidimensional approach adopted by the United Nations should remain consistent with its Charter and should adhere to the basic principles of peacekeeping. Open dialogue between the Secretariat and troop- and police-contributing countries should be conducted regularly, since sharing views and information could

improve operational effectiveness. As a contributor of personnel, Malaysia sought more negotiations on international and regional cooperation and consensus on religious issues, in order to address the root causes of conflict. Greater transparency and balance was needed and equal attention should be given to all States.

21. Peacekeepers and civilian personnel must be trained prior to their deployment in order to prevent and reduce casualties. The Malaysian Peacekeeping Training Centre, established in 1996, had provided training to personnel from more than 40 countries. The child protection workshop and protection of civilians course offered at the Centre in September 2013, jointly with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, had been attended by participants from various regions.

22. As a vital aspect of multidimensional peacekeeping operations, security and defence sector reform laid the foundations for durable peace and development on the basis of the principle of national ownership and at the request of the host country. Malaysia remained committed to the role of peacekeepers as early peacebuilders and noted that peace and stability enabled States to focus their resources on socioeconomic development for the well-being of their people. Malaysia had experience in that area and had successfully used the approach of winning the “hearts and minds” of local people, in order eventually to create an environment conducive to socioeconomic development. Although the planning of such development was the sole responsibility of the State concerned, Malaysia stood ready to assist host countries in their efforts towards achieving lasting peace, stability and prosperity.

23. **Mr. Masood Khan** (Pakistan) said that his country was a leading troop contributor, having contributed 150,000 peacekeepers to the United Nations since 1960. It therefore had a vital stake in the effectiveness of the strategic, operational and tactical decisions to make, keep and build peace in conflict and post-conflict zones. It maintained its high level of participation in peacekeeping, despite the demands placed on its security forces, and had recently deployed an infantry battalion, an engineering company and an aviation unit in the Central African Republic, as well as a medical team to boost the capacity of the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL). Pakistani peacekeepers, both male and female, had contributed to peace in different parts of the world and 140 had made

the ultimate sacrifice. At the recent Summit on United Nations Peacekeeping, Pakistan had offered to the United Nations the peacekeeping competencies of its Centre for International Peace and Stability, which provided training on peacekeeping missions, exercises and emerging challenges.

24. Successful peacekeeping was underpinned by the basic principles of peacekeeping; the United Nations did not seek military solutions. Peacekeeping was fundamentally different from peace enforcement and venturing into grey areas would complicate missions, erode neutrality and undermine credibility, while endangering the safety and security of peacekeepers. Nonetheless, robust peacekeeping to protect civilians was an important element of operations in live conflict situations. His delegation condemned attacks against United Nations missions and personnel. Since the safety and security of peacekeepers was paramount, mounting violence against them should be investigated so that remedial and preventive measures could be taken.

25. His delegation supported the combined strategic agenda of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Field Support for uniformed capacity development to provide rapid deployment, enhanced mobility, better medical support, improved information and analysis, and greater survivability in relation to improvised explosive devices. More discussion was needed to develop an effective approach to tackling transnational crime. His delegation supported the modernization of peacekeeping, although new technology should conform to the basic principles of peacekeeping and be introduced on a case-by-case basis that was guided by lessons learned and subject to the consent of the States concerned. The United Nations should invest more political capital and resources in preventive diplomacy and reconciliation processes. Troop cost reimbursement rates should match current financial indices and a calendar for their periodic review should be provided. Comprehensive strategies that included regional and subregional organizations should continue to evolve, since they brought complementary political insights, resources and expertise. Mandates for peacekeeping missions should be established through a two-phase process, in order to allow consultation with troop-contributing countries, identification of the most appropriate troop contributors and consideration of the situation on the ground.

26. Contemporary conflicts were complex, chronic and lethal. The protection of civilians, support for peace processes, peacebuilding, national capacity-building and institution-building were all interlinked facets of multidimensional missions that operated in harsh and volatile environments. The forthcoming review of peacekeeping should therefore recognize the obligations of troop-contributing countries to provide well-equipped and well-trained personnel, as well as their entitlement to be recognized and heard, and to receive sufficient logistical and material support and adequate reimbursement. All members of the peacekeeping community should lend their full support to missions in order to achieve success.

