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Chair: Mr. Drobnyak (Croatia)

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The meeting was called to order at 10 a.m.

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

1. **Mr. Lim Mun Pong** (Singapore) said that in the light of the increasingly challenging global security environment and growing demands for peace operations, his country, as a responsible member of the international community, made every attempt to support United Nations peace operations, contributing military and police personnel to 16 peace operations and observer missions since 1989 despite its limited resources and size. The timely reviews of peace operations conducted in 2015 provided useful recommendations for improving their effectiveness, and his delegation welcomed in particular the recommendation, contained in the final report of the Expert Panel on Technology and Innovation,* regarding the use of technology. Technology provided peacekeepers with access to vital information and uninterrupted communications, enhancing situational awareness — a distinct advantage in highly volatile field missions. Technology would also allow small States to contribute effectively, beyond traditional peacekeeping operations. Singapore was currently working with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to develop an integrated information technology application for timely reporting of casualty information in the field that would strengthen the data collection and reporting capacity of peace operations. His country contributed effectively to targeted regional and international peacekeeping and security efforts, participating actively in initiatives such as the development of a manual setting the operating standards and parameters for maritime operations in peacekeeping missions, as well as in multilateral efforts to promote peace and stability, such as the Combined Maritime Forces' Combined Task Force 151 to counter piracy in the Gulf of Aden and the International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan. Singapore hoped that its partnership with the United Nations in the area of information management would encourage similar collaborations between the Organization and Member States in the future.

* "Performance Peacekeeping: Final report of the Expert Panel on Technology and Innovation in United Nations Peacekeeping", published by the Panel in 2014; available for download at <http://www.performancepeacekeeping.org/>.

2. His delegation was profoundly concerned by the increase in cases of sexual exploitation and abuse, which had scarred victims and severely damaged the credibility of United Nations peacekeeping operations. It therefore welcomed the measures taken to strengthen the Organization's zero-tolerance policy, enhance transparency, and implement a victim-centred approach. A culture of responsibility and accountability must be built within every United Nations peacekeeping operation. Setting clear standards of behaviour and establishing stronger selection and training processes for peacekeepers would help to prevent abuse. In addition, the United Nations must investigate every allegation and ensure that no one fell through the cracks. Member States and the Secretariat must continue to work together to ensure that all peacekeeping missions protected the most vulnerable and upheld the reputation of the United Nations. He commended the brave men and women serving in peace operations for their commitment and sacrifice which brought hope for the future to those living in conflict areas.

3. **Mr. Zamora Rivas** (El Salvador), noting the key role of the United Nations in drafting and implementing peace agreements in his own country in the early 1990s, said that El Salvador recognized the legitimacy and effectiveness of peacekeeping missions as a mechanism for ending national and regional conflicts. His country had participated in 12 such missions since 1956 and was preparing to deploy engineering units and airfield personnel as part of its continued contribution, with an assessment and advisory visit from the United Nations expected in early December 2016. United Nations peacekeeping had shifted from its initial role of upholding ceasefires to an active involvement throughout the entire peace process; operations consisted no longer in merely maintaining peace, but also building peace and preventing the eruption of new conflict. Consequently, there were a number of new challenges to be faced.

4. For implementation to be effective, the Organization must consult with troop- and police-contributing countries and host countries prior to any extension of or change to a peacekeeping mandate by the Security Council, and must also involve them in decision-making. With regard to rapid deployment capacities, there must be adequate human, financial and logistical resources to ensure mission efficiency

and to minimize risk to personnel. While El Salvador agreed with the concept of rapid deployment forces, contingents must be adequately prepared and trained in their countries of origin for them to be successful. The United Nations and non-troop-contributing countries must therefore play their part by providing technical assistance and equipment as needed.

5. El Salvador rejected all violations of human rights by peacekeeping personnel, particularly sexual assault against civilians, and firmly supported the Secretary-General's zero-tolerance policy in that regard. It was the duty of all Member States to conduct a serious and constructive analysis of the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Combating sexual exploitation and abuse" (A/71/97) and the recommendations made therein by the External Independent Review Panel in order to prevent sexual exploitation and abuse, investigate allegations fully and expeditiously, hold perpetrators accountable and repatriate units when there was substantiated evidence of widespread or systemic abuse.

6. In addition to maintaining peace and security, peacekeeping missions fulfilled a number of other functions, ranging from assisting in political processes and judicial reform to humanitarian and developmental roles, all with the consent of the host country. However, El Salvador was concerned that some missions were authorized to use force to prevent asymmetric attacks against civilians or United Nations staff; changing their mandates thus could heighten the risk of attacks against peacekeeping forces, which were not trained for nor had the means to conduct counter-insurgency operations. El Salvador supported all initiatives to ensure women's participation in peacekeeping, in accordance with Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) and subsequent resolutions, as well as all actions to improve the Organization's capacity-building for troop- and police-contributing countries. It was important to enhance the administration of peacekeeping missions. Furthermore, reimbursements to troop- and police-contributing countries must be made in an effective and timely manner and the deadlines given to Member States, which were often unfeasible, must be reviewed.

7. **Ms. Sughayar** (Jordan) said that peacekeeping operations were increasingly important in the light of the rising number of threats and conflicts worldwide.

The changing nature and scope of conflicts had made it necessary to develop new structures and improve policies. Her delegation welcomed the efforts of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to improve peacekeeping operations in recent years, chief among them the comprehensive review of peace operations. There was a need to improve cooperation, coordination and integration between the Department and troop- and police-contributing countries in order to enhance peacekeeping mandates.

8. Peacekeeping operations must be designed for rapid and effective response to conflicts, in line with the scope of the threat. To that end, peacekeeping forces must receive proper training and specialization prior to and after deployment, enabling them to consolidate security and protect civilians. The recommendations of the External Review of the Functions, Structure and Capacity of the Police Division would contribute to improving the performance of police forces in peacekeeping operations. Countries contributing forces to peacekeeping operations should be consulted before any standards related to the technical, administrative or strategic aspects of the missions assigned to those forces were changed or implemented.

9. She reaffirmed the need for all troop-contributing countries to implement the zero-tolerance policy regarding sexual exploitation, and to prevent such abhorrent acts from distorting the noble aims of peacekeeping. Individual perpetrators must be held accountable in a prudent manner that avoided declaring the entire contingent guilty by association. Further consideration should be given to the matter, and guidelines should be put in place to implement policies related to sexual exploitation and abuse, with the participation of troop- and police-contributing countries.

