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Chair: Mr. Bhattarai (Nepal)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.

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

1. **Ms. Stener** (Norway) said that killings of innocent civilians and serious human rights violations in countries where United Nations peacekeeping operations were deployed, as well as increased attacks on peacekeepers, were deeply concerning trends. The United Nations continued to struggle to recruit personnel and mobilize resources to implement increasingly demanding mandates, and crises such as the Ebola outbreak added to the burden in West Africa. However, there was broad consensus on the need to make peace operations more effective in dealing with current challenges. Her delegation welcomed the Secretary-General's strategic review initiative and encouraged the High-Level Independent Panel on Peace Operations to do everything possible to determine which tasks peace operations should undertake. The international community should give the Panel its strongest support and avoid creating a polarizing atmosphere. The Panel should be free to formulate whatever reform proposals it deemed most important.

2. Mandates should be more strategic, realistic and commensurate with available resources, defining clear tasks and not seeking to compensate for political inaction. Failure to meet expectations undermined not only the peacekeeping mission itself, but also the entire United Nations system. Implementation of key tasks — most notably the protection of civilians — must be based on a shared interpretation of what those tasks entailed. Training was key for ensuring a uniform approach, including with regard to the use of force, and was vital for both the protection of civilians and for the safety and security of United Nations personnel. Comprehensive political analysis was also needed to enable missions to deal effectively with the challenges underlying internal conflicts, such as issues of political inclusion and the nature of the State. Norway welcomed the inclusion of special political missions in the strategic review. Given that peacekeeping operations and special political missions faced similar challenges, they would benefit from increased cooperation.

3. Performance quality should be the guiding principle for change. All personnel must be properly

trained and equipped. Force generation and recruitment processes should be more strategic and predictable, while unified, effective command and control must also be ensured. Peacekeeping operations should make the best use of technology and innovation. Norway supported the Expert Panel on Technology and Innovation in United Nations Peacekeeping and was a participant in the All Sources Information Fusion Unit in the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA), which was strengthening the mission's situational awareness. The experience gained by the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo (MONUSCO) in the use of unmanned, unarmed aerial systems showed that such technology enabled peacekeepers to respond to a wider range of threats, enhanced civilian protection and facilitated delivery of humanitarian assistance.

4. Justice and security sector reform must be at the heart of all operations' peacebuilding efforts. Norway would provide civilian rule of law experts, in addition to the police advisers already contributed, to help build capacity in that key area. The review should consider how stakeholders could work effectively together to achieve the objectives of the Strategic Guidance Framework for International Police Peacekeeping.

5. Partnerships with regional organizations, particularly the African Union, were crucial. Norway remained committed to supporting capacity-building for African peacekeepers, under African leadership. The United Nations should also continue to engage actively with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, the European Union and other relevant partners. Ensuring the existence of a well-functioning global peace and security architecture was a shared responsibility. The review should address the division of labour between the various organizations and define the limits of United Nations engagement without losing sight of the need for flexibility.

6. Strengthening the gender perspective must be an integral part of the review. Norway welcomed the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and Department of Field Support Gender Forward Looking Strategy (2014-2018) as a basis for further work. Missions must engage women in host countries in the process of establishing sustainable peace. The Secretary-General's appointment of the first female force commander at the United Nations signalled his commitment to women in leadership positions. The

Panel should follow up on the work already done and provide incentives for recruiting and retaining women in key positions.

7. **Mr. Seger** (Switzerland) said that his delegation welcomed the agreement reached by the Fifth Committee on the reimbursement of troop-contributing countries. Such cooperation among Member States should be further developed. Recent fatalities and injuries among peacekeepers were a reminder of the enormous challenges faced by United Nations peacekeeping operations. Safety and security on the ground remained a key priority. Given the growing number of risks, such as direct or indirect attacks by criminal or terrorist groups, there was a clear need for the continued development of common safety and security policies and the adequate allocation of resources and equipment to enhance protection of uniformed and civilian personnel.

8. The United Nations also faced certain challenges relating to the deployment of modern technologies in peacekeeping operations, an area that nonetheless held considerable potential for improving their efficiency and effectiveness. His delegation welcomed the establishment of the Expert Panel on Technology and Innovation in United Nations Peacekeeping and looked forward to the outcome of its work. Switzerland also supported the forthcoming review of peace operations announced by the Secretary-General and the review of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture scheduled for 2015. It was pleased that the review of peace operations would cover special political missions, which had grown considerably over the last few years and had become one of the main forms of United Nations engagement in the field. His delegation would continue to support such missions, including in related discussions in the Fourth and Fifth Committees. The review of peace operations should also take account of the essential role of the United Nations in peacebuilding, which was closely linked to its peacekeeping efforts and the work of its special political missions. His delegation hoped that the two review processes would be mutually enriching and create synergies. It encouraged the High-Level Independent Panel on Peace Operations to include aspects beyond the different forms of engagement under the peace and security pillar of the United Nations by looking at examples of delivering as one in integrated missions. The adoption of a broader and long-term vision of a range of activities including

peacekeeping, development and humanitarian efforts would allow the United Nations to respond more effectively to current challenges. Measures to further enhance a system-wide approach in integrated missions on the basis of lessons learned and the promotion of South-South dialogue would ensure that transitions were adequately planned and implemented in a way that was beneficial for the host countries.

9. **Mr. Kamau** (Kenya) said that his country had participated in United Nations peacekeeping operations for over four decades, through the contribution of troops, staff officers, military observers, field commanders and, most recently, humanitarian deminers. Its overall breadth of participation in field operations had given Kenya solid expertise that had helped in the development of its peacekeeping support capabilities. Given the complexity of conflicts across the African continent, regional or multinational peacekeeping models were unlikely to change. In those conflicts, sound multinational support should be considered through inter-agency interaction which took into account political, economic, sociocultural and security challenges and could be complemented by well-planned hybrid missions with political resolve. The presence of terrorist organizations in some conflict areas posed a significant threat to the doctrine of peacekeeping operations at strategic, operational and tactical levels. Future missions might need to consider the inclusion of counter-terrorism or asymmetric warfare as an alternative peacekeeping model. Terrorists' ability to export violence to neighbouring countries and regions would need to be addressed in mission mandates and might require missions to be modelled alongside other national efforts.

10. The alternative peacekeeping model would need to take into account the emergence of private military companies and private security companies, and their impact on peace support operations. It should therefore contain mechanisms for enhancing coordination of international efforts among various stakeholders, which would address competition among them and create synergies. The alternative model should also focus more on the protection of civilians. The United Nations mandate should thus be proactive in dealing with changing situations and sources of threat to civilians. To that end, peace enforcement should be provided for within the peacekeeping mandates pursuant to Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations. The United Nations should also consider

much larger civilian and police components to undertake peace and confidence-building activities, while involving the military component in critical tasks that would win the hearts and minds of the civilian population.

11. Peace operations training should be upgraded from a mastery of basic military skills to training and capacity-building in all aspects of civilian protection; that should include pre-deployment training covering human rights, child protection and sexual and gender-based violence. The incidents that had occurred in areas under the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) in late 2013 had required a more immediate and robust international response to alleviate civilian suffering immediately after the onset of hostilities and extricate civilians from danger zones. Such a response was only possible if intervention measures, such as universal training for peacekeepers on the ground, were mandatory. As a monitoring measure, teams composed of serving or retired military officers should be deployed immediately to mission areas for the periodic evaluation of peacekeepers with regard to the protection of civilians.

