

Security Council Open Debate on UN Peacekeeping: A Multidimensional Approach, January 21st 2013, Security Council Chamber

Statement by Mr. Garcia González, Permanent Mission of El Salvador to the United Nations.

Mr. President, may I say how warmly my delegation welcomes your initiative in convening this open debate in the Security Council on the theme “Peacekeeping in the United Nations: a multidimensional approach”. In today’s world, this is key to understanding not only the international context but also the scope of the collective security endeavour undertaken by the United Nations, through this principal organ, and how countries that have moved from conflict towards peacebuilding, such as El Salvador, can contribute to such efforts.

We also align ourselves with the statement made earlier by Ambassador Mootaz Ahmadein Khalil, the Permanent Representative of the Arab Republic of Egypt, speaking on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

The High-Level Plenary Meeting of United Nations heads of State and Government held in 2005 was a major step forward for our Organization in terms of its conception and strategic vision of the form, content and deployment of peacekeeping operations, including lessons learned on the ground from a series of conflicts, including the one in my country, El Salvador, through the United Nations Mission in El Salvador.

That qualitative improvement was bolstered by the decision to establish the Peacebuilding Commission, a hybrid body in terms of composition, but one with a very broad strategic vision that creates bridges and communication channels within countries that are emerging from conflict and are embarking on a peacebuilding process, and subsequently, in a dynamic and dialectical manner, focuses on development as the only means of addressing the structural causes of conflict and achieving sustainable development.

In a context of multipolarity, the varied crises throughout the world, which have a negative impact on the well-being of peoples and nations, such as the international economic and financial crisis, which began in 2008 and whose effects are clear in various parts of the world; the environmental crisis, at whose heart lie the devastating effects of climate change and which is also contributing to increasing the vulnerability of small countries; the political changes taking place within medium- and high-income countries in various parts of the world, which also have major geopolitical and geostrategic implications at the global level; and the global impact of phenomena such as international migration and other complex issues related to the unlawful trafficking and sale of drugs and arms, as well as the impact of transnational organized crime — all of these mean that the multidimensional approach to peacekeeping is an extremely important tool in the context of collective security.

Moreover, we should give thought to the necessity and importance of moving forward with reform of the Security Council. This is an extremely important issue that ties in directly with the vision and the short-, medium- and long-term strategic objectives that have been defined for the deployment of peacekeeping operations.

In our delegation’s view, the time has come to consider peacekeeping operations from a broad-based, holistic angle that from the outset includes the traditional components of peacekeeping operations, but that is combined with a strategic mandate that makes it possible to involve, insofar as the situation on the ground allows, the components of peacebuilding and sustainable development, including the gender perspective and the empowerment of women, who are essential to the

achievement of stability, peace, freedom and the development in countries emerging from conflict.

Moreover, that vision should have an institutional expression within the United Nations system, which should be reflected in a greater interaction and collaboration between the Security Council, the Peacebuilding Commission, the General Assembly and the agencies, funds and programmes for development.

Lastly, it is important to stress that the conceptual evolution of peacekeeping operations, again from a broad-based, holistic perspective, should contribute to enhancing collective security in an increasingly interconnected and interdependent world, for the benefit of humankind.