10. Jordan stressed the importance of putting in place a sustainable, regular mechanism for triangular cooperation among the Secretariat, the Security Council and troop- and police-contributing countries in order to promote greater transparency and integration in the design and implementation of peacekeeping operations. Moreover, the role of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations must not be undermined, as it was specifically tasked with reviewing peacekeeping operations and provided every country the opportunity to participate in that process.

Based on its strong commitment to the work of the United Nations in the field of conflict resolution and prevention, her Government was proud of its active role in peacekeeping operations. Jordan was the largest contributor of police forces to peacekeeping operations and would be sending additional troops and police battalions to several African countries in 2017. In closing, her country paid tribute to all peacekeepers and commended their efforts and sacrifices in the exercise of their duties.

11. **Mr. Sobral Duarte** (Brazil) said that his country's staunch support of United Nations peacekeeping operations was reflected in its deployment of more than 46,000 troops and staff in 50 missions since 1948. With the largest military contingent of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH), Brazil also had command of the Maritime Task Force of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) and supplied the flagship vessels. More than 1,300 Brazilian peacekeepers were currently deployed across 10 United Nations peacekeeping missions. He conveyed his delegation's condolences to the families of victims of Hurricane Matthew — the worst humanitarian crisis in Haiti since the devastating 2010 earthquake, and praised MINUSTAH troops for their commitment and work.

12. Formal consultations between the Secretariat, the Security Council, and troop- and police-contributing countries must precede the establishment and renewal of peacekeeping mandates to ensure a better balance between the perspectives of the countries drafting mandates and those implementing them. Subscribing to the concept of sustaining peace in order to overcome the “illusion of sequencing” between peacekeeping and peacebuilding, he urged the Security Council to examine the root causes of conflicts, including economic and social dimensions, and incorporate key peacebuilding objectives into mission mandates from the outset. In that context, the Assembly should discuss the recommendations of the reviews of peacekeeping operations and of the peacebuilding architecture in conjunction and synergy with those of the reviews.

13. Brazil reaffirmed its support for the participation of women in peace operations and its full commitment to the United Nations zero-tolerance policy on sexual exploitation and abuse. Regulations to prevent and combat that serious misconduct — in which United

Nations personnel and non-United Nations troops mandated by the Security Council were implicated — should apply to all mission staff without exception. Noting that no Brazilian troops had ever been involved in any substantiated allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse, he said that the General Assembly must continue its lead in the prevention of such abuse. Furthermore, a special account separate from the regular budget should be established for special political missions, in line with the report of the High-level Independent Panel on Peace Operations (A/70/95-S/2015/446). That would boost efficiency and alleviate budgetary pressures on other crucial activities. Brazil also reaffirmed its willingness to contribute to the excellent work of the Office for the Peacekeeping Strategic Partnership and to the Secretariat's initiative, with the support of Japan and other partners, to implement a capacity-building project for engineering units in Africa. It was expected that the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations would ensure United Nations peacekeeping missions remained a cooperative endeavour in the service of peace, political stability and sustainable development, with emphasis on the primacy of politics and on prevention. As peacekeeping operations became more complex and dangerous, Member States must continuously reflect on their evolution in conceptual and result-oriented terms. The role of the Special Committee, by virtue of its meaningful interaction with Member States, was thus crucial.

14. **Mr. Meza-Cuadra** (Peru) said that peacekeeping had become a cornerstone of the Organization's fulfilment of its central purpose of maintaining international peace and security and its effectiveness was undoubtedly measured by the success of peacekeeping missions on the ground, which must constantly adapt to the ever-changing face of war. In recent decades, changes in the international system had rendered peace and security more complex, causing the United Nations to rethink the way it arranged peacekeeping operations. Given the multidimensional nature of modern peacekeeping operations, whose mandates ran the gamut from security to development, Peru considered that all peace agendas must incorporate comprehensive actions with a view to identifying and supporting a variety of peacebuilding frameworks and processes.

15. Peacekeeping personnel must display ethical and professional conduct, in line with the core principles and values of the United Nations. Peru reiterated its strongest condemnation of the participation of staff, whether direct or indirect, in any inappropriate or immoral conduct, particularly sexual exploitation and abuse of civilians, and fully supported the Secretary-General's zero-tolerance policy as well as the inclusion in military doctrine of guidelines on sexual violence in conflict. Peru would always support initiatives that would severely penalize staff involved in any such unconscionable acts.

16. In the light of the increasingly volatile security situations in which peacekeeping missions operated, they must be allocated adequate financial resources. His delegation joined others in underscoring the need to strengthen staff training and instruction and to provide state-of-the-art military equipment. It was also vital to harmonize operational concepts in order to establish clear guidelines and procedures. Enhanced coordination and interaction among the main stakeholders, namely the Security Council, the Peacebuilding Commission, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and troop-contributing countries, would result in a more effective and efficient approach to peacekeeping.

17. Peru remained firmly committed to United Nations peacekeeping operations, as evidenced by its long history of cooperation dating back to the United Nations Observation Group in Lebanon (UNOGIL) in 1958. Since then, the country had contributed 7,000 uniformed personnel, three of whom had paid the ultimate sacrifice, to the international peace and security effort and currently participated in seven missions. Given its decade-long participation in MINUSTAH, Peru welcomed the recent renewal of the mandate in Security Council resolution [2313 \(2016\)](#) and looked forward to the Secretary-General's strategic assessment of the situation, which would shed greater light on a future United Nations presence in Haiti. In line with its foreign policy, Peru had also deployed a company of engineers to the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA), becoming the first Latin American country to do so. The contingent, which would be deployed for no less than 10 years, was responsible for construction tasks and maintaining airfields and had been outfitted with 93

pieces of mechanical equipment and engineering vehicles. Furthermore, the offer to contribute 250 Peruvian troops during the Leaders' Summit on Peacekeeping illustrated the commitment to a new framework for more agile and effective peacekeeping.

18. **Ms. Kassangana-Jakubowska** (Poland), reaffirming her country's commitment to United Nations peacekeeping operations and readiness to increase its involvement therein, said that Poland had designated staff and liaison officers and an explosive ordnance disposal unit to the Peacekeeping Capability Readiness System (PCRS). The ongoing work of the Departments of Peacekeeping Operations and of Field Support to improve the mobility and logistics capabilities of forces was commendable. The improvement of rapid deployment capabilities should be one of the priorities of the Secretary-General designate. Successful conflict resolution required rapid response and the capacity to deploy conflict prevention and mediation teams promptly. The Organization should therefore focus on creating tailored missions that could begin working with on-site assets immediately and effectively. Capacity-building would benefit both the United Nations and the host country in the long term. Similarly, a more human-oriented approach, combining civilian and military efforts, would enhance mission safety.