27. **Mr. Meza-Cuadra** (Peru) said that the scope of peacekeeping mandates had evolved, alongside the changing nature of conflicts, to include such tasks as sustainable development, civilian capacity-building and humanitarian assistance. Given the complexity of multidimensional peacekeeping missions, the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the basic principles of peacekeeping must be strictly observed. The perceived impartiality of peacekeeping operations was crucial to their legitimacy in the field, the security of their staff and their long-term effectiveness. Peru remained concerned about the recent inclusion of peace enforcement mandates in some operations. Although the Intervention Brigade of MONUSCO had made progress in the protection of civilians, the authorization of that brigade, in accordance with Security Council resolution 2098 (2013), should not constitute a precedent that would justify similar mandates in the future.

28. Any review of the established rules and principles governing peacekeeping operations should be carried out by the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations, which was the only body competent to formulate and review policies in that area. The growing complexity of peacekeeping mandates required greater coordination between the Security Council, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and troop-contributing countries to ensure that the countries whose troops were responsible for implementation on the ground could voice their opinions on mandate design, implementation and renewal. Uniformed staff should have access to better training facilities and technology, and new operations should be provided with adequate financial resources. Revised rates of reimbursement to troop-contributing countries were

essential, since the current gap between the real cost of troops on the ground and the amounts reimbursed created a heavy financial burden.

29. Peacekeeping operations should seek not only to maintain order but to contribute to the establishment of national processes and structures for the consolidation of a lasting and sustainable peace. Since peacebuilding was an inherently national process, the role of peacekeeping operations must be limited to supporting national authorities in establishing and implementing their peacebuilding and development priorities, in accordance with the principle of national ownership.

30. Peacekeeping personnel should be held to the highest possible standards of conduct and must set an example based on the fundamental principles of the United Nations. Peru therefore supported the Secretary-General's zero-tolerance policy and strongly condemned the behaviour of United Nations personnel who participated directly or indirectly in any inappropriate or immoral conduct, especially the sexual abuse or exploitation of women and children; the perpetrators of such acts should be severely punished. Peru welcomed the mainstreaming of a gender perspective into peacekeeping mandates and the inclusion of women as actors in conflict resolution. Peru had increased its contribution of female troops and women currently accounted for 8 per cent of Peruvian peacekeeping troops deployed on the ground. Since 1958, Peru had contributed more than 7,000 peacekeepers in the service of international peace and security. It currently had a presence in eight peacekeeping missions and remained committed to its involvement in the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH).

31. **Mr. de Aguiar Patriota** (Brazil) said that his country had been a firm supporter of United Nations peacekeeping operations since their inception and had deployed personnel and troops in more than 50 missions since 1948. It provided the largest military contingent for MINUSTAH, participated in the Maritime Task Force of UNIFIL, and provided leadership for peacekeeping operations in Haiti and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Brazil favoured a multilateral system based on enhanced cooperation that sought peaceful solutions through diplomacy, dialogue, prevention and peacebuilding. Complex situations on the ground demanded constant improvements to peacekeeping operations, in particular with regard to the two main challenges they faced: ensuring that

peacekeeping contributed to sustainable peace, and increasing the effectiveness of troops on the ground. Peacekeeping operations faced financial pressures and risks from insurgent groups that were unwilling to recognize the legitimacy of the United Nations as an impartial broker. The Security Council, troop- and police-contributing countries and the Secretariat should act as partners and share the burden fairly according to their responsibilities. Peacekeeping resources and managerial processes were inadequate unless coupled with diplomatic efforts and attention should be given in multidimensional peacekeeping operations to early peacebuilding and political solutions to conflicts, since conflict prevention, post-conflict peacebuilding and socioeconomic development were key to political stability.

32. Performance on the ground should be constantly improved and a common understanding built of what was expected of peacekeepers, including through the development of baseline standards. His delegation supported the Secretariat's efforts to develop advanced, scenario-based training, particularly regarding the protection of civilians and the response to conflict-related sexual violence. It also supported the introduction of advanced technology in peacekeeping operations, provided that competition for resources did not negatively impact the sizing of contingents or provision of adequate equipment and that respect was maintained for the sovereignty of host countries and the confidentiality of information obtained by peacekeeping missions. Unmanned aerial systems gathered intelligence that could be effective only when translated into coherent strategies by ground troops. Policy decisions should not be driven by artificial financial constraints, since stagnant budgets were not compatible with the deployment of advanced technological assets or with the increasingly robust and multidimensional mandates drafted by the Security Council.

