

**Security Council Open Debate on Peacekeeping Operations: New Trends June 2014,
Security Council Chamber**

Statement by Mr. Yoshikawa Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations.

Mr. President, I would like to begin by expressing my appreciation for the initiative and leadership you have shown in convening today's open debate on the important issue of United Nations peacekeeping operations. I will be very brief.

From their inception, United Nations peacekeeping operations have been evolving. Contemporary peacekeeping has become multidimensional, with broader roles and responsibilities. Fifteen years after the Brahimi report (S/2000/809), resolution 2086 (2013) renewed our consideration of trends in peacekeeping. Recent peacekeeping also has delivered several innovations including the Force Intervention Brigade, unmanned unarmed aerial vehicles and inter-mission cooperation, inter alia. The most important fact is that peacekeeping continues to be a flagship initiative of the United Nations for international peace and security. We should maintain and improve that important tool. In that regard, a key question is how to make United Nations peacekeeping operations sustainable in both financial and human resources terms.

Let me first touch upon the financial challenge. The United Nations peacekeeping budget for 2014-2015 will probably greatly exceed its historical high of \$8 billion. While we fully recognize the important role of peacekeeping operations in the maintenance of international peace and security, the fiscal environment of Member States, including Japan, does not allow unlimited resources for peacekeeping. Very strong efficiency measures are called for.

Right-sizing is a promising approach to meeting such financial challenges. When an idea to establish a new mission emerges, full consideration should be given to whether it is cost-effective or not. The mission's mandate has to be elaborated based on the reality on the ground and should be responsive to the changing situation in the field. To that end, the Secretary-General should keep a close eye on developments on the ground and make timely and realistic recommendations to the Security Council. The Security Council should review the mandate of each mission in a timely manner and ensure the effectiveness of the mission's activities. Automatic renewal of mission mandates should be avoided and mandates of prolonged missions should be thoroughly reviewed.

Let me move on to the challenge posed by limited human resources. It is clear that a large number of qualified peacekeepers is essential for peacekeeping activities. However, we very often struggle to find all the personnel we need. Due to today's surge in the demand for peacekeeping missions, human resources are overstretched. It is a pressing task to increase the number of qualified peacekeepers and create a strong pool of them. In that regard, I would like to highlight two points.

First, broadening troop contributors is a way to cope with the challenge. It is true that current peacekeeping missions depend on a limited number of troop-contributing countries. In order to overcome such limitations, we should continue to assist prospective troop-contributing countries.

Secondly, we need more training, which is a very effective way to create qualified peacekeepers. Upholding standards of discipline for peacekeepers, including preventing sexual exploitation and abuse, is essential to ensuring a mission's credibility. In addition, peacekeepers are now required to be competent in complex tasks. Therefore, we should provide full-spectrum training to create qualified peacekeepers.

Japan has participated in peacekeeping operations for more than 20 years. We have dispatched more than 10,000 personnel to 12 peacekeeping operation missions. I will skip the details now because of time limitations; they can be found in the written text that I will circulate in the Chamber. However, let me emphasize that Japan wishes to contribute to peacekeeping operations by broadening its

involvement under the banner of “Proactive Contribution to Peace”.

In closing, I would like to express my heartfelt appreciation to all peacekeepers. I also express our deepest condolences to the survivors of those peacekeepers who made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty.