

**Open Debate on UN Peacekeeping Operations**  
**August 26, 2011, Security Council Chamber**

*Statement by H.E Mr. Cabactulan, Representative of the Philippines*

Mr. Cabactulan (Philippines): Before I deliver my statement, I wish to state that the Philippines joins other Member States in strongly condemning the bombing of the United Nations office in Abuja, and expresses its deep condolences over the United Nations personnel and Nigerian citizens who perished, as well as those who were seriously injured in that horrific attack.

The Philippine delegation would like to thank you, Mr. President, for having convened this timely and important open debate on the present and future of United Nations peacekeeping operations. As a country committed to committing troops and police to various United Nations peacekeeping missions, the Philippines highly values this opportunity to engage the Security Council in meaningful discussion on the challenges we face and ways to collectively resolve them.

The Philippines aligns itself with the statement delivered by the Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Morocco on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement. My delegation likewise expresses its appreciation for the briefing by Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, which set the tone of our debate today.

We also welcome the heightened interaction and dialogue among other key stakeholders of the global peacekeeping agenda, including the Secretariat, the General Assembly and troop- and police-contributing countries. One concrete example of such productive interaction has been the recently held informal meeting between the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations and the heads of military components.

As we listened intently to the Force Commanders of 16 United Nations peacekeeping missions, we derived relevant and useful insights, learned critical lessons and figured out ways on how best to move forward. We thank the Department of Peacekeeping Operations for having organized the meeting, and look forward to further interactions with our men and women in the field and to seeing the recommendations generated during those interactions transformed into concrete action.

Philippine participation in peacekeeping missions dates back 48 years to the deployment of a 40-man Air Force squadron to the Congo. Since then, the Philippines has modestly contributed to various peacekeeping missions in fulfilment of its international commitment to maintaining international peace and security. Despite its limited resources, the Philippines strives to find ways and means to assist the United Nations by contributing troops and police officers to existing and emerging missions.

I am pleased to highlight that my country is playing an active part in the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force, under the leadership of our very own Major General Natalio Ecarma III, in which a 344-strong Filipino contingent is deployed. At present, the Philippines is strengthening its own peacekeeping mechanisms and charting a new road map to allow it to increase the number of its peacekeepers and expand its participation in United Nations peacekeeping operations in the near future.

Today, the Philippines has the modest number of 893 military and police personnel serving in seven peacekeeping operations around the world. I wish to highlight that 10 per cent of our peacekeepers are women — a figure which will surely increase in the years ahead. The Philippines is a strong partner of the United Nations in the promotion of women's active involvement and participation in peacekeeping. We fully support the idea of integrating the gender perspective in the deployment of peacekeeping personnel, and continue to play our part in putting that into practice.

The Philippines strongly advocates the continuous training and development of peacekeepers to strengthen the effectiveness and success of their missions. To this end, the Philippines successfully hosted the first training of trainers in the Asian region in June in Manila. Participants from 13 countries were trained to present the new United Nations police standardized training curriculum on preventing and investigating sexual and gender-based crimes to police officers, in preparation for their deployment to a field mission. The training-of-trainers course is specifically designed for the post-conflict environment and ensures that United Nations police officers will have the required knowledge of procedure and the skills necessary to assist their counterparts in

the host State in preventing and investigating sexual crimes and gender-based violence throughout the investigation, prosecution and trial processes.

The Philippines is satisfied with the achievements made by the United Nations thus far, and would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the courageous and dedicated men and women serving under the blue and white flag of the United Nations. The Philippines is especially mindful of the sacrifices made by our peacekeepers, especially those who are deployed under harsh and hostile conditions, and salutes all those who have given their lives to the cause of peace.

At the same time, the Philippines acknowledges and appreciates the continued efforts made by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Field Support to keep us abreast of developments in the field of peacekeeping and to fully address the increasing demand for peacekeepers worldwide, despite countless challenges and difficulties.

Based on its experience as an active troop- and police-contributing country, the Philippines notes that the surge in and increased demand for peacekeepers are not often matched by the capabilities and resources necessary to meet our peacekeeping commitments. This is not only a budgetary problem, but also involves the careful and methodical planning and effective execution of the mandates conferred by the Security Council. It is imperative that we continue to find ways and means to ensure the safety and protection of our peacekeepers. Hence, we must ensure that they are adequately armed and equipped to enhance their capacity to protect themselves in high-risk areas.

The Philippines believes that the solution to the challenges lies in our collective will and action. As we implement the peacekeeping reform agenda, the extensive experiences we have gained on the ground could enrich discussions on vital areas such as policy and capability development, global field support strategies, and planning and oversight. There is no silver bullet that will solve the complicated and risky operation of peacekeeping, but through hard work, perseverance and wise decisions we can always improve the utilization of our scarce resources and apply our collective experiences to ensuring the successful deployment of peacekeepers and the completion of their mission.

In closing, let me reiterate my country's full cooperation with the Security Council, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Field Support, and once again manifest our unwavering commitment to helping maintain international peace and security and to preventing the escalation of conflict at various points across the globe