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## Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee)

### Summary record (partial)\* of the 15th meeting

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Tuesday, 25 October 2016, at 10 a.m.

*Chair:* Mr. Drobnjak ..... (Croatia)

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Agenda item 51: Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects (*continued*)

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\* No summary record was prepared for the informal part of the meeting.

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

**Agenda item 51: Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects** (*continued*)

1. **Mr. Medan** (Croatia) said that increasingly complex and diverse security challenges made it necessary for the United Nations system to adapt in order to remain relevant and maintain the effectiveness of its peacekeeping. The four 2015 reviews of peace operations had given priority to political solutions and stressed conflict prevention, mediation, the building of partnerships and the eradication of sexual exploitation and abuse committed by United Nations peacekeeping troops. In addition, a greater inclusion of women in peacekeeping and peacebuilding processes, particularly in conflict prevention, negotiation and post-conflict reconciliation, would make a vital contribution to mission success and sustainability. Other priorities that emerged from the reviews were the need to enhance uniformed capabilities and performance, improve United Nations field support structures, and formulate clear mandates tailored to the specific circumstances of each operation.

2. Haunted by its failures in Rwanda and Srebrenica, the United Nations must adopt a comprehensive, integrated and multidimensional approach to ensuring proper protection of civilians in peacekeeping contexts. Short-term assistance in crises should be supplemented by measures to ensure long-term peace and security by promoting sustainable economic development, good governance, rule of law and respect for human rights. Human rights in particular should be central to achieving peace and security, and there should also be a greater focus on timely prevention and mediation. In addition, politico-military and humanitarian action must go hand in hand, and comprehensive protection strategies should be incorporated into the overall mission plans, in close consultation with the host government, local authorities, contributing countries and other relevant actors.

3. At the 2015 Leaders' Summit on Peacekeeping, Croatia had pledged to conduct United Nations-certified predeployment trainings for women police officers from troop-contributing States outside the Euro-Atlantic region. His Government was also preparing to put an engineering company at the

disposal of United Nations peacekeeping operations for rapid deployment, thus addressing a critical gap identified in existing peacekeeping operations.

4. **Mr. Mounzer** (Syrian Arab Republic) said that although the concept of peacekeeping operations was not specifically mentioned in the Charter of the United Nations, they had become one of the Organization's primary tools to ease tensions, maintain peace and ensure an environment conducive to post-conflict peacebuilding. The principles set out in the Charter 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. It was also important to adhere to the basic principles of peacekeeping, namely, consent of the parties, impartiality and non-use of force except in self-defence and in defence of the mandate. Missions should cooperate with the host country in all matters pertaining to the forces deployed.

5. Although the Syrian Arab Republic supported the development of peacekeeping operations at all levels, the operations were no substitute for permanent solutions that addressed the root causes of conflict. All policy and strategy on peacekeeping operations must be developed and adopted through intergovernmental processes, and only the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations had the authority to deal with basic policy matters relating to peacekeeping operations, including ways of strengthening the Organization's capacity to undertake them.

6. Peacekeeping operations requiring the protection of civilians should do so 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.

7. 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 and to the detriment of regional peace and security. 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.

8. There had been disturbing threats against peacekeeping personnel that challenged their ability to function and threatened their lives, including in the area of separation in the Syrian Golan, where terrorist attacks and kidnappings had led some UNDOF forces to withdraw temporarily in places. Those attacks had confirmed his Government's warnings about the support of certain countries, including Israel, for terrorist groups linked to Al-Qaida that were active in the area of disengagement. Their actions constituted both a major threat and a flagrant violation of international law and the Disengagement of Forces Agreement. Such support had to end in order to allow UNDOF forces to return to the positions that they had been forced to evacuate.

9. **Mr. Ben Sliman** (Tunisia) said that his Government was strongly committed to United Nations peacekeeping and was working to increase its contribution to missions. A welcome reform process had been launched in recent years to improve the effectiveness of peacekeeping operations, and there should now be close coordination in applying the recommendations made by the Secretary General in his report entitled "The future of United Nations peace operations: implementation of the recommendations of the High-level Independent Panel on Peace Operations (A/70/357-S/2015/682)". While the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations with its overall vision should continue to play a crucial role, effective peacekeeping would rely on a strong partnership between the Security Council, the Secretariat, troop- and police-contributing countries, financial contributors, host countries and regional organizations. That would require more consultation between the Council and troop-contributing countries on clear and realistic mission mandates, their implementation or subsequent changes to them, as well as the evolution of peacekeeping missions towards greater complexity.

10. Rather than on military engagement, greater focus should be placed on the prevention or peaceful resolution of conflicts, on sustainable political solutions and the creation of conditions conducive to sustainable peace. More cooperation in that vein between the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Peacebuilding Commission was essential to ensuring a smooth transition from the peacekeeping to the peacebuilding phase.

11. The disturbing increase in casualties among peacekeepers demanded stronger measures to ensure their safety and security, including the provision of appropriate equipment and adequate training on precautions. In addition, gender perspectives should be incorporated into all aspects of peacekeeping with a view to increasing women's participation in uniformed tasks. Their involvement would improve the operational effectiveness of missions and help to ensure successful and sustainable peace processes.

12. Tunisia shared the international community's outrage over the instances of sexual abuse committed by United Nations peacekeepers, and supported the Secretary-General's zero-tolerance policy. Everything should be done to ensure that such abuses were not repeated and that the perpetrators were brought to justice. Moreover, although welcome partnerships had been built between subregional and regional organizations and the United Nations, especially in addressing security challenges under Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations, greater financial support and cooperation should be afforded to the African Union to help consolidate its peacekeeping architecture.

13. **Mr. Munir** (Pakistan) said that over 150,000 Pakistani peacekeepers had joined 41 missions in 23 countries since 1960, and his country was hosting one of the Organization's oldest peacekeeping missions, the United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP), as it continued to help keep peace by monitoring the line of control in Jammu and Kashmir.

14. At the previous session, ground-breaking reviews of peacekeeping and the peacebuilding architecture had been conducted. Since the deployment of the first mission, United Nations peacekeeping had evolved from simple ceasefire monitoring into multidimensional operations that addressed the political, security, humanitarian and

development dimensions of complex crises, and that also often stayed to ensure the implementation of peace agreements. Those new dimensions, coupled with the increasingly volatile environments in which missions operated, had revealed gaps in technology and capabilities, which could be filled through close cooperation between the Security Council, the Secretariat and troop- and police-contributing countries. Unprepared and ill-equipped peacekeepers should not be placed in the middle of conflicts. Deployment decisions should be based on consultation, preparation and knowledge of the situation on the ground, and triangular cooperation was critical for all three. Troop-contributing countries, as principal stakeholders, should be fully consulted in a timely manner, and their suggestions should be taken on board, whether in designing mandates or testing out new ideas. A thorough review of the modalities of triangular cooperation was necessary to make the process effective.