12. A deliberate effort should be made to implement Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) so as to fully incorporate the gender aspect in peacekeeping operations. Women should take an active role in peacemaking and decision-making processes in order for sustainable peace to be achieved. The lack of participation by Western nations in African peacekeeping and peace enforcement operations also needed to be addressed. As the continent considered expediting the implementation of the African Peace and Security Architecture, particularly the African Standby Force component, areas of comparative advantage such as logistics, information support, and technology provision and transfer should be explored to reinforce regional efforts.

13. His delegation appreciated the recent increase in the rate of reimbursement to troop-contributing countries and hoped that it would improve troop morale. However, peacekeeping troops could be effective only if complemented by operationally appropriate resources. When applying deductions to personnel reimbursement in respect of non-operational equipment, the United Nations should recall that equipment usability decreased over time; it should therefore provide sufficient budgetary resources for the replacement of ageing mission area equipment by

troop-contributing countries. It was unacceptable to apply deductions to personnel reimbursement without giving countries an alternative budget for replacing major operational resources.

14. The United Nations faced increased resistance from host countries, especially in the stages of peace operations that focused on peacebuilding, peacemaking, peace enforcement and other post-conflict reconstruction activities. That had been evident in a number of new missions in Africa, and had impeded the proposed transition of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) into a fully-fledged United Nations mission. The issue of emerging hostilities to United Nations missions in fragile States should thus be addressed.

15. **Mr. Vitrenko** (Ukraine) said that the strategic review of peace operations announced by the Secretary-General, which was a timely and necessary initiative, should be an inclusive process involving all stakeholders. The High-Level Independent Panel on Peace Operations should prioritize the need to fill capability gaps, primarily in relation to the chronic lack of military helicopters, which were a highly effective force multiplier. A long-term solution would require the creation of more robust incentives for countries contributing them. The decreasing attention afforded to the safety and security of peacekeeping missions in the area of commercial helicopter procurement was also a matter of deep concern.

16. His delegation encouraged the Secretariat to make the best use of the recommendations contained in the report of the Special Committee (A/68/19), including in relation to enhancing legal mechanisms for the investigation and prosecution of crimes against United Nations peacekeepers. A number of recent tragic incidents targeting Member States' uniformed personnel in the field testified to the pressing nature of that initiative.

17. As a police-contributing country, Ukraine fully supported the efforts of the United Nations Police Division to strengthen police policies and capacities, including the adoption of the Policy on United Nations Police in Peacekeeping Operations and Special Political Missions, the strategic guidance framework and the new Standard Operating Procedure on Assessment of Individual Police Officers for Service in United Nations Peacekeeping Operations and Special Political Missions. Despite growing contributions to

and demand for United Nations police assistance in post-conflict settings, wider political support was still needed. Ukraine fully supported a Member States-led Group of Friends of United Nations Police.

18. His delegation called on troop-contributing countries, police-contributing countries, the Security Council, the Secretariat and fund-contributing countries to advance their strategic partnership. In that regard, it noted the important role of the Office for the Peacekeeping Strategic Partnership, which was now fully operational. It had been encouraged by the outcome of the Summit on United Nations Peacekeeping held in September 2014 and stood ready to contribute to its follow-up, hoping that it would be reconvened on the sidelines of the seventieth session of the General Assembly in September 2015.

19. Now in its third decade of peacekeeping, Ukraine had participated in over 20 United Nations missions and contributed over 34,000 blue helmets in every region of their deployment. Not even external aggression had affected its commitment. Its contribution to the global peacekeeping partnership included military, police, civilian and political dimensions.

20. **Ms. Lim** (Singapore) said that the Singapore Armed Forces and Singapore Police Force had served in 15 peacekeeping and observer missions since 1989, despite the constraints of having only a small conscript army. Singapore had been the seventh country to sign up for the Combined Task Force 151, one of the three task forces operated by the Combined Maritime Forces with the aim of disrupting piracy and armed robbery at sea. Currently, Singapore chaired the Maritime Working Group of the United Nations military unit manuals initiative and also participated in the Aviation and Engineer Working Groups. Although her country was small, it would always contribute in relevant, niche areas.

21. The international community's immediate and primary challenge was to ensure the safety of its peacekeepers. In the light of increased risk to peacekeepers, as clearly shown by recent incidents in the Golan Heights and the Central African Republic, the United Nations must ensure that peacekeepers were adequately equipped and trained to handle such situations, and that they had access to better intelligence and information. The longer-term challenge for every peacekeeping operation was to

ensure sustainable peace and security. To that end, there should be active coordination with host countries and close engagement with the Peacebuilding Commission, especially in the area of socio-developmental reconstruction. Consideration should be given to that goal from the outset of deployment, as capabilities took time to build. Given the challenges, a review of peacekeeping operations was timely and needed to involve all relevant stakeholders, including troop-contributing countries. The Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations should remain the sole United Nations body with the mandate to review peacekeeping operations in all their aspects.

22. **Mr. Adam** (Sudan) said that his country had provided a successful, pioneering example of host-country cooperation with a peacekeeping mission, through its collaboration with the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID). Thanks to his Government's efforts, the security situation in Darfur had significantly improved and progress was being made towards achieving peace through the Agreement between the Government of the Sudan and the Liberation and Justice Movement for the Adoption of the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur. Many refugees had returned voluntarily to their countries of origin and resumed their normal lives; a successful harvest season had also helped to improve the humanitarian situation. In spite of repeated attempts by rebel groups to thwart the peace process by rejecting dialogue, attacking peacekeepers and exploiting tribal disputes, his Government remained determined to solve the conflict through peaceful means and had recently launched an inclusive national dialogue process to that end. It had also received thousands of refugees from South Sudan and gave them equal treatment with its own citizens. Furthermore, his Government had signed an agreement with the South Sudanese authorities to allow humanitarian assistance to be transported through the Sudan.

23. His delegation requested UNAMID to promote sustainable peace and stability by carrying out local development projects in Darfur and insisted that peacekeeping operations must be in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and the basic principles of peacekeeping, namely, consent of the parties, impartiality, and the non-use of force except in self-defence and in defence of the mandate. Until circumstances allowed peacekeeping missions to cease

their duties, they should follow clear mandates, set realistic strategies and cooperate closely with host Governments, remaining fully aware of the historical background and political, economic and social factors at play in any conflict.

24. **Mr. Wang** Min (China) said that, along with the changing nature of conflicts, peacekeeping operations faced increasingly complicated situations and tasks and needed constantly to innovate and achieve a balance between scale and efficiency. That would enable them to better facilitate the political settlement of conflicts and create a stable and sustainable security environment for peacebuilding.

25. China supported the Secretary-General's initiative to conduct a comprehensive review of United Nations peacekeeping operations and agreed that the international community must improve its peacekeeping on the basis of broad consensus, and as situations developed on the ground. The international community should unwaveringly adhere to the basic principles of peacekeeping, which underpinned Member States' trust in and support of United Nations peacekeeping operations.

