

Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations

22 February 2011

Ambassador Amjad Hussain B. Sial, Acting Permanent Representative of Pakistan

Madam Chair,

I wish to congratulate you and the other members of the bureau on their election. We assure you of our fullest cooperation.

The Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations as the sole policy making body in the United Nations on all aspects related with the UN peacekeeping has a central role in bringing together all stakeholders in the UN System to address the challenges faced by the peacekeeping. We look forward to working with the members of this Special Committee to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of UN peacekeeping operations.

I would like to thank Under-Secretaries-General Mr. Alain Le Roy and Ms. Susana Malcora for their comprehensive briefings to the Committee. We appreciate their efforts to address the challenges confronting UN peacekeeping today and assure them of Pakistan's full support.

My delegation associates itself with the statements made on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement by the distinguished representative of Morocco and by the distinguished representative of Fiji on behalf of the Asian Group. I shall, however, like to take this opportunity to make some observations in my national capacity.

Madam Chair,

Pakistan has been in the forefront in supporting the United Nations collective efforts for the maintenance of international peace and security through our contribution to UN Peacekeeping. In 2010 we completed 50 years of participation in UN Peacekeeping. Over this period, more than 100,000 of our nationals have participated in the UN peacekeeping missions. Currently, we are the largest contributor to UN peacekeeping missions with over 10,600 personnel deployed in nine missions. More than 100 Pakistani peacekeepers have made the ultimate sacrifice by laying their lives in the cause of the United Nations. Pakistan is also host to one of the oldest UN peacekeeping missions i.e. the United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP). Pakistan's participation in UN peacekeeping operations over the 50 years is the most tangible demonstration of our commitment to the success of the United Nations. It is a practical reaffirmation of our abiding faith in the purposes and principles of the UN Charter.

Madam Chair,

Over the last decade the demands on UN peacekeeping have grown tremendously. Peacekeeping missions have become multidimensional and have to implement increasingly complex mandates. However, the demands placed on the Missions are not always matched by the will to provide necessary resources. The success of any peacekeeping operation depends as much on the quality and the professionalism of the peacekeeping troops as on the amount of resources available to it. Denying peacekeeping the requisite resources would be a myopic approach, as it would irreparably harm the cause of global peace and stability, which could have long-term adverse consequences.

Madam Chair,

Peacekeeping should not be used as a stopgap measure. It should be part of a comprehensive political solution, which also addresses underlying causes of the conflict, including economic and human exploitation. Peacekeeping must prepare the ground for post conflict reconciliation, reconstruction and development. To do that, it needs to be accompanied by effective peace building, which is essential for laying down the foundations of sustainable peace and development.

Pakistan is conscious of the fact that modern peacekeeping must have protection of civilians as one of its objective. At the same time, however, we reiterate our emphasis on the role of the host country as the primary actor in ensuring that objective. We must not lose sight of the fact that a peaceful and secure environment can only be maintained in the long run by capable and resourceful national authorities. The peacekeepers, notwithstanding their unique role in assisting and supporting the national authorities must guard against over-stretching their role. We also need to look into the legal aspect of the notion of protection of civilians in peacekeeping operations.

There is a need to exercise caution in introducing new concepts advocating use of force by peacekeepers for implementing mandated tasks including protection of civilians. These concepts need to be considered within the framework of the guiding principles of peacekeeping i.e. consent of the parties, impartiality and the non-use of force except in self-defence. In this regard, the key is also taking into consideration the capability of the force and its geographic jurisdiction. Peacekeeping missions today are operating in extremely complex and difficult environments. There are a number of grey areas associated with the coercive use of force in peacekeeping operations, which if not addressed properly can have catastrophic consequences. It is, therefore, necessary to avoid actions

that may create misperceptions about the neutral image of the United Nations and the institution of peacekeeping.

Madam Chair,

Pakistan is supportive of efforts by the Secretariat to improve the quality of logistical services to field missions including through the implementation of the Global Field Support Strategy. However, care should be taken that these efforts do not undermine the operational effectiveness of field missions. We are also cognizant of the need for the mobility requirements particularly utility helicopters in some large missions. In this regard, we regret that no understanding could be reached in the Working Group on Contingent Owned Equipment that would have facilitated TCCs to deploy more helicopters. The session of the Special Committee provides us with another opportunity to look into this critical aspect.

Madam Chair,

The role of the troop contributing countries is fundamental to the conduct of peacekeeping operations. It is they who put their sons and daughters in perilous conditions, and their sacrifices, often make all the difference between war and peace. The concerns of the troop contributors should, therefore, be taken into account, especially the following:

- First, The conduct of peacekeeping operations needs to be driven by the unique requirements of each mission, not by any political or financial considerations. The international community, therefore, needs to ensure that any given peacekeeping mission is provided with adequate financial and other necessary resources along with political support to complete its assigned tasks.
- Second, TCCs must be consulted in not only drawing up of mandates, but also in their implementation, and when considering a change, or renewal.
- Third, There should be greater representation from those troop-contributing countries, which are making major contributions in the field at UN Headquarters.
- Fourth, We appreciate the Secretariat's efforts in improving the processing of reimbursement of claims for troop and equipment costs. We hope that efforts will continue to clear some of the backlogs expeditiously.
- Fifth, We are concerned about the safety and security of our troops and would like the Special Committee to explore ways for improvements in the field.
- Sixth, We reaffirm our commitment to the process initiated by the General Assembly through resolution 63/285 for the review of the troop costs. At the same time we feel that there is a need for

providing some interim relief to the peacekeepers, as by the completion of this process, it will be almost 25 years since the troop costs were last reviewed in 1992.

- Seventh, We are concerned over the delays in reimbursements on account of death and disability of UN peacekeepers. There is a need for streamlining this process so that the kith and kin of the deceased are compensated in a timely manner.

Madam Chair,

We emphasize that this should be a cooperative endeavour. Not confrontation, but competition to contribute to peacekeeping, should guide our work. Experience has shown that good results can be achieved through cooperation. We should avoid peripheral issues and controversial concepts with dubious utility. Our focus should be on substantive issues that relate directly to our common objective – to make peacekeeping work even better.

When we speak in this Committee, we speak from the perspective of a major stakeholder with considerable experience, and therefore also a vested interest, in the success of UN peacekeeping operations in all parts of the globe. Indeed, along with others, we have played a significant part in forging UN peacekeeping as an instrument of international peace. We want to see it serve, and serve better, the collective purposes of the United Nations and of the peoples whom we represent here.

I thank you, Madam Chair.