15. The Council should be more circumspect when mandating enforcement tasks. Peacekeepers should neither become parties to a conflict nor should they be perceived by the local populations and authorities as a tool of external intervention. The protection of civilians, where mandated, remained critical. Clearly defined mandates would simplify the role of peacekeepers. Moreover, the dangerous nature of conflict situations made it all the more critical to ensure the safety and security of peacekeepers; and the use of modern technology where it would help should be considered. Furthermore, peacekeeping worked best when there was peace to keep and a political process to sustain it. Enhanced conflict prevention and mediation capabilities spearheaded by the Secretariat would ensure that.

16. Pakistan supported the Secretary-General's zero-tolerance policy on sexual exploitation and abuse by peacekeepers, as well as the adoption of an overarching resolution drawing on the work of various relevant committees in order to address the issue comprehensively. Troop-contributing-countries should, however, be consulted during the development of effective guidelines and mechanisms to stem that scourge.

17. The Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations remained the most appropriate forum for discussing peacekeeping-related issues, and the consensus of its members was crucial before the Organization embarked

on a new policy framework — which in the process should be based on the three guiding principles of peacekeeping.

18. **Mr. Zhang** Dianbin (China) said that Member States should study the evolving situation of peacekeeping operations in order to ensure a better fulfilment of mandates. The three basic principles of peacekeeping should be upheld at all times, for their contravention would undermine international efforts to resolve disputes and harm the long-term development of peacekeeping.

19. The Security Council should ensure that mission mandates were realistic and feasible, while identifying the priorities of different phases of the operation in order to achieve tangible results. Mandates should be reviewed when it was necessary, and exit strategies should be determined well in advance. Furthermore, troop-contributing countries should have a greater say in the implementation of any major policies or measures.

20. Every effort should be made to improve the safety and security of peacekeeping personnel, and detailed operational guidelines on the matter should be devised. A more symmetrical safety environment should be created, and the peacekeeping secretariats ought to coordinate with both host and troop-contributing countries. Action should also be taken to strengthen logistical capacity. The build-up and deployment of troops should be expedited and logistical support and use of resources optimized to guarantee adequate personnel and equipment. Greater disciplinary measures were, furthermore, necessary to maintain the image and reputation of peacekeeping operations.

21. China, as a major contributor of both financial resources and troops, was playing its part to preserve world peace and stability, and it intended to implement the commitments made recently by its President. His Government stood ready to work with the international community to promote the development of United Nations peacekeeping operations and respect for the purposes and principles of the Charter in the maintenance of international peace and security.

22. **Mr. Herasymenko** (Ukraine) said that his Government attached great importance to peacekeeping as a core task of the United Nations, and was proud to be

part of an endeavour that had contributed much to the resolution of conflicts. As recommended in the reports of the High-level Panel and the Secretary-General, the United Nations had established strategic partnerships with regional organizations such as the European Union and the African Union, and should continue to do so. There was potential for similar cooperation with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), particularly with respect to the deployment of OSCE missions in insecure environments.

23. The protection of civilians, often decisive for the success and legitimacy of peacekeeping operations, should remain an overarching objective for peacekeeping operations. Different levels of threat should be met with appropriate and proportionate use of force, as necessary and as mandated. In that regard, Ukraine had endorsed the Kigali Principles on the Protection of Civilians.

24. United Nations military and police personnel should be properly equipped and should receive both predeployment and in-mission training with regard to child protection, sexual and gender-based violence, as well as sexual exploitation and abuse. Given the disturbing persistence of alleged sexual crimes by peacekeepers, Ukraine urged the Secretary-General to apply his zero-tolerance policy strictly.

25. Efforts should be made to ensure the safety, security and protection of United Nations personnel as well, with better integration of modern technology and intelligence capabilities into peacekeeping operations to improve the situational awareness of troops in real time. Appropriate force generation, always a challenge, was crucial to the success of missions, and Ukraine, as a troop contributor, therefore welcomed the establishment of the United Nations Peacekeeping Capability Readiness System.

26. Several ideas contained in the report of the High-level Panel underscored the relevance of his Government's initiative to fill in critical gaps in operational capacity, especially aviation capabilities. Despite the ongoing Russian aggression against Ukraine, it would continue to participate actively in United Nations peacekeeping. It was determined to increase the number of Ukrainian blue helmets involved in missions, and had made a pledge to that effect following the 2015 Leaders' Summit on Peacekeeping.

27. Given the mounting violence around the globe, it was reasonable to expect greater engagement from the United Nations in terms of restoring peace and security. The definitions of conflicts, such as "internal", "inter-State", "regional", "ethnic", or "sectarian", had become increasingly blurred and effectively irrelevant for the purpose of formulating mission mandates. Changes in the nature of conflict, such as the worrying trend of "hybrid wars", demanded a comprehensive review of the United Nations ability to respond promptly to the new challenges and circumstances. While it was true, as the High-level Panel maintained, that lasting peace was achieved not through military but political solutions, it should be acknowledged that in some situations the United Nations — slow to react and lacking the initiative to support a peaceful solution or address aggression — did not meet the expectations of the people in need. People in his country continued to suffer from the aggression of one of the Security Council's permanent members. That State, which had been entrusted with maintaining international peace, was brutally violating the principles and the purposes of the Charter, undermining its spirit and threatening the very future of the Organization.

28. **Mr. Alemu** (Ethiopia) said that less time should be spent on semantics and more on the practical implementation of the agreed structural reforms needed to make United Nations peace operations fit for purpose and on carrying out the recommendations in the reports of the High-level Panel and the Secretary-General. It was important to ensure adequate capabilities and force posture, without which it would become increasingly difficult for peacekeepers to effectively carry out mandates, including the protection of civilians in mortal danger, or to protect their own safety and security. Member States and the Secretariat needed, in addition, to reach consensus on an intelligence policy framework, through consultations that would satisfy the genuine concerns of States regarding the kind of systematic intelligence gathering, monitoring and analysis being proposed.

29. Peacekeepers who committed acts of sexual exploitation and abuse should be held accountable. The recent spike in allegations of such incidents was a matter of serious concern, and Ethiopia endorsed the Secretary-General's zero-tolerance policy. However, because unverified and unsubstantiated allegations could undermine the credibility of the troop-contributing countries

concerned, as well as of United Nations peace operations as a whole, the matter should be handled very carefully.