26. Host countries' sovereignty must be respected, their concerns addressed and objectivity and neutrality maintained. The support and cooperation of host countries was crucial for robust peacekeeping, which should be practical and establish priority tasks. The review of peacekeeping operations should pay particular attention to relevant practices and identify the consensus opinion of Member States on how to protect civilians effectively.

27. Peacekeeping efficiency should be constantly enhanced. Currently, almost half of all United Nations missions had a military strength of some 10,000 troops and the environments in which they operated were fragile and complicated. Improved management and rational allocation of resources was essential for rapid delivery and deployment. The Security Council, the Secretariat, host countries and troop-contributing countries should strengthen their communication and coordination to enhance the process of mission establishment, accelerate deployment and optimize the logistical support mechanism, striving to improve the efficiency of resource utilization and avoiding unnecessary duplication and waste.

28. The United Nations should strengthen capacity-building in respect of peacekeeping operations by

upgrading technical equipment and personnel training and enhancing missions' ability to implement their mandates. In the light of the current conditions in mission areas, it should consider formulating peacekeeping training standards and strengthening safety and security measures for peacekeepers. Stakeholders should not only focus on adopting new technology and equipment, but should also carefully assess lessons learned and adhere to the Charter of the United Nations, while respecting the sovereignty and wishes of the host country. The United Nations and the international community should also strengthen cooperation with regional and subregional organizations such as the African Union and vigorously support the latter's peacekeeping operations.

29. His Government fully supported and actively participated in United Nations peacekeeping operations. At present, more than 2,200 Chinese peacekeepers were serving in missions in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Mali and South Sudan. His country had dispatched engineering and transportation units to the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL), which was actively helping the Liberian Government to respond to the Ebola pandemic. It would also dispatch a helicopter unit to the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI) and was ready to contribute more police and policing experts. China would continue to support African countries in strengthening capacity-building and peacekeeping operations and stood ready to work with the international community to further develop United Nations peacekeeping and maintain international peace and security.

30. **Mr. Doucouré** (Mali) said that ensuring the safety and security of peacekeeping personnel was one of the greatest challenges for United Nations peacekeeping operations. Targeted attacks against MINUSMA contingents with the aim of undermining troop morale and jeopardizing the Inter-Malian Inclusive Dialogue had become rampant. In his most recent report on the situation in Mali ([S/2014/692](#)), the Secretary-General had drawn attention to the fact that MINUSMA operated in a particularly complex security environment characterized by asymmetric attacks which, since the deployment of the Mission on 1 July 2013, had claimed the lives of 33 blue helmets and injured 93 others.

31. In the light of that situation, which thwarted the efforts and progress made by the United Nations, it was

necessary to authorize peacekeeping forces to carry out offensive operations on the ground in order to protect themselves and fulfil their civilian protection mandate. To that end, MINUSMA must be provided with sufficient personnel, financial resources and equipment and its mandate must be interpreted objectively; the rules of engagement of its troops should be defined with regard to the asymmetric nature of the attacks carried out against civilian populations and MINUSMA contingents; and the structure of the mission should be reconfigured by deploying peacekeepers to Kidal and other northern regions to overcome the security vacuum and impede the freedom of movement and action of hostile groups. Effective coordination between MINUSMA and French and Malian forces in the planning and conduct of operations was also important. His delegation welcomed the upcoming Security Council brainstorming session on the challenges of implementing the Mission's mandate and hoped that it would produce relevant recommendations incorporating those made to the Security Council by the Malian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

32. His Government remained staunchly committed to discharging its international obligations, including cooperation with international judicial authorities in connection with the crimes committed against MINUSMA contingents and other serious violations of international humanitarian and human rights law. It was grateful to all troop-contributing countries and paid tribute to those peacekeepers who had lost their lives in the line of duty. Although certain armed groups in the north of Mali had urged violence against other Malians, his Government remained committed to pursuing the dialogue process and appealed to the international community, particularly the Security Council, to take appropriate measures in the face of such acts.

33. **Mr. Mwinyi** (United Republic of Tanzania) said that the current multidimensional and complex setting of peacekeeping operations meant that genuine engagement was needed when charting their future. The complexity of peacekeeping operations was seen in the unprecedented number of personnel and associated financial costs: more than 104,000 uniformed peacekeepers, close to 17,000 civilians and a cost of more than \$8 billion a year. As that cost was only a fraction of the annual defence expenditures of the largest militaries in the Western world, however, peacekeeping operations were an extremely cost-

effective technique to seek peace. In debates on the complexity of peacekeeping operations, the term "blue helmets" was now generally used to refer to uniformed personnel rather than "blue berets", perhaps reflecting the fact that the majority of the 16 active peacekeeping operations, 9 of which were located in Africa, were no longer mandated under Chapter VI of the Charter of the United Nations but were hybrid operations, with mandates closer to Chapter VII. In view of the incomparable cost of conflict and absence of effective democratic governance institutions in the countries where peacekeeping missions were deployed, United Nations intervention was essential, though only the starting point.

34. Peacekeeping operations must adhere to the basic principles of peacekeeping and must also respect the sovereignty, equality and territorial integrity of all States. It was legitimate, inherently just and mutually beneficial for nations, regional and subregional organizations in areas affected by conflict to be involved in conflict resolution. In addition, there could not be a one-size-fits-all approach to missions and deployments, as every conflict emerged in a different setting requiring different solutions.

35. The use of force as mandated under Chapter VII of the Charter was neither new nor necessarily related to turning United Nations peacekeeping operations into a war-fighting enterprise. The United Nations Operation in the Congo deployed from 1960 to 1964, which had been instrumental in preventing the disintegration of a fragile, newly independent country emerging from the shackles of colonial domination, had been the first United Nations mission with a peace enforcement mandate. In the three times that United Nations missions had been deployed in that country, now the Democratic Republic of the Congo, they had always begun as hybrid operations and had subsequently transformed into operations with Chapter VII mandates. The civilian protection mandate had eventually been put into practice in MONUSCO when the international community, ashamed of its inaction in 1995 in Srebrenica and elsewhere, had resolved never again to leave fellow humans unprotected as they succumbed to systematic massacres.

36. And yet, 3.8 to 5.4 million people in the Democratic Republic of the Congo alone were estimated to have lost their lives as a result of conflict from 1998 to 2008, and in 2012 the world had witnessed the illegally armed 23 March Movement

(M23) easily take over a city whose inhabitants had believed themselves safe in the presence of United Nations peacekeepers. Consequently, the decision to deploy an Intervention Brigade in MONUSCO had been appropriate and feasible. His Government supported the Congolese people and worked closely with all partners to achieve safety and security in all aspects. While it was appropriate for the international community to discuss the future of peacekeeping operations, it must not fail to acknowledge and support the continuing role played by the Intervention Brigade and other MONUSCO troops in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

37. There must also be continued debate on how to address emergent threats in peacekeeping operations, including the employment of terrorist tactics and the use of improvised explosive devices against peacekeepers, as well as on various technological innovations, such as the unarmed, unmanned aerial surveillance systems, and other new elements being proposed or tested for use. To that end, his delegation welcomed the Secretary-General's intention to conduct a review of peacekeeping operations and special political missions, with a view to making peace operations more predictable and consistent.