33. His delegation took note of the review of peacekeeping operations announced by the Secretary-General, and urged Member States to engage in it in an open and constructive manner. An inclusive process, reflecting the diversity of views, would benefit the review and resulting recommendations. The role of the General Assembly in the consideration of those recommendations should be recognized and a comprehensive and democratic discussion on them should take place within the Special Committee on

Peacekeeping Operations. Entrenched positions on the financing of special political missions needed to be tackled with a renewed commitment to correcting distortions that had an impact on the activities of the United Nations.

34. There was no substitute for the legitimacy of the United Nations in promoting peace and security. Its peacekeeping operations were also cost-effective and extremely successful when compared with the enormous sums allocated by the main military powers to their defence budgets. Brazil honoured the thousands of United Nations peacekeepers who were currently deployed around the world.

35. **Mr. Singh** (India) said that, as the largest overall contributor of troops to United Nations peacekeeping operations, India had considerable relevant experience and expected to contribute substantially to the forthcoming review of peacekeeping operations. Peacekeeping was a critical tool in maintaining international peace and security, and notwithstanding the emergence of multidimensional operations, the basic principles of peacekeeping must continue to be upheld, as they were rooted in the Charter of the United Nations. Although Article 44 of the Charter required the Security Council to invite a Member State not represented on the Security Council to participate in the decisions of the Security Council concerning the employment of contingents of its armed forces, that did not happen in practice. In addition to the formulation of mandates, changes in mandates during their implementation were a matter of concern because of the Security Council's tendency to add a new interventionist mandate for a small portion of the troops involved in a peacekeeping operation already operating under a traditional mandate. MONUSCO, to which India contributed more than 4,000 troops, was a case in point.

36. The United Nations, and the Security Council in particular, should ensure the inclusion in all peacekeeping mandates of legally binding provisions on prosecuting, punishing and neutralizing non-governmental armed groups and armed militias that caused or threatened to cause harm to United Nations peacekeeping operations. The dangers of using United Nations peacekeepers to tackle internal political conflicts could not be overemphasized. Peacekeeping and peacebuilding were two sides of the same coin and peacekeepers should be involved in critical peacebuilding tasks. As a member of the

Organizational Committee of the Peacebuilding Commission, India was a strong supporter of nationally led peace consolidation plans.

37. His delegation noted the important role played by the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations, which, after failing to reach agreement on its 2013 report, had been able to finalize the report on its 2014 substantive session. His delegation urged the Committee to request a compliance report on the report of the Special Committee, to assess collaboration between the different players in the field of peacekeeping. Although investment in equipment, logistics and training greatly contributed to making peacekeeping operations viable and sustainable, multidimensional mandates had emerged without the provision of matching financial resources. While the General Assembly had increased the rates of reimbursement to troop-contributing countries, they were still far from adequate and the mismatch between the resources required and those allocated should be addressed urgently. The need for adequate representation of troop- and police-contributing countries both in the field and at Headquarters, including in leadership positions, should be emphasized. Given the importance of capacity-building in the field of peacekeeping, India stood ready to share its expertise with other Member States.

38. **Ms. Ziade** (Lebanon) said that, on the eve of its seventieth anniversary, the United Nations was more relevant than ever and the international community should invest in its peacekeeping operations. The evolving nature of conflicts and changes in the operating environment demanded an innovative approach to peacekeeping, an analysis of best practices, political will and adequate resources. The forthcoming review of peacekeeping operations should be based on the basic principles of peacekeeping and should maintain the central role of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations as the intergovernmental forum for policy negotiation. Her delegation recognized the efforts of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Field Support to finalize guidance and strategies, streamline mission leadership and increase the participation of women. The successful fulfilment of mandates depended on the development of common strategies, for example between the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), as well as on cooperation,

including regional, South-South and triangular cooperation. Increasingly complex conflicts required greater collaboration between local, national and regional actors, and among all relevant United Nations bodies and agencies, including the Special Committee and the Security Council, as well as strong relationships with host countries and interaction with the civilian population and armed forces.

