

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

Statement by Mr. Diallo, Permanent Mission of Senegal to the United Nations.

I would like to welcome the convening of this Security Council debate on a multidimensional approach to peacekeeping operations. In many ways, this subject reflects the interest that your Government, Mr. President, attaches to this essential mission of the Organization.

Peacekeeping operations have contributed immeasurably to the work of building viable peace, from the adoption of resolution 50 (1948), which established the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization in Palestine, to the adoption of resolution 2085 (2012), which authorized the deployment of the African-led International Support Mission in Mali. Therefore, from a simple ceasefire observer force, peacekeeping operations have evolved and changed, depending upon the circumstances, into missions seeking to re-establish, impose or build peace.

Because of those profound changes, it has become crucial to re-evaluate missions in all their aspects. The appearance of new threats to international peace and security — such as terrorism, transnational organized crime, an increase in the number of internal conflicts, which provide fertile grounds for human rights violations, and the terrible effects of poverty — has led us to rethink the mandates of peacekeeping operations, and rightly so.

For peacekeeping operations to be successful, all the parameters that have an impact on the achievement of lasting peace must be taken into account, as highlighted in several reports, particularly the report of the High-level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change entitled “A more secure world: our shared responsibility” (see A/59/565). Over and above the original mandate of ensuring security in order to help rebuild defence forces and facilitate humanitarian aid, we must add to the responsibilities of peacekeeping operations those of promoting human rights, supporting political processes until strong institutions that can ensure democracy and the rule of law are put in place, and supporting the economic reconstruction of the country, without forgetting the fight against certain pandemics.

The political process on which the viability of any peace work depends must remain inclusive and representative of the various social elements that are involved in a conflict. We saw a perfect illustration of that in Timor-Leste, where the United Nations

Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste (UNMIT) succeeded in organizing free and transparent presidential and legislative elections by working effectively with all parties involved in the crisis. The success of UNMIT is all the more exemplary because the security sector reform it undertook, particularly of the police, remains a perfect illustration of the capacities of the young Timorese nation to take responsibility for that important aspect of its future.

I must also highlight the crucial role played by the protection of human rights and the provision of humanitarian assistance in maintaining security and restoring a climate conducive to peace. Human rights violations, especially of women and children, have no place in peace processes, which are already so fragile. The fight against impunity must not therefore be sacrificed on the altar of national reconciliation. It should instead contribute to the establishment of a new society based on respect for human dignity and the obligation to provide justice to all its members. In addition, there is the immense and daunting challenge of economic reconstruction, whose success would allow for the avoidance of any relapse into hostilities, which may be sought by those who may feel marginalized by the restoration of peace.

The review of this multidimensional approach also gives me an opportunity to welcome the option of cooperation with subregional organizations to establish hybrid forces, as well as the concept of inter-mission cooperation, which allows troops to be shared among several theatres of operation. That reflects the full extent and complexity of the deployment of peacekeeping missions.

Well aware of the various threats to collective peace and security and convinced of the need for action, since achieving national sovereignty, my country has placed peacekeeping at the heart of its foreign policy. Perpetuating that tradition for the good of world peace, the Senegalese defence and security forces are currently contributing 2,113 troops to a number of theatres of operation, including Darfur, Haiti, Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Liberia and South Sudan. As the fourteenth largest contributor of troops to peacekeeping operations and the fourth largest police-contributor, Senegal reaffirms its commitment to a world free of the spectre of war and reiterates its faith in the ideals of peace that are at the foundation of the Organization.