38. **Mr. Bambara** (Burkina Faso) said that worsening conflicts and crises had increased the role of peacekeeping operations and rendered their organization more complex and sensitive. The safety of peacekeeping personnel was one of the greatest concerns in areas of deployment. Peacekeeping troops regularly faced asymmetric threats that had recently multiplied and regrettably resulted in the deaths of many peacekeepers. His delegation welcomed the peacekeeping review initiative announced by the Secretary-General as a way to generate innovative and flexible means of strengthening peacekeeping effectiveness.

39. The excellent peacekeeping work of the African Union and regional African organizations, which had made a significant contribution in countries such as the Sudan, Somalia, Mali and the Central African Republic, highlighted the need for deeper cooperation on peacekeeping between the United Nations and regional organizations. Burkina Faso had participated actively in international peacekeeping operations since 1993, having contributed approximately 2,000 troops. It ranked sixteenth among troop-contributing countries and was the biggest contributor of prison security

guards. In 2014, it had hosted the fifth United Nations International Conference on Corrections in Peacekeeping, which had brought together over 200 participants to discuss measures for restoring and strengthening the prison system in countries undergoing crises or emerging from conflict. At the Conference, his Government had indicated its wish to host a United Nations subregional centre for pre-deployment training of prison staff in peacekeeping operations.

40. Despite its efforts, Burkina Faso faced difficulties stemming from a lack of training personnel, materials and infrastructure, which it was determined to address with the support of its multilateral and bilateral partners. There could be no real and lasting peace consolidation without economic recovery, consolidation of the rule of law and good governance. Burkina Faso reiterated its readiness to continue to support the international community in its global peacekeeping efforts.

41. **Mr. Kimpolo** (Congo) said that, in the course of its work, the Committee should place particular emphasis on the question of the protection and security of peacekeeping personnel and civilians, as well as on exit strategies and troop withdrawal. Management of the post-conflict period and improvement of the cost reimbursement mechanism for troop- and police-contributing countries should also be discussed.

42. Given the growing complexity of situations on the ground, the effectiveness of peacekeeping operations was dependent on the political will and support of all Member States and on collaboration with host countries. His delegation supported all initiatives focused on strengthening triangular dialogue between the Security Council, troop-contributing countries and the Secretariat and on improving the global partnership designed to develop more collective efforts based on the sharing of tasks and responsibilities, as well as mutual trust.

43. While his delegation welcomed the highly informative report of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations, and its valuable efforts to establish better cooperation with troop-contributing countries, it stressed the need for the Special Committee to consult such countries ahead of time and involve them in the implementation of operations at all stages: preparation, planning, the development of clear

and realistic mandates, decision-making and evaluation.

44. The participation of the Congo in the African-led International Support Mission in the Central African Republic (MISCA) and the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA) demonstrated its commitment to the international community's peacekeeping efforts. In July 2014, it had hosted the Central African national reconciliation forum, at which the parties to the conflict in the Central African Republic had signed a cessation-of-hostilities agreement.

45. **Ms. Nguyen** Phuong Nga (Viet Nam) said that Viet Nam had joined the community of troop-contributing countries in June 2014 by sending its first two peacekeepers to the United Nations Mission in South Sudan. It was grateful to the international partners, Member States and United Nations entities that had assisted it in that regard. Domestically, the Viet Nam Peacekeeping Centre had been established to coordinate the training, preparation and deployment of future Vietnamese peacekeepers. Viet Nam was also working with international partners, especially the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Field Support, to prepare for its future peacekeeping contributions.

46. In view of the evolving nature of conflicts, United Nations peacekeeping operations had expanded in size, mandates and complexity, and their tasks now extended far beyond traditional peacekeeping to cover civilian protection and the establishment of the foundations for sustainable peacebuilding. The success of United Nations peacekeeping required strict adherence to the purposes and principles of the Charter and universally recognized principles, including respect for the national sovereignty and territorial integrity of States and non-interference in their internal affairs. Sustainable peace and stability would be best achieved by addressing the root causes of conflict on the basis of dialogue and reconciliation.

47. Her delegation welcomed the agreement in the Fifth Committee to increase the rate of reimbursement for troop-contributing countries. Field missions must remain effective, well equipped and adequately supported to address the unprecedented demands and new risks they faced. The highest standards of safety and security for peacekeepers should be prioritized

and, to that end, regular monitoring and reviews should be conducted to form the basis for future policy decision-making on peacekeeping matters. Her delegation therefore looked forward to the comprehensive review of peacekeeping operations recently announced by the Secretary-General.

48. **Mr. Nduhungerehe** (Rwanda) said that Rwanda was currently the fifth largest troop- and police-contributing country, deploying 5,630 troops and police in nine missions on the African continent and beyond. It was also one of the largest contributors of female peacekeepers and was actively working to increase the number of women deployed worldwide. Consequently, his delegation had a vested interest in the success of peacekeeping missions and in the safety of peacekeepers.

49. The scale of United Nations peacekeeping operations was now enormous and reflected the complex modern threats to peace and security, including sophisticated armed groups, transnational criminal networks, terrorist organizations and asymmetric warfare. As conflicts increased in intensity and nature, the responses of the international community must adapt in order for United Nations operations to remain relevant and viable.

50. During its time on the Security Council, including as Chair of the Working Group on Peacekeeping Operations, Rwanda had shared its unique insights as a major troop- and police-contributing country to help shape Security Council peacekeeping mandates to reflect the situation on the ground, including through the authorization of robust mandates to protect civilians and neutralize illegal armed groups. The international community must change the way it did business, using collective strength and individual advantages to address dramatically altered conditions. His delegation therefore looked forward to the Secretary-General's review of peacekeeping operations and special political missions and urged him to collaborate with all key stakeholders, including regional and subregional organizations, as well as to work closely with troop- and police-contributing countries on the review's recommendations. The High-level Summit on Peacekeeping held in September 2014 had produced concrete pledges to increase contributions of troops, equipment and finance, as well as a strong consensus on the need to strengthen capacity and improve

performance, including with regard to civilian protection.

51. As a country that had witnessed first-hand the catastrophic consequences of a United Nations mission that failed to protect civilians, Rwanda was convinced that nothing mattered more than saving innocent lives when they were at stake and left unprotected by their own Government. Protection by presence alone was not enough to deter armed militias. Exemplary protection of civilians required political will, a proactive and robust posture, and long-range patrols that might involve interaction between peacekeepers and those they protected. Rwanda had earned a reputation as one of the few peacekeeping nations to utilize that approach, which should become the norm.

52. While troop-contributing countries had the main responsibility for preparing and training their troops and police, the United Nations was also responsible for ensuring that the necessary resources were available for peacekeepers to implement their mandate and protect themselves as soon as they arrived on the ground. Equipment and pre-deployment training had a significant role to play in ensuring the safety and security of peacekeepers, whose lives were increasingly threatened by new types of threats and hostile operating environments. It was to be hoped that the Secretary-General's review would produce concrete recommendations in that regard.