30. The importance of enhancing strategic peacekeeping partnerships between the United Nations and subregional and regional organizations, in particular the African Union, could not be overemphasized. His Government therefore welcomed the relevant recommendations in the reports of the High-level Panel and the Secretary-General, and looked forward to the discussion on that issue slated for the following month in the Security Council. In conclusion, tribute must be paid to the brave men and women who had sacrificed their lives as peacekeepers.

31. **Mr. Bhattarai** (Nepal) said that, as conflicts changed, peacekeeping operations themselves had undergone a complex transformation, bringing to the fore the critical issues of protection of civilians and the building of national capacity. States had recently united to put in place the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which acknowledged the mutually reinforcing nature of peace and security and sustainable development. United Nations peacekeeping operations as well should be informed by and appropriately aligned with that evolving concept.

32. Nepal, a consistent and effective participant in United Nations peacekeeping operations, irrespective of the fragile political or security environments of difficult missions, and even at short notice, had contributed more than 120,000 peacekeepers to over 42 peacekeeping missions since 1958, and 73 of them had made the ultimate sacrifice. With Nepali peacekeepers currently serving in 15 out of 16 peacekeeping missions, his country ranked sixth among the top troop- and police-contributing countries. It had recently deployed an engineering platoon and additional equipment to UNDOF, while a guard unit was in the process of being deployed to the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL).

33. Having a considerable amount of peacekeeping experience, Nepal was prepared to assist fellow Member States in predeployment and other specialized training courses. His Government planned to develop its Peace Operations Training Centre into a centre of excellence in the field. Sixty-four courses had already been conducted for participants from 15 countries. Furthermore, his country wished to participate in peacekeeping decisions made both at Headquarters and in the field, for there were

deserving Nepalese nationals who had demonstrated ability and experience.

34. Nepal was committed to the protection of civilians; and believed that global and regional partnerships were needed to advance the collective efforts of host governments, local communities, United Nations agencies and other organizations in the settlement of conflicts, and the advancement of human rights and sustainable peace. It also fully supported the Secretary-General's zero-tolerance policy on sexual exploitation and abuse by peacekeepers. Such acts should be handled with utmost seriousness, on a case-by-case basis. The Organization's policies on that issue and on the protection of human rights were built strongly into his country's training courses and predeployment instructions.

35. His Government was implementing in earnest Security Council resolutions [1325 \(2000\)](#) and [1820 \(2008\)](#), and had been deploying national investigation officers, some of them women, since March 2016 to each of the peacekeeping missions in which it was involved. High priority had been given to the representation of skilled and trained women in missions, including in decision-making posts, and more of them would be deployed as capacity and resources allowed. Their participation would be helpful in building trust in the local communities and in dealing with women's issues.

36. Peacekeeping should remain the shared responsibility of the General Assembly, Security Council, troop- and police-contributing countries, host countries, the Secretariat and competent regional organizations. The consent of national authorities should form the basis of United Nations engagement in any country. Sustained, focused and meaningful dialogue between the Security Council, the Secretariat and contributing countries was a prerequisite for the fulfilment of mandates and of other relevant agreements. Providing adequate resources aligned with mandates, devising appropriate response and monitoring mechanisms and assessing implications for future peace operations were all contingent on cooperation between key stakeholders. The safety and security of the peacekeepers should also be ensured, through measures developed in the same spirit of cooperation. Selecting persons from troop- and police-contributing countries to serve in senior positions would only enhance the inclusiveness of the peacekeeping

secretariats both at Headquarters and in field missions, and boost the morale of peacekeepers.

37. **Mr. Estreme** (Argentina) said that his Government had pledged to increase its contribution to peacekeeping operations at the recent United Nations Peacekeeping Defence Ministerial held in London. Over the years, operations had been deployed in increasingly perilous circumstances, with a greater requirement to protect civilians. The highly complex, multidimensional peacekeeping operations that had emerged as a result had provided a platform for sustainable development by promoting and protecting human rights, rebuilding institutions and consolidating democracy and the rule of law. Nevertheless, the changing reality of peacekeeping operations would require further reflection on how to strengthen their operational capacity.

38. The report of the High-level Independent Panel had rightly focused on conflict prevention and mediation, and on political solutions as drivers of the design and deployment of peace operations, within the broader context of the new concept of sustainable peace set out in United Nations resolutions on the review of the peacebuilding architecture. While the basic principles of peacekeeping remained vital to mission success, they did not necessarily hinder the use of force in the protection of civilians as well as in self-defence or in defence of the peacekeeping mandate. On the other hand, the High-level Panel's report also underscored that peacekeeping operations, not conceived or equipped to impose political solutions through the use of offensive force, were not an adequate counter-terrorism tool. At its most recent session, the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations had examined the need to study the matter of protection of civilians from a political and humanitarian perspective in which force would be used only as a last resort. Furthermore, protecting civilians required specific training and equipment that would entail adequate funding.

39. Argentina attached particular importance to the promotion and protection of human rights, a task entrusted to a growing number of peacekeeping missions. It therefore endorsed the recommendations of the High-level Panel on incorporating human rights into mission mandates and, in particular, ensuring that the Secretariat had sufficient resources to recruit, deploy and support the relevant specialized staff and mechanisms. His delegation also supported all efforts to implement the women, peace and security agenda

and to strengthen measures to combat sexual exploitation and abuse in peacekeeping missions, in line with the Organization's zero-tolerance policy.

40. **Mr. Konfourou** (Mali), recalling the adoption by the Security Council of resolution [2295 \(2016\)](#) in response to the volatile security situation and the indiscriminate asymmetric attacks faced by the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA), said that the groundbreaking resolution was in line with the recommendations in the Secretary-General's report on the future of United Nations peace operations. It was important to emphasize that the purpose of extending the MINUSMA mandate had been to protect its personnel and facilities from repeated attacks by hostile forces. It was certainly not, as some would have it, a question of allowing the Mission to carry out counter-terrorism operations. Peacekeeping operations were not designed to combat terrorism, though they did have an obligation to take all necessary measures to protect themselves and fulfil their duty to protect civilians.

41. His Government welcomed the Mission's new mandate, all the more since the country's reputation as one of the most dangerous theatres of operation for peacekeepers was not a source of national pride. Nevertheless, it should be noted that four months after its adoption, the relevant provisions of the Council resolution were yet to be implemented. As the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations had revealed when presenting the Secretary-General's report on the situation in Mali ([S/2016/498](#)) to the Security Council, there was an alarming lack of heavy military equipment and vital logistics equipment, preventing military and police components from carrying out their duties effectively. The Under-Secretary-General had also expressed concerns about the planned withdrawal of three helicopter units that were currently deployed in the theatre of operations and Mali echoed those concerns.