39. Post-conflict reconstruction and peacebuilding should continue to be incorporated in peacekeeping operations in order to ensure a smooth transition from peacekeeping to peace, and should support national institutions and capacity-building in areas including the rule of law, security sector reform, good governance, and disarmament, demobilization and reintegration. Although the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Field Support supported work on the protection of civilians, including through training courses, improvements were still needed, taking a holistic approach. Gender mainstreaming should be emphasized, since women played a key role in the establishment and stabilization of peace. It was important to include women's perspectives at all strategic and operational levels in all sectors and to further integrate gender training.

40. Lebanon hosted one of the oldest peacekeeping operations in the world, UNTSO, as well as UNIFIL, which was created as a result of repeated Israeli aggression. Lebanon had worked tirelessly to ensure full respect for its sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence and had reiterated its commitment to the full implementation of Security Council resolution 1701 (2006). It had called on the international community to compel Israel to abide by its obligations under that resolution, to withdraw from the remaining Lebanese occupied territories and to put an end to its violation of the sovereignty of Lebanon by land, air and sea. Lebanon had repeatedly highlighted the excellent relationship that existed between the Lebanese Armed Forces and UNIFIL and had cautioned against Israeli attempts to undermine their efforts and credibility. Through the tripartite mechanism, UNIFIL was able to prevent unilateral or provocative actions that might lead to escalation.

41. Respect for the safety and security of United Nations peacekeepers was crucial to the implementation of mission mandates. Crimes such as the 1996 Israeli attack on UNIFIL quarters at Qana and the 2006 Israeli attack on an UNTSO observation post

should never be repeated and their perpetrators should be held accountable. The strategic dialogue between the Lebanese Armed Forces and UNIFIL had been strengthened and the coordination mechanism was the cornerstone to facilitating and streamlining assistance to build the capabilities of the Lebanese Armed Forces. Her delegation valued the continued support expressed by the International Support Group for Lebanon at its successive meetings. Only by reinforcing its capacities could the Lebanese Army fulfil its tasks in cooperation with UNIFIL in the south of Lebanon, combat terrorism and maintain security and stability. Her delegation commended the work of all peacekeepers, including those deployed in Lebanon, and honoured the commitment of all troop-contributing countries.

42. **Mr. Koncke** (Uruguay) said that his country, convinced of the moral imperative to show solidarity with countries facing conflict and instability, had first contributed to peacekeeping operations in the 1950s and had increased its number of blue helmets to 2,000 by 2013, making it the biggest troop contributor in the Americas. Approximately 25 per cent of its operational defence forces were involved in peacekeeping operations, female personnel made a significant contribution and all troops participated on a voluntary basis. As a troop-contributing country, Uruguay attached great importance to dialogue and consultations with all parties that had a direct or indirect influence on the work of its blue helmets and noted that triangular cooperation was essential for achieving a real global partnership. In that regard, there had been inadequate consultation with troop-contributing countries prior to the controversial establishment of the Intervention Brigade within MONUSCO, pursuant to Security Council resolution 2098 (2013).

43. Since it was likely that the current record number of military, police and civilian personnel deployed in peacekeeping missions would further increase in the future, as would the number of activities they undertook, in view to the growing complexity of their mandates, adequate training and equipment must be provided in order to ensure the proper fulfilment of their mandates. Yet financial resources were being cut and troop-contributing countries were being asked to do more with less, which entailed risks for the effectiveness of mandates and the security of personnel on the ground. Peacekeeping missions were also threatened by terrorist groups, armed groups with links

to terrorists and groups with foreign support that had the capacity to attack peacekeeping troops both in the field and in the troop-contributing countries themselves. Other difficulties for the fulfilment of mandates included the deductions applied to personnel reimbursement in respect of non-functional equipment, when such problems were often the result of the constant use of the equipment in difficult operating environments, compounded by the length of logistics chains and absence of local infrastructure, as well as delays in the payment of United Nations reimbursements that hindered the acquisition of spare parts and new equipment. Troop rotations had also been extended, which made tours of duty more difficult for personnel and their families, and therefore affected morale and operational capacity.