53. It was critical to remedy the delays in the reimbursement of troop- and police-contributing countries, as well as to provide early notification of any delays so that countries could make necessary adjustments and inform all stakeholders. Delayed reimbursements and the absence of timely communication of such delays were unacceptable, impacting work on the ground as well as potential future deployments. Rwanda had been one of ten countries to participate in a much-needed survey to review troop costs; although the hoped-for outcome had not been entirely reflected in the revised rates of reimbursement, it had been a step in the right direction and a periodic exercise would help to remedy existing gaps. The voices of troop- and police-contributing countries must continue to be taken into account as peacekeeping evolved.

54. Rapid deployment abilities were essential to the future success of peacekeeping operations. While the United Nations was building up its own capacity in

that area, cooperation with regional organizations was also vital for crisis response and political leverage, as reflected in Security Council resolution 2167 (2014). Another example of how bilateral, regional and international partnerships could enhance peacekeeping was the introduction of the African Peacekeeping Rapid Response Partnership, as an outcome of the United States-Africa Leaders' Summit convened in August 2014 to foster stronger ties between the United States of America and African nations. He urged other Member States to take related initiatives.

55. Given that the majority of the United Nations peacekeeping budget went towards conflicts in Africa, his Government was determined to do its part to strengthen the region's capacity to respond to crises and save lives. The Eastern Africa Standby Force, chaired by Rwanda, would be operational in December 2014, a full year ahead of schedule. Such regional and subregional standby forces had an important role to play in supporting United Nations missions, as well as serving as rapid deployment mechanisms. His delegation anticipated further coordination between the Security Council and such regional arrangements, and hoped that the recommendations of the Secretary-General's strategic review would take such recent developments into account.

56. **Mr. Estreme** (Argentina) said that, over time, United Nations peacekeeping operations had been deployed in increasingly dangerous situations, characterized by a multiplicity of actors, little or no State authority, inter-ethnic conflicts, new threats such as terrorism and drug trafficking, and a greater need to protect civilians. Over the previous 15 years, the United Nations had adapted to those changing circumstances by establishing increasingly complex multidimensional peacekeeping missions, which served as a platform for sustainable development, including through the protection and promotion of human rights, institutional reconstruction and the consolidation of democracy and the rule of law.

57. Current realities called for continued reflection on the changing role of peacekeeping missions, as well as on how to strengthen their operational capacity. His delegation welcomed the announcement that the Secretary-General was to establish a high-level panel to review peacekeeping operations and special political missions, in consultation with troop- and police-contributing countries; such consultation was essential in order for any recommendation to have a real impact

on the ground. It should be recalled that it was the purview of the General Assembly, in particular the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations and the Fourth Committee, to decide on the policies and strategies to be implemented.

58. Although it was easy to identify the challenges facing peacekeeping missions, it was much more difficult to agree on how to address them. His delegation recognized the growing need for peacekeeping operations to have “robust” or “effective” mandates that would allow them to function in high-risk situations characterized by unconventional threats; however, the system of peacekeeping had not been designed for the use of force through offensive actions in order to fulfil peacekeeping mandates. Therefore, although his delegation welcomed the trend for the United Nations to command, control and finance missions that might require a mandate exceptionally including the use of force through offensive actions — rather than such activities being outsourced by the Security Council to multinational forces not under the control of the United Nations — it believed that the characteristics of an effective and appropriate tool to address such challenges should emerge from a debate among all Member States, and that it should not impact the essential principles of the peacekeeping system that had been built at such cost or, in particular, jeopardize the safety of United Nations personnel on the ground.

59. Another topic to be considered was the use in peacekeeping of new technologies, especially unarmed aerial vehicles. Such technologies could significantly increase capacities in peacekeeping missions, but must be evaluated on a case-by-case basis and used for observation purposes under the control of the United Nations, with strict respect for the purposes and principles of the Charter and of peacekeeping. His delegation hoped to receive more information from the Secretariat on the use of such technologies, including lessons learned in ensuring the confidentiality of the information obtained and in improving civilian protection and personnel security through better situational awareness.

60. If Member States truly had the political will to strengthen the United Nations peacekeeping system, they must assume the financial costs it entailed. There was a negative tendency in the United Nations to increase constantly the complexity of peacekeeping operations without allocating them the necessary financial resources to discharge their mandates. It was

not logical to expect peacekeeping operations to fulfil an ever-greater number of tasks in increasingly difficult operational circumstances while simultaneously freezing their budgets.

61. **Mr. Sylla** (Senegal), recalling the recent establishment of the Captain Mbaye Diagne Medal for Exceptional Courage, in honour of a Senegalese blue helmet who had bravely given his life in Rwanda to protect the lives of others, said that the remarkable work of United Nations peacekeepers, especially in Africa, must be commended.

62. The basic principles of peacekeeping had become increasingly ineffective as the nature of conflict, and the actors involved, had changed: intra-State conflicts, non-State actors, extremism and blind violence spared no one, and peacekeeping personnel were increasingly targeted deliberately. The growing number of costly special political missions also raised the question of their financing. Despite those complex issues, Senegal had maintained and even strengthened its commitment to peacekeeping. In September 2014, it had ranked ninth out of the 128 troop- and police-contributing countries, with a total of 2,827 personnel deployed in various peacekeeping missions.

63. At its 2014 session, the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations had achieved concrete results, particularly with regard to disarmament, demobilization and reintegration. Such programmes, an essential component of peacekeeping and peacebuilding, must be prioritized at the stage of consolidating peace, security, national reconciliation, human rights and the rule of law, with a view to fully restoring peace in post-conflict countries. Although host Governments had the main responsibility for ensuring the well-being of their population, it was also crucial to ensure that peacekeeping operations had a positive impact on the living conditions of civilians, through the implementation of programmes to create jobs and support the adequate functioning of basic social services during the post-conflict period.

64. Bearing in mind their important role in the prevention and resolution of conflicts, it was regrettable that women were poorly represented across all categories of peacekeeping personnel, both at Headquarters and in field missions. Efforts should be made to increase their effective participation at all levels, including in decision-making, and the implementation of Security Council resolution 1325

(2000) was therefore more necessary than ever. His delegation also welcomed the initiative regarding preventive mechanisms on sexual violence in peacekeeping missions and called for their use in all relevant missions.

65. The provisions of Security Council resolutions 1327 (2000), 1353 (2001) and 2086 (2013) must be effectively implemented with a view to strengthening cooperation between the Council and troop-contributing countries. Triangular consultations between the Security Council, the Secretariat and troop-contributing countries were crucial for defining clear and robust mandates in the light of changing conflicts. His delegation also called for greater cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union through operational partnership, planning support and the management of ongoing and future operations. International support for African peacekeeping centres should be reinforced. Senegal welcomed the increase in the rate of reimbursement for troop-contributing countries and called for continued efforts to ensure timely reimbursement.

66. **Mr. Nitzan** (Israel) said that, in a dramatically shifting global security landscape, Israel found itself in a region of the world where peace creation remained elusive, but peacekeeping operations were needed to maintain stability. Israel appreciated the efforts of the United Nations peacekeeping missions operating in the region, and recognized the dramatic new challenges they faced. The violence that had shaken Syria was sending shock waves through the region. For three years, Israelis had endured the threat of a war spilling over into their backyards, with mortar shelling and violations of the 1974 Disengagement of Forces Agreement by Syrian military aircraft and vehicles.