19. In addressing peacekeeping challenges, international standards for the protection of children in conflict situations must be applied as a matter of priority. Long a champion of protecting children's rights both at national and international level, Poland supported action to protect children, particularly since peacekeepers were, more often than not, the only international actors present on the ground when children were at their most vulnerable. Poland also attached great importance to the implementation of Security Council resolution [1325 \(2000\)](#) and remained committed to women's participation in all stages of the peace process. Coordinated, system-wide efforts were needed to implement the women, peace and security agenda, including by appointing gender advisors to peacekeeping missions. The Secretariat should share experience and draw on the good practices of other organizations, such as the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), to translate that agenda into practice.

20. Combating sexual violence in armed conflicts remained an important issue. A single offence sufficed to tarnish the reputation of all United Nations missions. It was the shared responsibility of the Organization and its Member States to eradicate sexual exploitation and abuse by United Nations peacekeepers and punish perpetrators. Concrete action to that end must be taken to ensure full compliance with Security Council resolution 2272 (2016). Poland fully supported the need for implementation of the United Nations zero-tolerance policy with respect to sexual exploitation and abuse. In addition, while there had been significant progress in the protection of civilians, which remained a major objective of peacekeeping, there was still much to be done. Poland also endorsed initiatives such as the Kigali Principles on the Protection of Civilians, to which it had been one of the first signatories, and all United Nations efforts to enhance the safety and security of peacekeeping staff.

21. **Ms. Haile** (Eritrea) said that United Nations peacekeeping missions could contribute to the maintenance of international peace and security only if deployed with a clear and achievable mandate and wide political support. Peacekeeping was not a crisis-management mechanism, nor could it be an alternative to addressing the economic, social and political causes of conflicts. Greater attention must be given to drafting clear exit strategies, taking into account the root causes of conflict. The success of United Nations peacekeeping hinged on universal respect for the basic principles of peacekeeping and the principles of the Charter of the United Nations. The Security Council retained the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security; while the importance of regional organizations in peacekeeping could not be overlooked, their participation must comply with Chapter VIII of the Charter. Utmost caution was needed when deploying troops from neighbouring countries to ensure that national interests did not overshadow concern for regional and international peace and security.

22. As United Nations peacekeeping operations were increasingly entrusted with the protection of civilians, it must be emphasized that host governments had the primary responsibility for protecting their nationals. The duty to protect civilians should not be used as a basis for military intervention by the United Nations in conflicts. Furthermore, as the mandates of

peacekeeping missions expanded and became more complex and dangerous, the innovative measures used to enhance their operational capabilities, including through the use of technology, must be consistent with international law and usage subject to a transparent intergovernmental process.

23. **Mr. Ciss** (Senegal) said that the security situation of current peacekeeping operations had grown more complex. In many instances, armed non-State actors targeted United Nations personnel and civilians, making it particularly difficult to ensure the safety and security of United Nations personnel, who in turn experienced difficulty in fulfilling their mandate, in particular the protection of civilians. The case of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) illustrated the amplitude of that situation.

24. The success of peacekeeping operations largely depended on the ability to adapt to changing environments. Presently, in addition to ensuring peace and security, peacekeepers also helped to protect human rights, assisted the internally displaced and refugees, and conducted demining and peacebuilding activities, among others. The police component, which had originally been tasked with surveillance, observation and reporting, also had an increased role. Greater synergy between the military, police and civil components was required and the international community should accelerate the peacekeeping reform process to better adapt missions to current and future needs and challenges.

25. The implementation of the recommendations contained in the relevant reports, in particular regular dialogue among troop-contributing countries, the Security Council and the Secretariat, would contribute positively to the accomplishment of those mandates. Such triangular dialogue was a crucial means to achieve a common and realistic vision of mandates and the means of implementing them.

26. Senegal, which was currently chairing the Security Council Working Group on Peacekeeping Operations, had organized thematic discussions on such essential questions as the use of new technologies in peacekeeping missions and strengthening cooperation with regional organizations. Senegal welcomed the active participation of troop-contributing countries to the meetings of the Working Group, and

would continue to work to strengthen triangular dialogue.

27. **Mr. Remaoun** (Algeria) said that efforts made in the recent past to better respond to contemporary security challenges and improve peacekeeping activities had been undermined by the condemnable acts and decisions of a few. His Government was concerned in particular by the persistent acts of sexual exploitation and abuse committed by peacekeepers in the Central African Republic, which was the country most affected by that scourge. The Algerian Government supported the Secretary-General's zero-tolerance policy and therefore welcomed the establishment of immediate-response teams to gather and preserve evidence pending the initiation of an investigation.

28. Unprecedented incidents had occurred during the past year, not only undermining peacekeeping operation mandates, but also challenging the ability of the Security Council to fulfil its duties. Such provocative acts on the ground begged the question: what lay behind the expulsion of United Nations personnel from a peacekeeping mission or the violation of a ceasefire? The Security Council, not having reacted in a manner proportionate to the seriousness of the events, had failed to assume its responsibilities.

29. The safety and security of peacekeeping personnel remained a key issue. Peacekeepers required quality training and adequate equipment to be able protect their lives and to fulfil their mandate. Modern technology, though an asset to peacekeeping missions, should be used in strict conformity with the Charter, and international and local law. Transparency was crucial in that regard. It was imperative to consult with neighbouring States, for example, concerning the use of specific technologies near borders.

30. Lastly, his Government strongly supported ongoing efforts to strengthen the strategic partnership between the United Nations and the African Union, particularly in the areas of peace and security, and was appreciative of the sacrifices made by United Nations peacekeepers.

31. **Ms. Gilmutdinova** (Russian Federation) said that her delegation endorsed the recommendations of the High-level Independent Panel on Peace Operations with regard to prioritizing political dialogue as a tool

for resolving conflict situations and the importance of strengthening regional mechanisms for resolving crises. There was a strong need to consider the transnational nature of threats of violence.

32. In that context, it was especially relevant to develop intergovernmental regional cooperation and collaborate with regional and sub-regional organizations, including by exchanging best practices and providing field support with a view to responding effectively to existing and future challenges. Combating crises in the Sudan, Somalia and other conflict areas had shown the potential of such organizations — above all the African Union — in conflict prevention and resolution. His delegation saw a growing opportunity for peacekeeping cooperation between the United Nations and the Collective Security Treaty Organization.

