

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

Statement by Mr. Van Oosterom Permanent Mission of the Netherlands to the United Nations.

Thank you very much, Mr. President.

I thank you, Sir, for organizing this timely and important debate. The Netherlands aligns itself with the statement made by the observer of the European Union.

We pay homage to those fallen in peacekeeping operations. We welcome the renewed attention to the commemoration of fallen peacekeepers on 29 May, and we express the hope that further enhancements to the commemoration ceremony will be agreed upon in the coming year. Our common aim is to improve mission effectiveness, protect civilians and mission personnel, and facilitate transition after the end of conflict. To realize those aims, four dimensions are, in our view, fundamental: innovation, integration, instruction and information.

With respect to innovation, the circumstances in which peacekeeping operations are taking place have changed fundamentally in recent years. Nowadays, non-State actors, rapidly changing environments, various challenges that are at the same time military, political and socioeconomic, and new threats call for innovation in our peacekeeping missions. Key elements in our view of innovation are the use of new technical possibilities, enhanced robustness and the need for guaranteed escalation dominance. As our contribution to the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA), the Netherlands has therefore deployed cutting-edge equipment and technology. The more effective we can make peacekeeping operations, the sooner transition to the post-conflict phase can take place.

Secondly, on integration, the new challenges also call for better integration of our efforts. Peacekeeping operations cannot function in isolation. In conflict situations, peace, justice and development issues are closely interlinked. Peacekeeping operations must therefore integrate diplomacy, defence and development, which we call the 3-D approach. Civil-military cooperation and coordination at the country level are also fundamental to effective mandate implementation. In order to improve integrated mission planning and execution, we encourage the strengthening of the planning capabilities at the United Nations Secretariat and at the mission management level.

Thirdly, on instruction, when addressing the new challenges, we should further improve the instruction and training of peacekeepers. The most valuable asset of the United Nations is naturally its personnel. Our men and women serve in dangerous locations where they can find themselves in harm's way while upholding the ideals of the Charter and the international community's responsibility to protect. Solid instruction and training for military and police personnel are thus of key importance. It prepares them for their difficult task and directly contributes to the effectiveness of the mission. Predeployment training for peacekeepers is therefore crucial, and in that training, special attention should be given to gender and child protection, as well as to the role of women in conflict prevention, peacemaking and peacebuilding processes.

We should reinforce the capacity of regional organizations to conduct the training and instruction of peacekeepers. I am proud to say that the Netherlands, in partnership with various countries, is actively engaged in regional training programmes aimed at enhancing the capabilities of peacekeepers.

Finally, information and information gathering, collating and sharing are crucial for peacekeeping operations. In order to make balanced decisions, around-the-clock situational awareness is fundamental. We, the Netherlands, have deployed an all-sources information fusion unit to MINUSMA in Mali to contribute to such awareness. Such units also contribute to the Rights up Front initiative through early warning with respect to human rights violations and the protection of civilians. We encourage the introduction of similar units into other missions in need of better situational awareness.

In conclusion, in applying innovation, integration and instruction and in improving information processes, peacekeeping missions will be more effective in realizing the mandates given to them by the Security Council. As said before, it is the ambition of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to be a partner for peace, justice and development. We will continue to be a partner with other Member States and the United Nations system as whole in cooperatively making peacekeeping missions more effective.