

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

Statement by Ms. Burgstaller, Permanent Mission of Sweden to the United Nations.

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the Nordic countries Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and my own country, Sweden.

At the outset, I should like to thank Pakistan for taking this initiative to hold an open debate on the multidimensional approach to United Nations peacekeeping. The Nordic countries share the basic premises of the concept note distributed ahead of the meeting (S/2013/4, annex) and fully agree with the notion that a multidimensional approach is key to building lasting peace. I will focus my statement on three main issues related to the topic of today's debate: multidimensional operations, coordination and coherence, and financing.

Multidimensional peacekeeping operations provide the basis for a strong link between peacekeeping and peacebuilding, but a multidimensional approach also puts new demands on the missions. There is a need to train police and military personnel to operate in multidimensional settings to ensure that the United Nations will have the right person in the right place at the right time. Also, more effort should be directed at strengthening the peacekeepers' capacity to create an enabling environment for peacebuilding activities, which include such critical areas as security sector reform, the rule of law and human rights. The global focal point could be an important contributor to achieving these objectives.

In addition to police and military personnel, missions also require stronger civilian capabilities. We fully support the Secretary-General's initiative to respond to the increasing demands for civilian personnel. In this context, the creation of CAPMATCH was a very important step forward. We commend the Secretariat and the civilian capacities team for making good progress in getting this new system for mobilizing civilian capabilities from both the global South and the global North up and running. Furthermore, we also encourage the Secretariat to continue its efforts to improve the gender balance of the mission staff, including in leadership positions.

The United Nations must deliver as one, including in a mission setting where there needs to be a very close integration between the United Nations country team and the peacekeeping mission, especially on planning and implementing civilian tasks. There should be a stronger focus on coordination and coherence with other actors in the field, such as international financial institutions, regional organizations and bilateral partners. Finding pragmatic ways to operate in close coordination, building on each other's comparative advantages, is key. The joint ventures in the Liberian context between the United Nations police and bilateral partners is a useful example of how this can be done.

Such an integrated approach also allows the Security Council to achieve its goals without overloading the peacekeeping missions with tasks others may be better equipped to carry out in the peacebuilding area. In this regard, we encourage closer cooperation between the Council and the country configurations of the Peacebuilding Commission.

Finally, I would like to make a few comments on financing. Proper resourcing is important. The elaboration of mandates in the Security Council cannot be delinked from the debates about budget in other forums, and this is essential in the context of ensuring a smooth transition from peacekeeping to peacebuilding and long-term development. In his report for the 2013 session of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping (A/67/632), the Secretary-General emphasizes the need to ensure sustained international support in the transition phase. The Nordic countries believe that such support is crucial to reach the relevant end-states.

Let me conclude by stressing that in all these efforts nothing is more important than the role of the host country. To reach the desired end-states in United Nations missions, broad national ownership is of vital importance. Good political leadership and accountability are essential for successful outcomes.