44. His delegation favoured a holistic approach to the complex task of civilian protection and the incorporation of a solid early peacebuilding and development component in missions. As a troop-contributing country with a significant presence on the ground but limited opportunities to participate in the establishment and management of peacekeeping missions, Uruguay highlighted the need to maintain and increase the relevance of the Special Committee as the most appropriate forum to discuss all issues relating to peacekeeping. At the Summit on United Nations Peacekeeping held in September 2014, Uruguay had announced its intention to organize an event on peacekeeping operations for Latin American and Caribbean States in the first half of 2015. His delegation was grateful to all peacekeepers for their contribution to international peace and security.

45. **Mr. Aboulatta** (Egypt) said that the heightened demand for peacekeeping, and its growing complexity, had increased the burden on the United Nations and on troop- and police-contributing countries. Improved assessment, effective planning and rapid deployment response were needed, especially since peacekeeping should not be viewed as an alternative to addressing the root causes of conflict or as a conflict management tool. It was crucial for the main stakeholders to review the challenges facing peacekeeping operations and to commit to a strengthened role for the United Nations. Concepts, policies and strategies should evolve alongside progress in planning and oversight and, in order to be effective, peacekeeping operations needed adequate resources and greater political will. Member States should therefore provide guidance to the

proposed strategic review of United Nations peacekeeping and should increase their support for peacekeeping through financing and contributions of troops, police and specialized enablers.

46. Effective triangular cooperation was clearly needed. It was therefore important to achieve consensus among Member States on policy development and implement only those approaches that had been collectively adopted, which would require enhanced participation from troop-contributing countries in doctrine development and decision-making. There was also a need for predeployment planning and more effective field support coordination, based on objective assessments and clear, achievable mandates that were linked to implementation on the ground. Adequate financial resources and trained and equipped military and civilian capacities should be provided. In that regard, Egypt welcomed the consensus adoption of General Assembly resolution 68/281 increasing the rates of reimbursement to troop-contributing countries. Furthermore, the use of technology and the use of force to implement mandates should be addressed. The role of regional organizations should be strengthened, in accordance with Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations, including by supporting the African Union to deploy peacekeeping missions, in particular through the provision of predictable and flexible financing.

47. With regard to robust mandates, every effort should be made to achieve deterrence; any expansion of the capacity to use force should be justified, absolutely necessary and duly mandated. Further consultation was needed with Member States to counter violations of the safety of personnel. The protection of civilians should not be used as a pretext for military intervention and a solution must be found to the legal difficulties relating to the characterization of civilians in armed conflicts as combatants. Greater attention should be paid to exit strategies, as States increasingly requested the termination of missions when they perceived a transition to conflict management. Peacekeeping and peacebuilding should be further integrated under the auspices of the Peacebuilding Commission, but not in order to cut costs, and further consultation was needed on the implementation of the global field support strategy.

48. Egypt had indicated its readiness to host a regional meeting in Cairo, bringing together the main African troop-contributing countries, the Secretariat

and leading financial contributors, in cooperation with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, to provide substantive input from Africa to the forthcoming strategic review of peacekeeping. As a major troop-contributing country, Egypt was prepared to deploy additional infantry troops to current and newly established missions; join the United Nations formed police standby capacity and contribute more formed police units; deploy enabling units, including for rapid response; and provide training and technical expertise to the military and police personnel of other troop-contributing countries. In that regard, he drew attention to the training and capacity-building commitments of the Cairo Center for Conflict Resolution and Peacekeeping in Africa. Lastly, he paid tribute to all peacekeepers, particularly those who had lost their lives.

49. **Ms. Bohari** (Niger) said that peacekeeping operations had become one of the key instruments used by the United Nations to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war. Such operations had not only grown in number since the end of the cold war but had become ever more complex and were increasingly carried out in uncertain, politically unstable and risky environments. It was therefore important to establish clear and achievable mandates, as well as to provide missions with adequate resources and appropriate logistical and communications equipment. Partnership between all stakeholders was essential, and the basic principles of peacekeeping must be respected in order to ensure the legitimacy, credibility and effectiveness of operations.

50. The Niger had long contributed to peacekeeping operations, which should be carried out under the mandate and guidance of the Security Council, in accordance with the fundamental principles set out in the Charter of the United Nations. The effectiveness of peacekeeping operations should be improved by fine-tuning the number of troops deployed. Moreover, those troops should conform to the highest standards of behaviour, professionalism and discipline. Once a conflict had come to an end, it was crucial to reform the security sector in the country concerned, in order to establish peace and sustainable development that would help the population to feel secure and to trust State institutions. The success of peacekeeping operations could never be guaranteed, owing to the difficult circumstances in which they were carried out. Her delegation noted the courage of the blue helmets

and reiterated its commitment to supporting peacekeeping operations.