33. Any United Nations presence must support the host country on the basis of that country's priorities, including through peacekeepers' constructive daily cooperation with local authorities and capacity-building. Her Government fully agreed that it was unacceptable to use United Nations peacekeeping forces to combat terrorism and violent extremism.

34. It was necessary to consider the basic principles of United Nations peacekeeping, including consent of the parties, neutrality, impartiality, non-interference in domestic affairs and the non-use of force except in self-defence and in defence of the mandate. Her Government did not agree that those principles should be loosely interpreted on the basis of the changing situation on the ground, particularly with respect to the use of force by Blue Helmets. Consent of the parties and impartiality remained key to the effective and peaceful resolution and prevention of conflicts. It was unacceptable to ignore those fundamental principles, as had been the case in Burundi and South Sudan. She hoped that the international community would be able to prevent the reoccurrence of a similar situation in the future.

35. Although it was one of the integral purposes of United Nations peacekeeping missions, her Government believed that the responsibility for protecting the civilian population lay with the national Governments. The international community must aim to support national efforts to that end. Any response measures, and especially those involving the use of

force, could only be taken with the Security Council's approval and unwavering adherence to the Charter of the United Nations. Attempts to manipulate a mandate approved by the Organization were unacceptable. The current situation with civilians could only be remedied by foregoing selective or unilateral compliance with international humanitarian law, conforming strictly with human rights standards and implementing the corresponding Security Council resolutions.

36. Widespread use of advanced technical equipment, and in particular the experimental use of unmanned aerial vehicles, was becoming increasingly relevant and should be carefully reviewed and discussed within the framework of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations with a view to developing a consensus. The deployment of those vehicles raised a range of issues in the political, legal and budgetary spheres and in the area of monitoring collected information and ensuring its confidentiality.

37. Issues related to the safety of peacekeeping contingents were increasingly prominent in the deployment and functioning of peacekeeping operations. The host country was directly responsible for peacekeepers' safety; it was therefore imperative to establish a constructive relationship between peacekeeping forces and local authorities.

38. Ongoing dialogue was needed between the Security Council and troop- and police-contributing countries on all aspects of peacekeeping operations, including in the planning and mandate-development stages. Potential threats to United Nations personnel must be reviewed thoroughly during the planning of operations. Goals could not be achieved at the price of unjustified risk to Blue Helmets.

39. The participation of police personnel in United Nations peacekeeping operations deserved special consideration. Her Government highly valued the results of the June 2015 United Nations Chiefs of Police Summit. The upswing in the number of police forces serving in United Nations peacekeeping operations reflected the threats dealt with by countries undergoing crises. Russia had vast experience in combating transnational organized crime and corruption, illicit drug trafficking and illegal migration, and collaborated actively with its partners in the Collective Security Treaty Organization on those issues. It stood ready to share that knowledge with the

global police community, including for practical use in United Nations peacekeeping missions.

40. There was a need for a substantive review by Member States of the entire spectrum of issues related to United Nations peacekeeping operations, including by establishing a consultative forum on the functioning of United Nations police forces and through discussions on administrative and budgetary matters by the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations and the Fifth Committee. Certain delegations' attempts to use the Fourth Committee's forum to make politicized statements deviating from its agenda were unacceptable and unproductive to productive work.

41. **Mr. Louis** (Haiti) said that the international community should take an integrated and holistic approach to collectively confront complex conflict situations. The Departments of Peacekeeping Operations and of Field Support should therefore establish a mechanism to encourage Member States to seek consensus on relevant policies and strategies, and to deepen strong cooperation with regional and subregional organizations.

42. Despite efforts to ensure ethical behaviour in recent years, several cases of sexual exploitation and abuse had been reported within a number of missions, including the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti. The Haitian Government demanded that United Nations authorities should ensure the strict application of norms in order to prevent such behaviour.

43. The recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General 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](#)) should be implemented seriously. In that regard, it was crucial that the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations should continue to strengthen the operational capacity and organizational structure of peacekeeping operations. As the long-term effectiveness of operations depended on their perceived legitimacy, the Departments of Peacekeeping Operations and of Field Support should enhance efforts to build confidence and widen the base of troop-contributing countries in order to mobilize adequate resources to confront the increasingly complex and difficult challenges. The Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations remained the only

intergovernmental forum for the discussion of political issues, strategic guidelines and recommendations for draft resolutions and decisions for submission to the General Assembly.

44. The Haitian Government welcomed the intention of the Security Council to study his country's capacity to ensure security and stability, as well as the decision to extend the mandate of the peacekeeping mission in Haiti. The latter would provide needed support to national authorities to re-establish constitutional order in the wake of the humanitarian crisis worsened by Hurricane Matthew.

45. His delegation welcomed the Organization's new approach to the cholera epidemic, including the improvement of access to clean drinking water and sanitation and the provision of material assistance. The Secretary-General had officially recognized the moral responsibility of the Organization to the victims of that epidemic and had created a fund to effectively combat the epidemic, particularly by building solid water, sanitation and health systems. He hoped that sufficient resources would be mobilized in time to ensure concrete and rapid results.

46. **Mr. Wilson** (United Kingdom) said that the United Kingdom, having doubled its troop contribution over the past year, remained firmly committed to United Nations peacekeeping efforts. Troops were being deployed to Somalia and South Sudan, and there were plans to provide a Level-II hospital in the latter country.

47. Defence ministers had discussed United Nations peacekeeping reform at the United Nations Peacekeeping Defence Ministerial hosted by his Government in 2016, at which a numerous pledges to plug capability gaps and commitments to improve United Nations peacekeeping efforts had been made. British ministers had set out their peacekeeping reform initiative, calling for better planning, more pledges of personnel and equipment, and stronger peacekeeper performance.

48. Member States were invited to view the widely-signed communiqué from that meeting on the United Kingdom Government website. New language had been agreed regarding peacekeeper performance and accountability, the training and replacement of troops when appropriate, and ambitious targets to double the

number of women in peacekeeping roles by 2020. The international community should reflect on how to increase the number of women serving in national armed forces. Likewise, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations should increase to 15 per cent the number of women serving as staff officers and military observers. The Secretary-General, moreover, was encouraged to enhance mission-intelligence capabilities and to develop a more cohesive and integrated United Nations system from the field to Headquarters. The international community should fulfil its commitments, particularly regarding the contribution of troops, police and civilians, and the tackling of sexual exploitation and abuse.