42. The Malian defence and security forces were responsible for the long-term security and stability of the country. Consequently, the Government, with support from its partners, was working daily to build the operational capacities of its forces and thus ensure that they could fulfil their duty to protect civilians and property and secure the national territory. In the



meantime, MINUSMA was needed to help the Malian security forces return to their posts in all parts of the country. The women and men of MINUSMA continued to do a remarkable job under difficult conditions. He paid tribute to all the victims of the crisis and commended the commitment of MINUSMA personnel, the French Barkhane force and all partners who were helping his country to recover.

43. **Mr. Andanje** (Kenya) said that his country had participated actively in United Nations peacekeeping operations over the previous decades. Kenya welcomed the adoption of Security Council resolution [2304 \(2016\)](#) on South Sudan and the other steps to address outstanding issues in the country. However, the consent of the host country remained imperative and a prerequisite to any political and military success. Terrorism was still a matter of grave concern for his Government, which had contributed air assets to the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) in order to enhance its capability to respond to imminent threats to peacekeepers. The United Nations should provide predictable and sustained financial support to regional peace arrangements, as recommended by the High-level Panel in its report.

44. The engineering capability squadron that his Government had pledged at the seventieth session of the General Assembly had been trained, with the generous support of the United Nations, Japan and Switzerland, and Kenya would support any other arrangements aimed at strengthening the rapid deployment initiative. It also undertook to continue training troops at the International Peace Support Training Centre in order to inoculate them against the vice of sexual exploitation and abuse; and believed that a mechanism should be put in place to protect civilians during conflict.

45. **Mr. Mohamed** (Sudan) said that peacekeeping operations must be established and their mandates extended in compliance with the Charter principles of the sovereign equality, political independence and territorial integrity of States and non-interference in their domestic affairs, and with the basic principles of peacekeeping. Among the political developments in his country, the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur was being put into effect, armed groups had surrendered their weapons in order to become political parties involved in building the Sudan of the future, and the

Darfur Regional Authority, initially established in 2011 to monitor the implementation of the Doha Document, had recently been dissolved. In the referendum held pursuant to the Doha Document, the population of Darfur had voted to retain the five-state system of governance. The broad participation by the people of Darfur in the referendum attested to their awareness of their rights and responsibilities and to their newfound security and stability, contrary to the distorted image of Darfur in the eyes of many. The time had come to begin implementing the exit strategy for the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Mission in Darfur (UNAMID) — one of the largest in the world — and his Government was keen to advance the gradual drawdown of forces through the negotiations under way. Once it was complete, the United Nations country team would assume the Mission's functions and work to conduct development projects that would promote peace and stability.

46. The national dialogue conference held in Khartoum earlier that month was the culmination of the initiative launched by the Sudanese President in 2014. The conference, attended also by heads of State, members of the consular and diplomatic corps and other foreign dignitaries, had brought together representatives of 87 Sudanese political parties and 34 former armed groups. The recommendations of the national dialogue process had been adopted by consensus at the conference. His Government had declared an extension of the ceasefire in all conflict zones in South Kordofan, the Blue Nile and Darfur until the end of 2016. It had also invited dialogue rejectionists to seize the historic opportunity to join the national consensus and help rebuild the country. The President would launch a consultative programme to follow up on the recommendations of the dialogue conference, formulate a national strategy, reform State institutions and establish a national mechanism to draft a new constitution intended to protect rights and freedoms and ensure respect for the rule of law and good governance based on the people's choice.

47. His delegation vehemently condemned all forms of sexual exploitation and abuse perpetrated by United Nations peacekeepers and reiterated its support for the Secretary-General's zero-tolerance policy, stressing the need to prosecute and indict the perpetrators under the domestic jurisprudence of the States concerned.



48. **Mr. Coloma Grimberg** (Chile) said that his country's participation in peacekeeping operations reflected its long-standing commitment to international peace and security, respect for human rights and promotion of democracy. Coordination between the Security Council, the Secretariat, troop- and police-contributing countries and donor countries, particularly on operational matters, must be improved in order to respond to modern security needs. In that regard, the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations — as the sole United Nations forum with a relevant mandate — should be endowed with greater authority on legal and doctrinal matters relating to peace operations. A timeline should be borne in mind when formulating mission mandates, which should encompass medium- and long-term political objectives, verification mechanisms and implementation strategies. The General Assembly should then assess the feasibility of the planned mandate and make budgetary approval contingent on satisfactory verification mechanisms in the field, before establishing long-term budgetary proposals. Furthermore, it was necessary to find new ways of financing peace operations that would guarantee them a reliable budgetary basis separate from the regular budget. In addition, because the complex nature of modern conflicts and the deterioration of operational environments had led to the design of complex and robust mandates, the Special Committee should examine the principles that would underpin the conduct of peace operations and the limits on their use of force.

49. In order to attend sufficiently to the needs and concerns of civilian women as part of the effective protection of civilians, military and police contingents deployed in the field should include more women, as a way of building mutual trust and reducing impunity for sexual crimes that their victims feared to report. Increased participation by women would have the added long-term benefit of helping to change traditional conceptions of gender and to build a more democratic and inclusive society. His own Government was working to implement the second national action plan on Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) through a tripartite interministerial network that promoted coordinated gender mainstreaming in all pre-deployment training sessions for Chilean peacekeepers.

50. **Mr. Mavros** (Cyprus), welcoming the previous year's reviews of peace operations, the peacebuilding architecture and the implementation of Security

Council resolution 1325 (2000), said that the recommendations that stemmed from them must be implemented and the political momentum to support the strengthening of peace operations sustained. Concerted efforts by United Nations stakeholders, Member States and regional organizations were vital for progress. The Secretary-General-designate would have a special responsibility to follow-up with Member States and seek long-term, sustained commitment and support on those issues. Cyprus accorded particular importance to many of the common positions that had already emerged from the different reviews, and firmly believed that peacekeeping had a humanitarian role and must promote reconciliation and respect for human rights.

51. The United Nations had helped his country seek peace and reunification since the 1960s through the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) and the good offices mission of the Secretary-General. That experience indicated that the credibility of the United Nations and the success of its peace operations rested on its ability to remain impartial and objective, and to act in accordance with the Charter and resolutions of the United Nations, International Court of Justice case law and international law. However, the Organization could never be neutral, because doing so would violate those norms. Furthermore, the fundamental Charter principles of sovereignty and territorial integrity of States and the basic principles of peacekeeping, especially with regard to the consent of the host State, must be upheld. Chapter VIII of the Charter had been particularly relevant to the Cyprus peace process, as negotiations had benefited from the proactive involvement of the European Union. In the event of a successful conclusion of the Cyprus talks, the United Nations and its peacekeeping forces should play an important part in implementing a final agreement.