67. **Mr. Hamed** (Syrian Arab Republic), speaking on a point of order, said that the agenda of the current meeting did not provide for discussion of the internal situation of States, only for discussion of peacekeeping operations. Given the time and resource constraints, the delegation representing the Israeli occupation authorities was therefore requested to adhere to the agenda item under consideration when addressing the Committee and refrain from diverting attention from its country's support for terrorists in the theatre of operations of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) and from its illegal settlement-building.

68. **Mr. Nitzan** (Israel) said that both the situation in the area of separation and the challenges that UNDOF faced were relevant to the agenda of the current meeting and it was not Israel that was politicizing the discussion. The actions of the Syrian armed forces had further escalated tensions in a fraught region. Over the last two months, the deterioration around the UNDOF theatre of operations had changed the security landscape in the Golan Heights. The Syrian Army's tactical decision to flee from its positions in disregard of its obligations under international agreements, as armed groups affiliated with the Al-Nusra Front had fought to gain control over certain zones, had left UNDOF peacekeepers unprotected and at risk. Recognizing the danger, and guided by its commitment to the United Nations mission, Israel had opened its gates and relocated peacekeepers across the Alpha line into Israeli territory, to ensure their safety and security. Israel was actively participating in the review of the Force's posture in the execution of its mandate in the current situation, and continued to liaise closely with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and UNDOF, whose continued cooperation with Israel was appreciated. His delegation also thanked those troop-contributing countries that had stepped forward and helped to maintain the Organization's strategic presence despite recurrent attacks on their soldiers.

69. In response to the statement delivered by the Syrian representative at the previous meeting, he said that, regardless of one's origin, faith or political persuasion, no decent human being could ignore the humanitarian tragedy in Syria. The State of Israel and the Jewish people had suffered too much in the past to be indifferent to the suffering of other peoples. For that reason, Israel was providing food and emergency supplies to women, children and the elderly in war-torn Syrian villages and had also opened a field hospital to help the many injured civilians who could not be evacuated to a hospital.

70. **Mr. Hamed** (Syrian Arab Republic), again speaking on a point of order, said that the representative of the occupying Power was determined to waste the Committee's time and divert attention by raising issues that were not relevant to the agenda item.

71. **Mr. Nitzan** (Israel), recalling that he was responding to the statement delivered by the Syrian representative at the previous meeting on the agenda item currently under consideration, said that despite the false accusations repeatedly made by the Syrian

delegation, Israel would continue to save innocent Syrians from the brutality of the regime in power.

72. Israel also valued the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) as a stabilizing force along the Blue Line. It worked closely with UNIFIL in tactical, operational and strategic activities and attached great importance to the tripartite meetings that helped to de-escalate tensions. The relative calm in southern Lebanon was deceptive. Despite the adoption of Security Council resolution 1701 (2006), the hopes of improved security and stability in Lebanon had never materialized. Seven years later, Hizbullah had adapted to new realities and sowing the seeds of future confrontation by planting and detonating improvised explosive devices on the Israeli side of the Blue Line while the Lebanese Government continued to turn a blind eye to violations of the resolution and the obstruction of UNIFIL operations. The international community must prevent the smuggling of arms and the storage of weapons and munitions among civilian populations to target civilian populations in Israel, which was a double war crime. In the twentieth semi-annual report on the implementation of Security Council resolution 1559 (2004) (S/2014/720), the Secretary-General stated that the actions by Hizbullah remained a matter of grave concern, creating an atmosphere of intimidation and representing a key challenge to the safety of Lebanese civilians and to the Government monopoly on the legitimate use of force.

73. To prevent the situation from deteriorating and ensure that UNIFIL could carry out its mandate, the United Nations must call on the Lebanese Government to abide fully by Security Council resolutions 1559 (2004) and 1701 (2006), deploy its armed forces and prevent any future attacks. Israel held the Lebanese Government responsible for any actions within and emanating from its territory.

74. **Mr. Bosah** (Nigeria) said that the increasing number of conflicts exacerbated by global terrorism and other threats to international peace and security created immense demand for United Nations peacekeeping operations, and the extent of those missions was more diverse than ever. Consequently, a consistent review of peacekeeping operations was needed if the challenges to peacekeeping were to be met in an efficient and cost-effective manner. His delegation welcomed the Secretary-General's forthcoming review of peacekeeping operations, which should involve the Special Committee as the only body

entitled to review United Nations peacekeeping operations in all their aspects.

75. Peacekeeping operations must necessarily embrace innovative tools to address new challenges and facilitate their work. Unmanned aerial vehicles, for example, provided surveillance, thus limiting the risks to peacekeepers on the ground and enhancing their capability to protect civilians in conflict zones. Although such tools had been used by MONUSCO, concerns had been expressed regarding their use in peacekeeping operations. As appropriately applied technology could help peacekeepers to do their jobs more effectively and efficiently, his delegation welcomed the establishment of the Expert Panel on Technology and Innovation in United Nations Peacekeeping to examine where peacekeeping could leverage technology to maximum effect, and encouraged more discussion among United Nations bodies and troop- and police-contributing countries on the use of unmanned aerial vehicles.

76. The complexity of conflicts called for closer collaboration between the United Nations, regional organizations and subregional groups in order to create a cost-effective and robust United Nations peacekeeping mechanism. The development of a strategic framework embodying a common vision for cooperation and a road map for its implementation could guide closer interaction between those bodies.

77. While women constituted only 3 per cent of military peacekeepers and 9 per cent of United Nations police officers, the successes they had achieved had highlighted the additional experiences and capabilities they brought to peacekeeping operations. The international community must go beyond ad hoc and isolated approaches to increase the participation of women in peacekeeping operations and integrate them into leadership positions.

78. As the previous reimbursement structure had provided virtually no financial incentives for troop- and police-contributing countries to contribute specialized units, or to assume the risks associated with implementing ambitious peacekeeping mandates, his delegation welcomed the adoption of General Assembly resolution 68/281 authorizing the increase in reimbursement rates for troops.

79. The sacrifices of the men and women serving in extremely difficult and hostile environments of conflict, especially those who had lost their lives in the

cause of peace, should serve as motivation for the international community to find the required political will and financial commitment necessary for successful United Nations peacekeeping initiatives. In that regard, it should be recalled that addressing the root causes of conflicts remained the most effective tool for ensuring sustained peace and security. Proactive engagement in dispute management was needed in order to ensure that situations likely to lead to conflict were addressed before they escalated.

80. **Mr. Ishikawa** (Japan) said that United Nations peacekeeping had been evolving since its inception and had now become multidimensional, with broader roles and responsibilities. Even in the midst of change, however, peacekeeping had remained a flagship initiative of the United Nations for international peace and security. The challenge was to make peacekeeping operations sustainable in terms of both financial and human resources while maintaining functionality.