49. **Mr. Dedji** (Togo) said that finding rapid and lasting solutions to crisis and conflict situations was one of the most important and enduring global challenges. Peacekeeping operations had evolved with the political, social and economic climate; faced with the proliferation of zones of conflict and violence, such missions had come to be underpinned by a legal framework combining relevant provisions of the Charter of the United Nations, international human rights instruments and international humanitarian law, and were becoming increasingly complicated to plan and supervise.

50. Like the other countries involved in the MINUSMA mission his country had recently lost men in a mine explosion. To date, Togo had lost 12 peacekeepers, including 10 in Mali and two in Côte d'Ivoire. It was important not to lose sight of recurring human rights violations by mission staff, which compromised the credibility of the Organization's activities. In that connection, Togo welcomed the report of the High-level Independent Panel on Peace Operations, whose recommendations recalled the need to create conditions for protecting peacekeeping forces on the ground and ensuring that the deployed forces respected human rights in fulfilling their mandates.

51. Despite the measures taken to enforce the zero-tolerance policy towards sexual exploitation and abuse, the Secretary-General's latest report showed that the number of such allegations had increased. Togo deplored those reprehensible actions and called on the Organization to continue, with support from Member States, sensitizing deployed peacekeeping personnel. His country had taken preventive measures to that end,

including educating and raising the awareness of troops before their deployment on the ground. In February 2009, the Togolese Government established a peacekeeping training centre in Lomé to teach tactical and technical skills to combat units and instil in them respect for human rights. The centre also contributed to developing troops' managerial skills in the new security context.

52. In conjunction with the centre, a United Nations expert had, in June 2016, administered an evaluation test to a Togolese formed police unit (FPU) deployed in Mali, focusing on the police agents' linguistic, crowd management, driving, weapons handling and shooting skills, as well as their knowledge of general human-rights principles and international humanitarian law applicable to peacekeeping contexts, the responsibilities and obligations of peacekeeping agents, including the Organization's fundamental values, the Blue Helmets' code of conduct, behavioural and disciplinary standards, the zero-tolerance policy on sexual exploitation and abuse, HIV- and AIDS-related obligations, and respect for the diversity, safety and security of United Nations personnel. The expert's work had confirmed the centre's decisive role in strengthening the capacities of troops and other Togolese peacekeeping agents.

53. To date, Togo ranked fifth in Africa in troops contributed and sixteenth overall, with a total of 1,750 men deployed in United Nations peacekeeping missions in Mali, Côte d'Ivoire, Darfur, Liberia, Haiti, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Liberia and Western Sahara. Mandates urgently needed clear mandates, so that peacekeepers could participate in protecting civilians and human rights, reforming the security sector and establishing the rule of law and good governance in their jurisdiction. All Member States needed to cooperate on and commit to supporting peace missions and allowing their shared Organization to continue guaranteeing international peace and security.

54. **Mr. Sukhee** (Mongolia) said that his delegation welcomed the Secretary-General's initiative for strengthening the United Nations system, including the establishment of the High-level Independent Panel on Peace Operations, as well as that Panel's and the Secretary-General's reports on peace operations. The establishment of any peacekeeping operation, or the

extension of a mandate of an existing operation, should be strictly in line with the peacekeeping principles and purposes stipulated in the Charter of the United Nations.

55. As an active troop-contributing country, Mongolia sent approximately 1,000 troops to various peacekeeping missions each year, as well as four police officers in the past summer. His country's and the Organization's utmost concern was the safety of men and women serving in crisis-affected countries. According to recent statistics, the death rate of United Nations personnel serving on the ground had almost doubled. All possible measures to reduce or eliminate those tragic cases, including information-sharing, must be taken.

56. His Government strongly condemned all forms of sexual exploitation and abuse committed by United Nations peacekeeping personnel, and supported the Secretary-General's zero-tolerance policy. Any offenses committed by peacekeepers in the mission area must not be tolerated by the international community. All peacekeeping personnel must adhere to the highest standards of behaviour and conduct themselves in a professional and disciplined manner at all times. Mongolia extended its deepest gratitude to the thousands of Blue Helmets and soldiers who had participated in peacekeeping operations in conflict areas and had performed their duties with professional skill and strict discipline.

57. **Mr. Cheon** (Republic of Korea) said that his delegation paid tribute to all the men and women who had selflessly carried out so many missions under dire conditions and extended its condolences to those who had made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty. Since the previous session of the General Assembly, significant strides had been made in improving and enhancing peacekeeping capabilities and activities. The comprehensive review of the High-level Independent Panel on Peace Operations, the 2015 Leaders' Summit on Peacekeeping and the 2016 ministerial conferences in London and Paris had provided opportunities for new approaches to peace and security. Global demand for peacekeeping was at its peak, as illustrated by the unprecedented number of peacekeepers deployed in such conflict areas as South Sudan and Mali; that demand would remain high for the foreseeable future. His Government fully supported the efforts of the

Departments of Peacekeeping Operations and of Field Support to implement their operations efficiently.

58. The commitment of the Member States was required in accordance with their respective capacity requirements and strengths as determined by the Peacekeeping Capability Readiness System (PCRS). Continuous interaction and understanding between the Secretariat and Member States about capacity requirements in the field was essential. During the 2015 Leaders' Summit on Peacekeeping, the Republic of Korea had pledged an additional engineering unit to United Nations peacekeeping operations and Level-II hospital equipment to African Union operations.

59. Information technology must be applied to peacekeeping operations. Information-led operations were becoming more critical given the deteriorating United Nations peacekeeping environments. Setting up robust command and control structures, utilizing smaller tactical unmanned aerial vehicles and sharing aerial data and geospatial information were essential to the Organization's peacekeeping missions. The Third International Partnership for Technology in Peacekeeping Symposium would be held in Seoul in November 2016 and provide new opportunities for leveraging cutting-edge technology to support military, police and civilian peacekeepers in the face of unprecedented challenges.

60. Peacekeeping was also the responsibility of regional organizations. The Organization's partnerships with regional organizations and Member States who were only starting to participate in peacekeeping operations must be strengthened. Given the interconnected, complex nature of modern challenges, the United Nations must forge more coherent and effective partnerships at all levels and take decisive steps to strengthen regional architectures for peace and security. Regional organizations, and particularly the African Union, were becoming prominent in the global security context due to their unique comparative strengths, knowledge of the environments, ability to deploy quickly and willingness to do so robustly.