52. He reaffirmed his Government's commitment to cooperating with other States to improve the effectiveness of peace operations while making optimum use of resources and taking into account the particularities of each mission.

53. **Mr. Rivero Rosario** (Cuba) said that given the key role the General Assembly played in devising policies, doctrines and budgets for peacekeeping, the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations was

the sole United Nations body mandated to consider the question in all its aspects. Consequently, Cuba shared the concerns conveyed by the Non-Aligned Movement in November 2014 to the Security Council regarding its involvement in issues that fell under the exclusive remit of the Special Committee.

54. The statistics on the 17 existing peacekeeping operations demonstrated the attention that the United Nations accorded to the issue. The primary responsibility for maintaining international peace and security rested with the Organization, and its peacekeeping must conform to Charter principles such as the sovereign equality, political independence and territorial integrity of all States, and non-intervention in matters within their domestic jurisdiction, and also to the basic principles of peacekeeping.

55. The establishment of more complex peacekeeping operations could not replace efforts to address the root causes of conflicts; peacekeeping missions were not an end in themselves, but a temporary measure intended to establish a framework for security before implementing a long-term strategy for sustainable socioeconomic development. Otherwise, the vicious and costly cycle of new conflicts and new peacekeeping operations would never be broken. Modern technology should be used in peacekeeping operations on a case-by-case basis, respecting the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Member States and with the consent of host countries. The legal, operational, technical and financial aspects of the use of modern technology, which must complement but not replace troops on the ground, had to be defined.

56. Enhanced cooperation was needed among the Security Council, the Secretariat and troop-contributing countries, the last of which, in most cases, did not participate actively in all stages of the decision-making process. Cuba shared the concerns about the significant rise in the number of outstanding reimbursements to troop-contributing countries and called for those debts to be settled. The drastic decline in participants of peacekeeping operations in recent years was also a cause for concern. It was therefore necessary to strengthen further the arrangements governing the security and protection of mission personnel. Deepest condolences were due to the families of those who had lost their lives in the service of peace.

57. **Ms. Nikodijevic** (Serbia) said that peacekeeping operations had become more complex than ever, particularly when assisting countries to make the transition from conflict to sustainable peace. Given the difficult operating environment and the scale and complexity of demands, it was essential to strengthen United Nations peacekeeping capacity and optimize available resources to ensure the effective implementation of Security Council mandates. Aware of the need for institutional reform of peacekeeping and for better mission performance, including through the use of modern technology, Serbia supported the recommendations of the High-level Panel, in particular, the four essential shifts called for in its report. It was a matter of concern that United Nations personnel were increasingly coming under attack and their safety and security should be addressed as a priority. All efforts to better protect peacekeeping missions in the field should be supported, in accordance with the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations and the basic principles of peacekeeping.

58. One of the ten biggest contributors to United Nations peacekeeping operations in Europe, with over 300 members of its armed forces having served as peacekeepers, Serbia intended to increase its level of engagement in international and regional operations. It had also participated in the United Nations Peacekeeping Defence Ministerial in London as a continuing illustration of its firm belief in the vital role of international peacekeeping operations in building and maintaining international peace and security. Furthermore, Serbia remained committed to the implementation of Security Council resolution [1325 \(2000\)](#) through its national action plan, with visible results. Women's participation in international cooperation and multinational operations had increased; they accounted for over 11 per cent of the overall number of civilian and military personnel serving in 11 multinational operations, 8 of which were United Nations peacekeeping operations.

59. As host country, Serbia attached particular importance to the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) and its role in establishing peaceful coexistence, security and the respect for human rights in the province. The status-neutral engagement of UNMIK remained the only acceptable framework for cooperation with a view to improving the lives of civilians in Kosovo and Metohija. Its strengthened presence was of paramount importance for ensuring stability and a lasting solution to the situation, particularly

in the light of the confidence and trust that Serbs and other non-Albanians living in Kosovo and Metohija placed in the Mission. Serbia hoped that UNMIK would continue to carry out its mandate pursuant to Security Council resolution 1244 (1999) and that the Special Committee would continue to render strategic guidance based on consensus and within agreed timelines.

60. **Mr. Gonzalez** (Uruguay), recalling his country's long-standing commitment to United Nations peacekeeping, said that despite its relatively small population, over the years Uruguay had contributed more than 43,800 troops to missions in distant lands. With 1565 troops currently involved in four peacekeeping missions, 58 in the Multinational Force and Observers in the Sinai and 1 in the special political mission in Colombia, Uruguay was the biggest troop contributor in the Americas in terms of absolute numbers. Its commitment, however, was not restricted to action on the ground; the country had recently hosted and participated actively in a number of regional and international conferences on peacekeeping and defence. Furthermore, as a non-permanent member of the Security Council, Uruguay was sharing its experience as a troop-contributing country with a view to strengthening the peacekeeping system.

61. One of the main challenges to peacekeeping operations was the consent of host States and their cooperation with the Security Council. There had been a noticeable rise in tensions between certain host States and United Nations missions. By restricting movement and access to certain zones for mission staff, placing bureaucratic obstacles, unilaterally expelling mission personnel or refusing the deployment of new troops, host States were impeding the fulfilment of mission mandates. The Security Council must therefore be instrumental in creating a context for better interaction and cooperation with host States with a view to resolving any disagreements. Host States, for their part, must comply fully with the status-of-forces agreements that ensured the protection of troops volunteered for peacekeeping operations; any violations thereof were unacceptable and intolerable.

62. On the important issue of protection of civilians, there remained an apparent gap between the expectations of Member States and what peacekeeping missions could actually accomplish. While the mandate to protect civilians was becoming increasingly common as a central aspect of peacekeeping operations, the

requisite financial and human resources were not always allocated. Nevertheless, it could also be said that the United Nations had, on occasion, not passed muster in the protection of civilians. Such shortcomings, often the result of failure to comply with orders in the field, the imposition of undeclared caveats by some troop- and police-contributing countries, or the unexpected withdrawal of peacekeepers, must be the subject of timely investigations and entail subsequent accountability. The tragic failure to protect civilians in South Sudan in February 2016 was a clear example.

