

Open Debate on International Peacekeeping Operations
August 26th, 2011, Security Council Chamber

Statement by H.E. Mr. Li Baodong, Representative of China to the United Nations

Mr. Li Baodong (China) (*spoke in Chinese*): On 26 August the United Nations compound in Abuja suffered a serious attack, with colossal human casualties. China strongly condemns this terrorist act and expresses its condolences and sympathies to the families of the deceased and to the wounded and their families, and to the United Nations and the Government of Nigeria. China will continue to work with the international community in combating all forms of terrorism.

I highly appreciate India's initiative in convening today's open debate. I also welcome the statement by Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon.

Since the United Nations peacekeeping operations were launched more than 60 years ago, they have become one of the important means for the maintenance of international peace and security by the United Nations. Lately United Nations peacekeeping operations have been growing in scale, with ever-wider mandates and increasing challenges. I want to focus on the following.

First, it is imperative to continue to adhere to Dag Hammarskjöld's three principles governing peacekeeping. They constitute the premise and the foundation for the smooth conduct of United Nations peacekeeping operations, and they must be adhered to. On that basis, China approves and supports the adoption of a prudent and responsible attitude in light of developments and the necessary development and improvement of the peacekeeping theories and practices.

Secondly, greater attention should be given to integrated coordination between peacekeeping and peacebuilding. Peacekeeping is an important component of the peacemaking exercise, and greater attention should be given and greater efforts be made to address the issues at the root of conflicts, including issues relating to economic and social development. In peacekeeping it is imperative to formulate and gradually improve transition and exit strategies and to improve dovetailing with peacebuilding.

The third matter is effective implementation of the mandate for the protection of civilians. In carrying out this mandate in peacekeeping operations, there should be stricter observance of Security Council resolutions and the principle of neutrality by avoiding siding with one particular party or becoming a party to the conflict. Much less should we cause more civilian casualties while implementing this mandate. We should also respect the sovereignty of the countries concerned and do more to improve the political process and national reconciliation and give full play to the political advantage of the United Nations.

Fourthly, we should improve capacity-building for United Nations peacekeeping operations. We hope that countries able to do so will increase their input and provide the necessary resources and technical guarantees for peacekeeping operations. We support greater attention to strategic design in peacekeeping operations, greater communications and coordination with the countries concerned, improvement of logistic mechanisms and optimizing resource allocation, and improvement of the effectiveness and efficiency of peacekeeping operations, including their deployment, planning and management.

Fifthly, there should be better coordination between the Security Council on the one hand, and the troop-contributing countries (TCCs) and the Secretariat on the other. At all stages of the establishment and implementation of peacekeeping operations, the Council should pay attention to maintaining regular consultations with the TCCs. We support closer partnerships between the Council on the one hand and the troop contributors and the Secretariat on the other. We hope the Secretariat will continue to provide relevant information to the TCCs in a timely and accurate manner. We also support the United Nations in improving the partnerships with the countries concerned and with regional organizations in particular in supporting the peacekeeping efforts of the African Union and in supporting the latter and improving its capacity.