61. At the same time, his country was bolstering its ties with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and Pacific countries. The previous week, the Republic of Korea and Cambodia had co-hosted a meeting of peacekeeping experts in Seoul which emphasized helping ASEAN members establish

strategic and political peacekeeping policies by analysing United Nations peacekeeping strategies and trends.

62. As a Member State which had received support from United Nations forces more than six decades earlier, the Republic of Korea was fully committed to maintaining international peace and security and would continue cooperating with the United Nations and other partners towards that end.

63. **Ms. Chand** (Fiji) said that her country's troops had a long history of engaging in peacekeeping operations and had acted as peace-builders and stabilizing forces in various global regions. In spite of its size, Fiji was determined to help further the cause of peace. It urged the Secretariat to strengthen its dialogue with Member States and particularly with troop- and police-contributing countries on all relevant matters, including policy formulation and decision-making.

64. Fiji was aware of the evolving nature of peacekeeping environments and the increasing challenges they posed. The fragile political and security conditions and escalating levels of violence seriously threatened the safety and security of peacekeepers and all United Nations mission personnel. Peacekeepers' lives were just as important as their fulfilment of their assigned mandates. Member States must continue collaborating on ways to protect their peacekeepers, including by bolstering coordination and information-sharing in order to mitigate threats effectively and address safety and security concerns.

65. Developing partnerships with regional bodies would help address common security challenges and must be strengthened. The United Nations must continue to assume the primary role in upholding international peace and security, and needed to form partnerships in conformity with Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations. Fiji commended the brave men and women who risked their lives daily on the ground and asked the Committee to pay tribute to those who had served and continued to serve in peacekeeping forces.

66. **Mr. Ejinaka** (Nigeria) said that United Nations peace operations faced the challenge of remaining relevant, which was largely achievable with increased

commitment and support from Member States. His Government was concerned that the number of conflicts outstripped the Organization's capacity to deliver. All applicable instruments for reinforcing United Nations peacekeeping operations and efforts to address conflicts must be explored. Member States and regional bodies must seek more effective strategies to identify and address the root causes of conflicts within their countries and regions and vigorously promote political solutions before those conflicts escalated. Advancing political dialogue and reconciliation processes and strengthening security sectors, economic recovery and social development were robust means for fostering lasting peace.

67. Member States must commit to and take the lead in ending sexual exploitation and abuse by United Nations peacekeepers deployed to conflict areas and increase their support for the work of the Special Coordinator on Improving the United Nations Response to Sexual Exploitation and Abuse. It was reprehensible that those atrocities still occurred. His Government also called for measures to minimize risk to contingents and mission facilities. Host countries must do much more to ensure peacekeepers' safety. Regular consultations between missions and host authorities would help build mutual confidence and trust, which were key to missions' success. Nigeria noted that half of the 16 United Nations peacekeeping missions were in Africa, which had the dual and unique role of both hosting and contributing a significant share of peacekeeping troops.

68. The Security Council had the primary responsibility for upholding international peace and security; regional arrangements could only intervene on its behalf. Nigeria called for finalizing the joint United Nations-African Union review and assessment of the various Security Council-authorized mechanisms available to finance and support AU peace operations, which envisaged that the Organization would fund 75 per cent of the AU budget for authorized peacekeeping operations.

69. Continuous engagement was needed among the Security Council, the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations, the Secretariat, troop- and police-contributing countries and regional organizations on the emerging challenges facing United Nations peacekeeping. The growing danger

peacekeepers faced from asymmetric threats deserved urgent attention and called for adapting modern technology to information-gathering, communication, aerial surveillance and detection of landmines and explosives in order to obviate existing threats without compromising the principles of the Charter of the United Nations. His Government paid tribute to the peacekeepers that lost their lives in the line of duty and offered its condolences to their families, friends and Governments.

70. **Mr. Bazatoha** (Rwanda) said that his country had witnessed the Organization's failure to act first-hand and would continue to learn from that dark time in its history to prevent its reoccurrence. Member States must become agents of change because idleness was no longer an option. The past year's reports and reviews had provided a framework on how best to move forward. Numerous calls for change could be found in the recommendations of the High-level Independent Panel on Peace Operations and the values inscribed in the Kigali Principles on the Protection of Civilians. Member States must focus on formulating steps for the way forward and bolstering their commitment to take action.

71. In the short term, they must take the necessary steps to reduce the gap between what was expected of them and what they could deliver. All peacekeeping stakeholders, including the Security Council, the Secretariat and troop- and police-contributing countries must become more adaptive and flexible in the face of the changing landscape of modern peacekeeping.

72. The Security Council had the ability to issue mandates appropriate for the situation on the ground and properly assess a mission's needs on the basis of its priorities. Protecting civilians was the paramount task of missions entrusted with such mandates. The Secretariat could reduce the bureaucracy that hindered effectiveness in addressing the urgent needs on the ground, which were often a matter of life and death.

73. Troop- and police-contributing countries would need to assume an active role in their efforts in the field. Acting robustly, and particularly in the protection of civilians, would harmonize those countries' understanding of peacekeeping and strengthen the trust civilians had placed in them. That progressive interpretation of peacekeeping would require dispensing with caveats that promoted idleness and

static operations. Time and again, civilians were deliberately targeted by parties to the conflict. Approaching peacekeeping with a traditional mindset that encouraged inaction was a conscious decision to fail the women, men and children that peacekeepers had been sent to protect.

74. The troop- and police-contributing countries must further modernize their efforts by working in tandem with the Secretariat to deploy skilled peacekeepers rapidly. Rwanda was currently collaborating with the Secretariat to elevate several pledges to rapid deployment level. It commended the work of several Member States on such projects as the triangular partnership project and operational partnerships which had greatly benefited their missions and enabled them to do more. It also noted the effective and informative pre-deployment and in-mission training that focused predominantly on protecting civilians, gender-based violence and child protection.

75. More must be done to protect those who were the most vulnerable in times of conflict and unconditional respect must be cultivated for all living persons. If Member States successfully conveyed that truth, they could reduce the cases of sexual exploitation and abuse and encourage peacekeepers to become active witnesses and report impending misconduct. They would also establish the foundation for understanding why sexual exploitation and abuse was unacceptable on any grounds and how profoundly it affected civilians and their communities.