51. **Mr. Rahman** (Bangladesh) said that peacekeeping had become increasingly complex, demanding and dangerous, since missions were no longer limited to truce supervision but were called on to accomplish multidimensional tasks, often in inhospitable conditions. The challenging nature of peacekeeping operations required triangular cooperation among troop- and police-contributing countries, the Security Council and the Secretariat, as well as long-term, comprehensive training for peacekeepers so that they could perform complex roles. The ability of many missions to fulfil their mandates was affected by a lack of appropriate force generation and technical support; consequently, rapid deployment and force generation processes should be improved in start-up missions. His delegation was willing to share its experience of peacekeeping with other States. In that regard, the Bangladesh Institute of Peace Support Operation Training was dedicated to providing training on all facets of peacekeeping, including civilian protection and disarmament, demobilization and reintegration. Although his delegation supported the use of modern technology to enhance operational capabilities, it should be used prudently and with clear mandates. Technology could not be a substitute for well-trained peacekeepers on the ground and should not be intended to replace them.

52. The peacekeeping agenda was mostly set outside the General Assembly, owing to the relatively dormant state of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations, which had been established to enable debate among all States Members of the United Nations on all aspects of peacekeeping. The Special Committee's democratic underpinnings should be restored to ensure the representative nature of peacekeeping, which was key to its broad acceptability, and to complement and consolidate the triangular partnership between Member States, the Security Council and the Secretariat. The recent Summit on United Nations Peacekeeping had generated a renewed commitment to peacekeeping and many countries had made specific pledges, which should be followed up.

53. His delegation remained committed to working with all stakeholders to ensure an effective strategic review of United Nations peacekeeping operations in 2015. Peacekeeping mandates should be clear and realistic, troop-contributing countries should be fairly

represented in terms of deciding and implementing peacekeeping mandates, adequate resources should be provided and the safety and security of peacekeepers should be given the highest priority before deployment. Furthermore, peacekeeping operations should not replace political processes and peacebuilding efforts, dialogue with the main troop-contributing countries should be improved, and a viable and predictable mechanism should be introduced for the reimbursement of troop and other costs. The multiple issues at stake demanded intensive dialogue on the strategic direction of United Nations peacekeeping, in order to ensure that the blue helmets were a force for peace, a force for change and a force for the future.

54. **Ms. Ünal** (Turkey) said that, as the flagship activity of the United Nations, peacekeeping was constantly evolving to meet new challenges and it was timely to discuss what direction it should now take. The number of conflicts in the world was rising and they were increasingly of an intra-State nature. Asymmetric threats, particularly those from non-State actors and terrorists, were becoming the core challenge in many conflict settings, making the dangers faced by peacekeepers greater than ever, while budgetary challenges raised questions about how to sustain complex and multidimensional operations. It was clear that key concepts, mandates, response capacities and resources needed to be reconsidered. Her delegation therefore welcomed the forthcoming review of peacekeeping operations, which should prioritize the protection of civilians and incorporate the agenda set out in Security Council resolution 1325 (2000).

55. Challenging circumstances and the expectation of civilian protection would require a change in the posture of peacekeeping operations, including through robust mandates that did not compromise impartiality. Proper personnel, training and equipment remained essential, while modern technology, such as unarmed unmanned aerial vehicles, could be used, in accordance with international law and the principle of transparency, to ensure personnel safety, fulfil mandates and save lives. Diverse challenges meant that support would be needed from myriad actors, including regional and subregional organizations, civil society and the private sector. Various actors, including the African Union, had become established players in peacekeeping and peacebuilding, and the United Nations should be able to support and make use of the capabilities of such organizations.

56. Short-term peacekeeping efforts needed to be integrated into longer-term strategies. Support for peacebuilding and peacemaking was at the heart of peacekeeping operations and mediation was an important, consent-based tool that pertained to all stages of the conflict cycle. Turkish peacekeepers served in various international missions, including in Afghanistan, Africa, the Balkans and the Middle East, where they contributed to training, capacity- and institution-building and technical assistance.

The meeting rose at 12.20 p.m.