63. Regrettably, cases of sexual exploitation and abuse perpetrated by United Nations peacekeepers undermined the implementation and credibility of peacekeeping mandates and tarnished the reputation of thousands of troops deployed in various missions. Uruguay welcomed the work done by the Special Coordinator on Improving the United Nations Response to Sexual Exploitation and Abuse and by the Secretariat in combating that scourge. His country remained committed to the zero-tolerance policy and would support all efforts in that regard. The panel on the response to sexual exploitation and abuse, chaired by Uruguay at the United Nations Peacekeeping Defence Ministerial in London, had provided an opportunity for troop-contributing countries to share best practices.

64. While Uruguay advocated peacekeeping operations that were founded on the basic principles of peacekeeping, it was concerned by the deployment of increasingly complex missions where there was no peace to keep; other, more appropriate frameworks should be used in such circumstances. Security Council resolution 2295 (2016) extended the mandate of MINUSMA and called for the Mission to have a more proactive and robust posture to carry out its mandate, including against asymmetric threats. However, while any peacekeeping mission should of course adopt special security measures to counter asymmetric threats against civilians or its own personnel, missions, by their nature and composition, were ill equipped to participate in military counter-terrorism operations.

65. **Mr. Pressman** (United States of America) said that United Nations peacekeepers were operating in more difficult and dangerous environments than ever before because that was where they were currently needed. Peacekeepers were required to carry out more

robust, ambitious and complex tasks than ever before because that was what the maintenance of international peace and security required, and what would allow missions to remain relevant and have an impact. However, the gap between what peacekeeping missions were mandated to do and what they had the capacity to do must be reduced. Revitalized United Nations cooperation with regional and subregional organizations was absolutely critical to leveraging the respective capacities to take on greater challenges collectively.

66. The United States was committed to helping build United Nations capacities to successfully deploy complex peace operations. Troops must be available to deploy when needed. Several Member States had already made good on the substantial rapid deployment pledges they had made at the 2015 Leaders' Summit on Peacekeeping and the 2016 United Nations Peacekeeping Defence Ministerial; and the Ministerial Conference on Peacekeeping in Francophone Environments was also expected to generate much-needed capacities and capabilities.

67. Expanding the number of new and returning troop and police contributors would also substantially increase the number and type of appropriate capacities readily available to the Organization. The Strategic Force Generation and Capabilities Planning Cell had brought a welcome new rigour to assessing the preparedness of potential peacekeepers for deployment, which should result in sending the right units for the task at hand. To match that progress, the United Nations must closely examine the structural issues and gaps in the capacity of the Secretariat that continued to make it impossible to set up a functioning mission within 90 days. Rapid deployment capability was vital to helping the United Nations respond to evolving crises in their early stages: airlift and engineering support must be readily available; the Organization must be able to deploy an integrated headquarters as quickly as it could recruit and deploy civilians; modern technology would help at both early stages and throughout the life of a mission by providing current information on field conditions, and it was absurd to object to the use of lifesaving unmanned, unarmed aerial-surveillance technology for political reasons.

68. New troops, equipment and support to United Nations peacekeeping, however, could do only so much on their own. Member States also needed to examine

operational shortcomings and take steps to improve peacekeeping leadership, accountability and performance. In cases where host countries blocked the access of troops to vehicles or even food, the international community had to be ready to speak up with appropriate outrage. Even once those political impediments were addressed, it was the rapid deployment capability above all that was affecting the survival rate of peacekeepers, mission performance and morale. The Departments of Peacekeeping Operations, of Field Support and of Management had to develop procedures that distinguished between crisis-response requirements in the field and the much more predictable Headquarters needs.

69. The Organization's assessment and planning — a second mission-critical area — continued to be too slow, disorganized and, despite lip service to integrated planning, focused almost entirely on military functions to the detriment of police, rule of law and civilian issues, and there was insufficient input from other United Nations agencies. Institutionalizing the strategic planning and analysis capacity of the Executive Office of the Secretary-General would authorize it to lead early interdepartmental and interagency analysis of emerging conflict situations and make strategic recommendations to the Secretary-General on possible courses of action. Furthermore, conflict analysis tools and all assessment and planning processes must address the risks of violence against civilians, including atrocities.

70. Thirdly, access to information was essential. The United Nations must develop ways of allowing information assessed by various United Nations entities to be collated, analysed and used to find and deploy uniformed personnel with the political will and capability to implement mandates in complex environments. Poor performers should be repatriated and, when appropriate, replaced. Welcome attention was being given to dealing with sexual exploitation and abuse by United Nations peacekeepers; allegations must be investigated immediately and Member States must take action to hold perpetrators accountable.

71. Fourthly, there was the question of peacebuilding. The external review of the functions, structure and capacity of the United Nations Police Division and the Strategic Guidance Framework for International Police Peacekeeping had provided a long-awaited and much-needed opportunity to improve how the United Nations, through both its police and rule of law

programmes, helped host countries build a foundation of reliable institutions that directly affected domestic security. Those peacebuilding tasks must be integrated into mission plans and strategies from the very beginning so that peacekeepers could return home once the operation was finished. The United Nations peacekeeping enterprise remained an indispensable tool for restoring stability and peace, and it must be rendered more accountable and empowered.

72. **Mr. Akahori** (Japan) said that United Nations peacekeeping operations faced many challenges, including securing sufficient personnel and equipment, ensuring the safety and security of personnel and taking advantage of technological advances. A variety of measures had been taken by the Organization and several Member States to address those challenges.

73. For Japan, the priority had been to improve the quality and capability of peacekeeping operations, which continued to face gaps, despite the number of pledges recently made at both the 2015 Leaders' Summit on Peacekeeping and the 2016 United Nations Peacekeeping Defence Ministerial in London. Japan was committed to leading similar discussions and action in those areas. One way for Japan to help improve the quality and capability of peacekeeping operations was by supporting the Triangular Partnership Project in the field of engineering. His delegation was pleased that the Under-Secretary-General for Field Support had drawn attention to that project, which was intended to train and equip African military engineers so that they could deploy rapidly and play a key enabling role on the ground. More than 60 African engineers had been trained in Nairobi that year. Japan was pleased to cooperate with Kenya and invited other Member States to join in supporting that model, which could be expanded.

74. In the field of communications, his country was offering support to the United Nations Signals Academy and Training Centre in Uganda, which had thus far in 2016 provided mission-oriented training to more than one thousand personnel. His Government was pleased that a women's outreach programme for targeted Member States would begin in mid-November at the Academy. The programme would aim to improve the quality and capability of peacekeeping operations by developing the information and communication technology skills of female personnel.