76. In addition to protecting civilians, peacekeepers could help them rebuild their homes and lives. In Haiti, Rwandan peacekeepers had helped rebuild local communities after natural disasters had devastated the country. In Darfur and South Sudan, they had built schools that had allowed children to continue their education. In the Central African Republic, Rwandan peacekeepers had provided school materials to those who were unable to make ends meet. All those actions had deepened the peacekeepers' relationship with the local populations, returned a sense of normalcy to those populations' lives and, above all, had proven to them that the Blue Helmets were in their country to do good. As a residual benefit, peacekeepers had obtained vital intelligence which had helped them mitigate threats against civilians and had protected them from armed rebels. Investing in the people that peacekeepers

were sent to protect meant investing in the mission's success and the host Government's ability to secure peace for its people.

77. If Member States were to intensify the aforementioned short-term efforts and draw on lessons learned, they would ensure that peacekeeping would be successful in the long term as well. In due time, the relationship between mandate creators and mandate implementers would be an optimal one, which would certainly improve mission planning and management and also positively affect and potentially guide the reform of the Secretariat so that it could meet needs on the ground in a timely and accurate way and ultimately undertake pre-emptive work that further elevated the effectiveness of missions and their respective peacekeepers.

78. Troop- and police-contributing countries could benefit from that momentum by continuing to fully equip peacekeepers to act regardless of the composition of the armed sector or the evolving peacekeeping landscape. Then, they could incorporate a truly performance-oriented approach to peacekeeping management.

79. Member States must work collectively to meet the expectations of civilians across the globe and affirm that they had a moral and operational responsibility to do more. They must be bold and unified in their progress, honing their peacekeeping efforts to become more adaptive and flexible in accordance with the Kigali Principles and the recommendations of reports calling for immediate and urgent change.

80. **Mr. Itang'are** (Tanzania) said that the increasing complexity of peacekeeping mandates and their deployment required greater flexibility and resilience, hence the shift from traditional peacekeeping roles to multidimensional functions, such as the Force Intervention Brigade of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO). Nevertheless, peacekeeping continued to face challenges in several areas, including the safety and security of personnel, the protection of civilians, the provision of effective field support and the need for enhanced regional cooperation and national ownership.

81. His delegation commended the Organization for convening several high-level meetings on peacekeeping, the outcome of which would play a key role in the design and implementation of appropriate mechanisms to improve the quality of participation in and contributions to peacekeeping operations. As the seventh largest troop-contributing country, Tanzania was acting on its commitment to global peace and stability, with well-trained, equipped and disciplined peacekeeping personnel deployed to six United Nations peacekeeping operations. It was also supporting the peacekeeping capacity-building initiatives under way and called on international partners to do so as well.

82. It was crucial for the Organization and the international community to focus on strengthening the strategic partnership with regional communities, as recommended by the High-level Independent Panel on Peace Operations. Tanzania was fully committed to implementing the zero-tolerance policy on sexual exploitation and abuse and would take severe disciplinary measures against all perpetrators, with a view to strengthening accountability and ending impunity. His Government would cooperate fully with the Secretariat and would support other disciplinary measures, in line with the Directives for Disciplinary Matters Involving Civilian Police Officers and Military Observers. In closing, he paid homage to the soldiers who had served with distinction and sacrificed their lives in the hope of a better tomorrow for those they had worked to protect.

83. **Mr. Ceylan** (Turkey) said that the success of the 16 active peacekeeping operations was crucial to bolstering confidence in the United Nations system. However, the increasingly complex and unpredictable nature of modern conflicts, asymmetric threats and deteriorating security conditions had the potential to disrupt peacekeeping operations. Attacks against United Nations personnel and other peacekeepers by terrorists and armed groups were on the rise, as was the number of casualties. Peacekeeping operations needed to improve their performance and capability to adapt to such developments.

84. The three reviews on peace operations conducted in 2015 had yielded recommendations concerning the primacy of political solutions, the need to prioritize conflict prevention and mediation, and the importance of developing partnerships with regional and

subregional organizations. Those recommendations had been incorporated into the normative framework through the adoption of General Assembly resolutions and in the deliberations of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations at its 2016 session. Nevertheless, his delegation hoped that the incoming Secretary-General would take steps to keep the discussion ongoing.

85. The Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations was the appropriate forum to negotiate and develop the necessary framework for United Nations peacekeeping operations. The Departments of Peacekeeping Operations and of Field Support also made an important contribution to determining the evolving functions of peacekeeping operations. Triangular cooperation and enhanced consultation among the Security Council, troop- and police-contributing countries and the Secretariat were key to crafting more realistic and achievable peacekeeping mandates, thereby improving the transparency, design, planning and execution of peace operations. Delineating mandates was central to all political and military considerations involved in peacekeeping.

86. Protection of civilians — regarded as a moral responsibility for the United Nations — had become a central component of some peacekeeping mandates. The primary responsibility to protect civilians rested with States, and United Nations peacekeeping efforts should always be based on the core principles of peacekeeping, namely, the consent of the host country, impartiality and minimum use of force as a last resort, in self-defence and defence of the mandate. Nevertheless, those principles did not preclude protection of civilians. Peacekeeping operations should therefore increase their vigilance in order to protect civilians in armed conflicts. Furthermore, sexual exploitation and abuse of civilians by peacekeepers must cease and their perpetrators must be punished.

87. Turkish peacekeepers served in various United Nations and other missions across the globe, helping local security forces with capacity- and institution-building efforts and providing technical assistance and training to local law enforcement bodies. His Government was ready to increase its participation in United Nations peacekeeping operations and had made pledges to that effect at recent high-level summits on peacekeeping. In addition, Turkey had facilitated and

would continue to offer a number of professional training courses and programmes for United Nations personnel.

88. **Ms. Defeis** (Observer for the Holy See) said that the protection of civilians was one of the central elements of peacekeeping mandates, in the light of the deliberate targeting of and indiscriminate attacks on civilians. The devastating consequences of such blatant violations of international humanitarian law included massive civilian casualties, displacement of populations, and deprivation of food and other basic necessities.

89. Women and girls suffered disproportionately from the ravages of war, with the horrendous crime of rape being used to incite fear and crush their will. The resulting trauma was hard to erase and had effects on society as well. Efforts must be made to strengthen the role of women in preventive diplomacy, mediation and post-conflict peacebuilding and reconciliation. Such initiatives must not be treated as afterthoughts or mere exercises in political correctness, given their essential role in sparing the world further war and violence.

90. The peacekeeping mandate to protect innocent civilians caught in armed conflicts was within the framework of the responsibility to protect. In the face of the persistence of grave crimes, States first and foremost, and the international community as a whole, had a grave responsibility to defend those who were exposed to mass atrocities. To that end, the fundamental principles of international human rights and humanitarian law that underpinned the global commitment to the responsibility to protect must be reinforced.