81. Taking into account the strengths and weaknesses of the various United Nations tools for international peace and security — peacekeeping operations, special political missions, country teams and regional and bilateral support functions — it was important to adopt the measures that corresponded best to each specific situation on the ground, and also adjust them in line with evolving situations through smooth and timely transitions. Such considerations could allow for the achievement of right-sizing, including the drawdown and closure of missions, and the best allocation of limited financial and human resources. It was to be hoped that the Secretary-General's strategic review of peacekeeping operations and special political missions would enhance greater collaboration with the Security Council, the Secretariat, and the General Assembly, which was needed for the better employment of the various peace and security instruments.

82. More investment was needed to leverage the operational capabilities of peacekeeping operations. In that regard, his delegation strongly supported the United Nations military unit manuals project. Member States should also more actively support training for peacekeepers, through bilateral, regional and triangular cooperation; his delegation was, in particular, exploring greater opportunities for cooperation with troop-contributing countries. Since peacekeeping was a collective endeavour, the comparative advantages of each Member State should be employed to ensure its success. The recent Summit on United Nations

Peacekeeping had resulted in many new pledges from Member States, and had also persuaded his own Government to expand its support for peacekeeping operations, including through support for the rapid deployment of enabler capabilities, especially for peacekeeping operations in Africa. Without such timely deployment, missions could not respond effectively to crises. Japan had therefore committed to providing engineering equipment and necessary operational training, and to promoting triangular partnership with potential troop contributors and the United Nations. His Government supported the African Peacekeeping Rapid Response Partnership and would pursue synergies in that regard.

83. The Fourth Committee and the Special Committee were responsible for guiding the development of United Nations peacekeeping by identifying and addressing challenges on the ground, including the issue of rapid deployment. Japan expressed its deepest condolences for those peacekeepers who had made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty and strongly condemned attacks targeting peacekeepers.

84. **Mr. Sesay** (Sierra Leone) said that, amid drastic changes in the peace, security and economic environment over the previous two decades, United Nations peacekeepers had served as an indispensable tool in the maintenance of global peace and security. It was therefore incumbent upon the international community to sustain its efforts to improve the overall efficiency of peacekeeping operations at all times.

85. As a result of the recommendations contained in the 2000 report of the Panel on United Nations Peace Operations (Brahimi report) (A/55/305-S/2000/809), peacekeeping missions had become involved in areas such as justice, security sector reform and local institution-building with a view to consolidating peace, and had progressively engaged military, police and civilian personnel, thereby assuming the dual role of peacekeepers and peacebuilders. However, the changing nature of crises — with civil conflicts becoming coupled with terrorism, while organized crime, illegal trade in small arms and light weapons, human and drug trafficking, and maritime piracy continued to prevail — called for a further review and subsequent reform of the current peacekeeping architecture. His delegation therefore welcomed the Secretary-General's proposed comprehensive review and hoped that the High-level Panel to be appointed

would be guided by Security Council resolution 2167 (2014), placing particular emphasis on modalities for transitional arrangements and effective partnerships between regional organizations and the United Nations in peacekeeping operations, while also paying attention to the need for clear and realistic mandates, the provision of timely and adequate resources and the enhancement of troop capabilities. Regular consultations with troop- and police-contributing countries in the process of policy formulation and decision-making should be undertaken to achieve meaningful partnerships and effective implementation of peacekeeping missions. Peacekeeping operations should also ensure greater participation by women and help host nations to redress conditions of gender inequality. In addition, transition and drawdown processes should be conducted at a manner and pace to suit the specific circumstances of the host Government.

86. His delegation welcomed the measures taken to establish the United Nations Mission for Ebola Emergency Response (UNMEER) in order to address the unprecedented human security threat that had emerged in the West Africa subregion; such a speedy response to the high level of threat and urgency, if maintained in future cases, gave hope and promise for the future of peacekeeping missions.

87. The contribution of Sierra Leone to United Nations peacekeeping efforts, notwithstanding its specific circumstances, demonstrated its firm commitment to the purposes and principles of the United Nations with regard to the maintenance of global peace and stability. Having once hosted peacekeepers, it was now able to contribute troops for peacekeeping missions, following its successful transition to peace consolidation and development. It was committed to sharing its experiences and lessons learned in a review of civilian capacities aimed at integrating early peacebuilding elements into peacekeeping operations, and stood ready to increase its peacekeeping presence to further enhance the success of global peacekeeping operations.

88. As peacekeeping troops were entrusted with more challenging and multidimensional mandates, the Security Council, the General Assembly and troop-contributing and host countries must sustain and further strengthen their collective efforts to create synergies and ensure adequate support to the missions, with a view to enhancing the fulfilment of their mandates.

89. **Mr. Ali Adoum** (Chad) said that peacekeeping had evolved from ceasefire monitoring to increasingly complex multidimensional operations. The operating environment had also changed in recent years, with threats such as terrorism and cross-border organized crime emerging alongside internal armed conflicts. The range of solutions had evolved, which had sometimes led to contradictions with the basic principles of peacekeeping.

90. The military defeat of M23 in November 2013 had marked an important step forward in the fight against armed groups and had helped to strengthen security and stability in the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The victory had also permitted the Democratic Republic of the Congo to regain control of certain regions and had led many other armed groups to lay down their weapons. The Intervention Brigade, which had played a crucial role in defeating the armed groups, must continue to pursue the neutralization of other groups threatening the stability of the country and surrounding region. United Nations peacekeeping operations should be given a peace enforcement mandate, aimed in particular at providing the host Government with the necessary support to ensure full State authority over the whole of its territory, the preservation of national unity and territorial integrity, and the protection of civilians.

91. The United Nations should engage more closely with regional and subregional organizations, especially in Africa. A strong partnership and regular consultations with such organizations as the African Union, the Economic Community of Central African States, the Economic Community of West African States and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development would ensure better resolution of crises, pursuant to the provisions of Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations. Chad commended the peacekeeping operations undertaken by those organizations, and called on the United Nations to take into account the legitimate requests made by the Peace and Security Council of the African Union, particularly with regard to the financing of operations carried out with the consent of the Security Council. Building the capacity of regional and subregional organizations was also important. In that regard, his delegation welcomed the adoption of a new rate of reimbursement for troop-contributing countries. The Secretary-General should continue to take additional measures to ensure the safety and security of all United Nations peacekeeping

personnel. Peacekeeping operations should also receive sufficient resources to fulfil their mandates effectively.

92. It was vital to strengthen the capacities of peacekeeping operations in order to combat asymmetric threats. It was unacceptable that peacekeepers, and in particular MINUSMA, had become the preferred target for attacks with improvised explosive devices, landmines, missiles, mortars, shells, and car bombs. Chadian peacekeepers had paid a heavy price in Mali owing to such attacks. MINUSMA should therefore revise its plan for countering asymmetric attacks in order to better protect its peacekeepers and facilities. It should also provide its contingents with adequate means to cope with the dangerous weather conditions that had also resulted in casualties. Lastly, it should strengthen its intelligence capacity, in order to better differentiate between armed groups and terrorist groups.

93. **Mr. Patten** (Liberia) said that a periodic and comprehensive review of all aspects of United Nations peacekeeping operations was necessary to take stock of peacekeeping trends, evaluate their achievements and identify new strategic approaches to carry out effectively and efficiently the Organization's core mandate of maintaining international peace, including by developing the necessary tools.