75. Japan reiterated its support for the Secretary-General's zero tolerance policy on sexual exploitation and abuse. The United Nations and all Member States must come together to tackle that serious issue. A United Nations e-learning programme supported by Japan had recently finalized educational materials intended for the use of every peacekeeper from every Member State. His delegation would be grateful for follow-up from the Secretariat and honest feedback from every Member State, and hoped that the programme would be utilized by all troops. Japan had also recently announced its contribution to the Trust Fund in Support of Victims of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse and hoped that other Member States would support that initiative.

76. The issue of gender and peacekeeping had been one of the most important topics of the 2016 United Nations Peacekeeping Defence Ministerial. While there were no women among the Japan Self-Defence Forces initially dispatched to the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) in 1992, 13 women currently served in the Japanese contingent of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS). His Government was implementing a policy to promote the advancement of women across society and actively encouraged female participation in the Japan Self-Defence Forces. Women played a central role in cooperating with local communities and supporting victims of sexual and gender-based violence, and could thus make major contributions to peacekeeping. Japan had recently committed to supporting capacity-building programmes for Women's Protection Advisers, which would advise peacekeeping mission leadership on protecting women from conflict-related sexual violence.

77. Member States must continuously improve mission quality and capability and work even closer together in order for United Nations peacekeeping operations to best meet current needs. The Security Council must also ensure that mission mandates were tailored to the reality of the changing situation and needs on the ground. The Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations had noted the relationship between mandate creators and implementers. As a member of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations, a troop-contributing country and a non-permanent member of the Security Council, Japan was committed to supporting all relevant efforts and discussions.

78. His Government expressed its sincere appreciation to all peacekeepers for their contributions in the face of severe challenges on the ground and offered its deepest condolences to those among them who had made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty, while strongly condemning attacks that targeted them.

79. **Mr. Lal** (India) said that his country was proud to be the largest cumulative troop contributor to peacekeeping operations, having provided over 195,000 troops in 49 of the 71 missions mandated thus far. Peacekeeping, the Organization's signature activity, was currently under tremendous stress. A multiplicity of mandated tasks, a departure from the well-established principle of impartiality, the failure to give primacy to politics, a focus on mere stop-gap solutions and a near-absolute lack of effective consultations among the troop-contributing countries, the Security Council and the Secretariat were all part of the existential and philosophical dilemmas currently faced by peacekeepers. The report of the High-level Panel and the Secretary-General's report on implementing it indeed referred to many of those issues and called for urgently reforming the United Nations system and changing the decision-makers' mind-set. However, almost a year and a half later, there had been no tangible progress in putting the recommendations of either report into effect, despite the urgency of change.

80. The Organization's overall approach to devising mission mandates was demonstrably the source of the problems international peacekeepers currently faced on that score. UNMISS was a case in point: a Chapter-VII mandate had been issued in haste by a fragmented Security Council, with little or no crucial political groundwork, especially to obtain the consent of the host Government, and no effective consultations with the troop-contributing countries responsible for carrying out the mandate. In the case of other missions, the United Nations had departed from the critical core principle of impartiality by taking sides, leaving peacekeepers at risk of becoming targets. The prevention of conflicts and the maintenance of peace once it was restored — the main purpose of peacekeeping operations — was primarily a political activity; yet many peacekeeping operations continued to operate in a vacuum of political negotiation and were hardly accompanied by coordinated pressure on warring parties or those assisting them. Currently, most United Nations peace operations merely focused on

operational conflict management. Peacebuilding tasks were scarcely given priority and never allocated adequate resources. To make matters worse, even mandated tasks were often not given adequate resources, creating unnecessary risks of the kind faced in Mali.

81. The underlying purpose of all peacekeeping operations was to help protect civilians from harm, but the primary responsibility for the protection of civilians lay with the host governments, and the Organization must work to strengthen the structures whose breakdown had led to conflict and threatened law and order. Designing robust mandates for dealing with such situations was inherently risky. The aim must be sustained peace, which in the long-term could most naturally ensure the protection of civilians. Sexual exploitation and abuse by peacekeepers had not only scarred its civilian victims, but also damaged the Organization's credibility. Peacekeepers turning into predators was the realization of the worst nightmare. India had fully supported the creation of a Trust Fund in Support of Victims of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse, had been the first to contribute to it and encouraged other countries to do so.

82. The Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations had referred to building new support coalitions to address collective security challenges in the modern multipolar world. Doing so should start with the Security Council, which remained divided as it designed unwieldy and unrealistic mandates, putting both the Organization's credibility and its peacekeepers' safety and security at grave risk. While the challenges the world faced were increasingly interconnected across regions and often continents, the growing fragmentation of the United Nations system in dealing with them was alarming. Member States had discussed those matters for too long without making a sincere attempt to bring about the required changes.

83. His Government paid tribute to the men and women of the United Nations who carried out their peacekeeping tasks and those who had lost their lives defending the Organization's flag while working relentlessly for the cause of peace.

84. **Mr. Khoshroo** (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that whether attempting to address the increasing complexity of peacekeeping, deploying peacekeeping operations or extending their mandates, the

Organization must ensure that the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the basic principles of peacekeeping were strictly observed. Furthermore, it must uphold the highest standards of conduct and discipline for all United Nations personnel. Consequently, combating misconduct, including sexual exploitation and abuse by United Nations peacekeepers, should remain one of the priorities. The Secretary-General should continue to apply his zero-tolerance policy and act decisively in that regard. The States of origin of perpetrators should cooperate fully in conducting investigations. Utmost care should be taken not to mishandle allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse, because the rights of the victims had to be ensured; at the same time, it was important to avoid naming and shaming countries whose nationals had been accused of misconduct.

85. It was the primary responsibility of host countries to protect civilians and, where mandated, peacekeeping operations should aim to support the national efforts. However, any military intervention by the United Nations or by foreign forces under the pretext of the protection of civilians was unacceptable. On the other hand, the use of modern technologies and intelligence in peacekeeping missions to ensure the safety and security of United Nations personnel was understandable in the context of protection; although the legal aspects of such methods must be defined by appropriate intergovernmental means.

86. Regional arrangements and organizations were vital to maintaining regional peace and security. However, they must comply with Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations and could not be a substitute for action by the United Nations or relieve it of its primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security. All Member States must be involved in all aspects of the policy- and decision-making at all stages of peacekeeping operations. As the sole intergovernmental forum mandated by the General Assembly to review the whole question of United Nations peacekeeping in all its aspects, the Special Committee was unique and indispensable.