91. Her delegation recognized the practical difficulty of carrying out the principle of the responsibility to protect, given the need to reconcile its application with the principles of non-intervention and sovereign equality of States. In that connection, she reiterated her delegation's suggestion that Member States should discern clear and effective criteria for applying the principle and for the corresponding integration of Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations.

92. Arms control was an effective strategy to prevent conflicts, protect civilians, restore peace and promote reconciliation. The Holy See renewed its call on States to strictly limit the manufacture, sale and gifting of

weapons and to take positive measures to put an end to the trafficking of weapons and the financing that might facilitate the commission of atrocities.

93. The profoundly disturbing problem of sexual exploitation and abuse by United Nations peacekeepers persisted, despite measures taken by the Organization including the articulation of a zero-tolerance policy. In addition to the immeasurable harm suffered by innocent victims, the credibility and effectiveness of United Nations peacekeeping was undermined. More preventive measures must be considered. In addition, all countries contributing peace forces must make provision for judging and punishing such crimes.

94. The Holy See commended the activities of the United Nations peacekeeping operations and, in particular, the sacrifices made by the peacekeepers and the extent to which they had been able to restore peace, stability and social harmony and make development possible in many regions of the world. It remained committed to collaborating, where possible, in the work of conflict prevention, conflict resolution and peace consolidation.

95. **Mr. Granillo** (Observer for the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)) said that the International Committee of the Red Cross was fully aware of the challenges facing United Nations peacekeeping operations, which it worked alongside in many countries. The ever more violent, complex and rapidly changing situations presented particular difficulties to the increasingly multidimensional operations, whose staff were required, inter alia, to mediate between opposing parties, deliver essential services, promote the rule of law and handle detainees.

96. In order for peacekeeping operations to overcome those challenges and maximize their efforts, they must ensure compliance with all relevant bodies of domestic and international law in situations where they were mandated to protect the civilian population. In addition, capacities and funding must keep pace with the increasingly complex operations, as well as with the multidimensional operations as they broadened in scope.

97. The issue of detention, which was sometimes overlooked and underfunded, merited particular attention, given that capacities might not be adapted to the reality on the ground in some cases. As United

Nations missions were sometimes forced to detain individuals, they should plan for that eventuality in advance. Detention facilities must operate in accordance with relevant international law and standards and must be run by trained and supported detention personnel who had the necessary means to ensure effective detention management. In that regard, ICRC welcomed the Organization's efforts to establish a framework for that purpose through the 2010 Interim Standard Operating Procedures on Detention in United Nations Peace Operations (PK/G/2010.6) and other standard operating procedures designed for specific contexts. ICRC encouraged their full application and implementation, in particular with regard to the humane treatment of all detainees, preemptive and adequate resourcing and compliance with the principle of non-refoulement when considering the transfer of individuals under the control of United Nations missions. Based on its relevant expertise, ICRC regularly engaged with peacekeepers on detention-related issues and stood ready to help them prepare in advance for situations in which they might have to arrest and detain individuals.

98. Through their dialogue with high-level political authorities and the armed forces they supported, United Nations missions were uniquely placed to uphold the obligation incumbent upon States and international organizations to ensure that the parties to conflict complied with international humanitarian law. That challenging task was conditioned by the resources available to the bearer of that obligation. The United Nations must exercise due diligence when deciding how to promote compliance with the law among the parties. ICRC had recently held a multi-stakeholder roundtable on the obligation to ensure compliance with international humanitarian law during multinational operations in Africa.

99. On the question of how peacekeeping operations could maximize their mandates to protect civilians, it was vital for ICRC to continue to be perceived and understood as a strictly neutral, independent and impartial humanitarian organization, lest its access to and ability to protect and assist those in need should be jeopardized. Also, in contexts where close association with a multidimensional mission could put members of local communities at risk, individual risk assessments should be conducted, civilian personnel should be appointed to liaise with local communities, and the

principle of "do no harm" should be applied systematically.

100. Moreover, neither humanitarians nor peacekeepers should limit or prevent the empowerment of local communities, as they possessed tremendous strength and knew their environment and its changing dynamics best. Efforts by peacekeepers to build a protective environment should therefore include community engagement to create and support spaces in which locals could negotiate. However, in doing so, peacekeepers needed to be present and provide physical protection to effectively deter violence where necessary.

101. Lastly, the civilian population must be protected against any harm caused by those mandated to protect it, as such acts, when perpetrated by any component of a peacekeeping operation, undermined and jeopardized its mission. When committed in the context of an armed conflict, rape and other forms of sexual violence might constitute serious violations of international humanitarian law that entailed criminal responsibility and, as such, must be thoroughly investigated and prosecuted. Through confidential dialogue, ICRC raised concerns about allegations of sexual violence, including the consequences of such acts for victims and communities. ICRC stood ready to increase its training programmes for peacekeepers on international humanitarian law and the protection of civilians, both ahead of deployment and in-theatre, and to strengthen its protection-related dialogue with all parties.

102. **Ms. Herdt** (Observer for the International Organisation of la Francophonie) said that her organization remained committed to strengthening the steadily growing participation of French-speaking countries in peacekeeping operations. It strongly condemned all acts of violence targeting peacekeeping forces. She underscored the need to promote multilingualism and to attach priority to the linguistic dimension in all phases of peacekeeping operations, taking local particularities into account.

103. Given that peacekeeping operations constituted a unique basis for partnerships, innovative partnerships among regional and international organizations and contributing States should be formed in order to facilitate the sharing of information and experiences. Her organization stood ready to back its staunch support of the zero-tolerance policy on sexual

exploitation and abuse in peacekeeping missions with action to prevent such abuses. It had developed capacity-building programmes and training centres in French-speaking countries involved in peacekeeping, in order to assist efforts by those countries to abide by United Nations standards. It also promoted the certification of that training by the United Nations. Moreover, through the network of Francophone expertise and training for peacekeeping operations, the International Organisation of la Francophonie raised awareness of peacekeeping operations among French-speaking professionals and the general public. In addition, it provided French-language instruction related to military matters to non-French-speaking defence and security forces in troop- and police-contributing countries.

104. In May of that year, the International Organisation of la Francophonie had hosted an event on the growing Francophone contribution to peacekeeping operations. It had also recently offered a training seminar for focal points from French-speaking countries who were involved in the recruitment of senior officials for peacekeeping operations. In closing, the International Organisation of la Francophonie was fully available to deepen any and all cooperation in order to help ensure the success of United Nations peacekeeping.

The meeting rose at 12.50 p.m.