94. States had an obligation to protect their citizens; if they were unable to do so, international action, including peacekeeping measures, should be taken to save lives and help countries affected by conflict to transition from war to peace. However, as peacekeeping was complex and could be perilous, adequate training, capabilities and resources were necessary to ensure that peacekeeping missions were successful and focused. His delegation welcomed the recent increase in the reimbursement rate for troop-contributing countries and hoped for continued discussion of that important issue in the future. It also supported continued cooperation between the Security Council, the African Union Peace and Security Council and other regional groups, as well as interaction between the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, the Department of Field Support and troop- and police-contributing countries to ensure that the concerns of peacekeepers were addressed.

95. Over the years, peacekeeping mandates had evolved from ceasefire monitoring and truce observation to multidimensional critical interventions,

ranging from first response to post-conflict reconstruction and assistance for peacebuilding, in collaboration with host Governments, partners and stakeholders. The comprehensive, coherent and integrated approach required placed a burden on the United Nations to ensure that peacekeepers had the proper capabilities and expertise needed to meet the challenges they faced.

96. Liberia had been a beneficiary of United Nations peacekeeping when its security institutions had completely collapsed. It was the presence and work of peacekeepers that had created the stable security environment it now enjoyed. Liberia was therefore grateful to the United Nations, and to the countries contributing the troops, police and civilian staff that had been integral to the success of the United Nations Mission in Liberia, and it supported the observance of the annual International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers. His Government had contributed a limited number of soldiers to keeping the peace and stabilizing the political environment in Mali. Cognizant of the increasingly important role played by peacekeeping in maintaining international peace and security, Liberia aspired to play a larger supportive role in peacekeeping missions in the future.

97. **Mr. Niyazaliev** (Kyrgyzstan) said that, as emphasized in Security Council resolution 2086 (2013), United Nations peacekeeping activities should facilitate post-conflict peacebuilding, prevention of relapse into armed conflict and progress towards sustainable peace and development. Peacekeeping operations must unwaveringly adhere to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, including the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of States and non-interference in their internal affairs. Their success depended on strict compliance with the basic principles of peacekeeping. It was important to establish clear mandates, tasks and command structures for peacekeeping operations and provide them with sufficient resources.

98. Given the relevance of modern technologies, including unmanned aerial vehicles, to peacekeeping operations, it was necessary to examine them thoroughly in order to develop consistent and balanced approaches to peacekeeping in the current context, especially as the fifteenth anniversary of the Brahimi report approached. In that regard, his delegation supported the Secretary-General's announced

appointment of a High-Level Independent Panel to conduct a review of United Nations peacekeeping operations.

99. The growing role and scale of peacekeeping operations and the expansion of mission mandates required increasingly effective cooperation with regional and subregional organizations. In addition to traditional partners, the United Nations must bolster cooperation with regional organizations such as the Collective Security Treaty Organization and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, which played a vital role in supporting peace and security in the Central Asian region.

100. Kyrgyzstan strongly condemned attacks on United Nations personnel. Priority must be given to the security and protection of United Nations peacekeepers and decisive measures must be taken to hold the perpetrators accountable. It was also important to maintain the highest medical standards to protect peacekeepers on the ground from infectious diseases, and keep all peacekeepers informed of the health risk factors in the geographical region where their mission operated. His delegation was grateful to the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Field Support for their briefings on the spread of the Ebola virus disease.

101. Kyrgyzstan had participated in United Nations peacekeeping operations since 1998 and was currently represented by more than 30 military observers and civilian police personnel at various United Nations missions. His country planned to donate a Level II field hospital and stood ready to cooperate more closely and actively with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Field Support. Despite its limited resources, Kyrgyzstan had successfully introduced legislation governing its participation in United Nations peacekeeping operations and was currently updating the related regulatory framework, as well as promoting inter-agency cooperation in the selection and preparation of candidates for participation in United Nations peacekeeping missions.

102. **Ms. Shahula** (Maldives) said that, in 2014, her Government had signed a Memorandum of Understanding concerning contributions to the United Nations Stand-By Arrangements System, emphasizing its continued commitment to international cooperation within the United Nations system to maintain peace

and security. Every Member State, no matter how small, had an obligation to contribute to the main goals of the United Nations according to its capabilities. The Maldives National Defence Force, which had long-standing experience in the protection and surveillance of the country's vast open sea borders, would contribute military observers and infantry to join the peacekeeping forces of the United Nations in the following two years. The Maldives had been motivated to become a troop-contributing country in view of the continued demand for peacekeeping operations worldwide.

103. **Mr. Maleki** (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that his delegation accorded high priority to the safety and security of United Nations peacekeepers in the field, in the light of the worsening security situation prevailing in many field missions. It strongly condemned the killing and kidnapping of United Nations peacekeepers, and all targeted attacks against them.

104. The Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations was the only United Nations forum mandated to comprehensively review the whole question of United Nations peacekeeping operations in all their aspects, discuss issues and policies related to peacekeeping and form tailored responses to emerging issues. United Nations peacekeeping operations must ensure respect for the principles of sovereign equality, political independence and territorial integrity of all States, as well as non-interference in their internal affairs.

105. A new mechanism was needed to address the emerging challenges facing United Nations peacekeeping operations. When establishing any mechanism, deploying a peacekeeping operation or extending the mandates of existing operations, the utmost care should be taken to observe the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, and the basic principles of peacekeeping. New concepts and ideas, consistent with internationally agreed principles, guidelines and terminology, must be adopted to address the needs arising from the complex and multidimensional nature of peacekeeping operations.

106. The Islamic Republic of Iran fully supported the demands of troop- and police-contributing countries to be given a greater role in decision-making processes concerning peacekeeping operations, as that would provide an additional incentive for Member States to

support United Nations peacekeeping. As a crucial tool for long-term stability and development in countries emerging from conflict, peacekeeping operations should be accompanied by peacebuilding activities aimed at facilitating economic revitalization and development and enabling national capacity on the basis of the fundamental principle of national ownership.

107. Peacekeeping should not be turned into peace enforcement, and the use of force in a peacekeeping mission should under no circumstances jeopardize the strategic relationship between the host country and the mission. The protection of civilians was the primary responsibility of the host country; it should be guided by the principles of the Charter and should not be used as a pretext for military intervention by the United Nations in conflicts. The primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security lay with the United Nations, and the role of regional arrangements and agencies in that regard should be in accordance with Chapter VIII of the Charter. Regional arrangements should never undertake peacekeeping operations as a substitute for the United Nations, circumvent full application of the United Nations guiding principles on peacekeeping operations, or disengage the Organization from its primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security.

108. His delegation supported enhanced cooperation between the relevant United Nations bodies involved in peacekeeping operations, including through regular and timely meetings at all stages of peacekeeping operations and greater participation of troop-contributing countries in the deliberations of the Security Council Working Group on Peacekeeping Operations. The Islamic Republic of Iran stood ready to increase its contribution to peacekeeping operations, with a view to helping people in troubled regions of the world to decide their own future based on their political will and cultural priorities.

The meeting rose at 1.10 p.m.