87. United Nations police played an important role in peacekeeping missions and in post-conflict settings where countries requested United Nations assistance, by providing support and training to host-State

counterparts and helping them to establish the rule of law. The United Nations policing capacity should therefore be strengthened, with all relevant issues dealt with in the Special Committee. In addition, the principle of equitable geographical distribution must be respected in staffing headquarters and field agencies at all levels. The Islamic Republic of Iran stood ready to contribute to United Nations peacekeeping operations through logistical support and the deployment of troops.

88. **Ms. Fofana** (Burkina Faso) said that United Nations peacekeeping operations had attained an unprecedented scope, as was attested by the missions deployed in various theatres of operation and the sustained attention given that issue by the international community. The past two years had offered opportunities for broader discussions about building a peaceful and just world by definitively addressing the multidimensional challenges.

89. The reviews of United Nations peacekeeping operations and the plan of action set out in the Secretary-General's report on the future of peacekeeping, the 2016 United Nations Peacekeeping Defence Ministerial and the very first United Nations Chiefs of Police Summit in June 2015 had all resulted in pertinent recommendations for revitalizing peacekeeping.

90. Praise was due to Member States which worked daily through their peacekeeping operations to preserve world peace and security. Currently, Burkina Faso was contributing a sizable number of observers, military and prison personnel and police forces to missions in Haiti, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Darfur, the Central African Republic, Mali, South Sudan and Côte d'Ivoire. In late August 2016, her country was the eighth-largest troop and police contributor in the world and the fourth-largest in Africa.

91. Despite its efforts, Burkina Faso, like many developing countries, continued to face such challenges as not having sufficient training materials and infrastructure and adequate equipment for rapid deployment, which it strove to overcome with support from its multilateral and bilateral partners. The international community should respond to the concerns raised in the final communiqué of the United Nations Peacekeeping Defence Ministerial in London, which emphasized improving the planning of



peacekeeping operations, implementing country pledges and optimizing troop performance.

92. Some recent missions were being conducted in environments where peacekeeping troops faced asymmetric threats on a daily basis. The confirmed tendency of armed groups and terrorists to target them required stronger measures to protect the personnel and their facilities and help them retaliate if needed. Qualified, well-trained personnel equipped with the technical and logistical resources adapted to the reality on the ground were prerequisites of a well-conducted peacekeeping operation. Her delegation paid tribute to all the men and women who had lost their lives in the exercise of their duty.

93. Cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations was one of the three strategic axes highlighted in the Secretary-General's plan of action. Burkina Faso welcomed and encouraged the United Nations peacekeeping missions in Africa, a continent in the throes of multiple security threats that required a response by regional peacekeeping mechanisms when the United Nations system could not do so immediately. That had been the case in Mali and the Central African Republic, where African States had been able to deploy missions while awaiting the establishment of multidimensional operations. A better connection between United Nations peacekeeping and regional mechanisms could create a synergy between their respective efforts and maximize results. Consequently, regional initiatives should be given political, financial and equipment assistance from the United Nations that would enable them to take effective preventive measures when peace was threatened. The African Union's commitment to providing 25% of the United Nations peacekeeping operations budget allocated to the African continent was to be encouraged and supported. Peacekeeping operations could create the conditions for a lasting peace only when supported by a range of political initiatives, including an analysis of the situation that brought about the crisis, appropriate measures to restore peace and a plan for consolidating an inclusive peace.

94. The establishment of basic and advanced training programmes would be immensely helpful in enabling more countries to contribute troops and police to peacekeeping operations and to participate in them

more usefully. The international community should continue supporting all efforts to restore peace by providing troops, financial resources and proper equipment to enhance the effectiveness of peacekeeping.

95. **Mr. Mana** (Cameroon) said that the celebration of the seventieth anniversary of the United Nations had given rise to discussions and exchanges on reforming peacekeeping operations considered in the global context in which they were taking place. Cameroon welcomed that reform initiative, which had resulted in shared conclusions on renewing an effective partnership among all actors in the field of peacekeeping. The importance of such principles as good neighbourliness, non-interference and non-recourse to the illegitimate use of force must not be forgotten.

96. Cameroon had a long tradition of seeking peace and stability on the basis of mutual respect, tolerance and compromise. Since the 1990s, it had supplied troops, police and prison administration contingents to peacekeeping operations conducted by the United Nations, the African Union and the Economic Community of Central African States.

97. More recently, since September 2014, Cameroon had deployed to the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA) a contingent of 1,300 men, including an infantry battalion, two formed police units, a prison administration brigade, and military observers. Moreover it had facilitated the movement of MINUSCA personnel and equipment throughout its territory, and supplied uniformed staff to United Nations missions in Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Mali, Sudan and Haiti.

98. In 2008, Cameroon had established the International School for Security Forces to train and re-train civilian capacities and national security forces from several African countries for effective participation in United Nations peacekeeping missions. In cooperation with the European Union, the School had also organized a full-scale exercise on strengthening civilian crisis-management capacities and standardizing the operational procedures of participating countries, in the presence of observers from the United Nations, the European Union, the African Union, the International Committee of the Red Cross and various NGOs; the School was offering a

series of United Nations-certified training courses for formed police units and individual police officers from various countries in Europe and Africa; and, having collaborated in a pre-deployment training course organized by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations for staff officers, it would in 2017 host a Department workshop to review a police training module and a consolidation exercise for peacekeeping staff officers held in conjunction with the European Union. Cameroon closely followed preparations for the Ministerial Conference on Peacekeeping in Francophone Environments to be held in Paris in October 2016 and was willing to open its peacekeeping training centres to all countries wishing to participate.

99. In order to establish lasting peace in a global environment marked by hotbeds of tension, full-fledged and latent crises and all sorts of threats to international peace and security, United Nations discussions on peacekeeping must lead to action, particularly in the areas of pre-deployment, force generation, equipment and overcoming crises so as to strengthen the capacities of peacekeeping personnel in advance. Knowledge of the culture of the host countries and the root causes of the conflicts there must also be deepened.

100. **Mr. Halfaoui**, speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that the Uruguayan representative's claim that host countries imposed restrictions on freedom of movement and access and administrative hurdles to peacekeeping missions did not apply to his country. The United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO) had Morocco's full support, as the Special Representative for Western Sahara had mentioned at the latest Security Council briefing in October. The Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations had recently visited and witnessed the proper functioning of MINURSO first-hand. His delegation was taken aback by that statement because Uruguay, as a non-permanent member of the Security Council, followed the situation in Western Sahara very closely. Morocco believed that Uruguay was fully informed of all the latest developments and the fact that the situation had been normalized following an agreement between his Government and the Secretariat.

*The meeting rose at 1 p.m.*