

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

Statement by Mr. Menan, Permanent Mission of Togo to the United Nations.

At the outset, I would like to commend Pakistan for organizing this debate on the question of a multidimensional approach to United Nations peacekeeping operations. Your presence with us here in the Chamber, Secretary Jilani, to conduct today's debate illustrates the interest that your country has always had in United Nations peacekeeping operations. I am also grateful to the Secretary-General for the very detailed presentation that he has just given to us on the item under consideration.

One of the major challenges that our world has always faced pertains to its ability to find speedy and sustainable solutions to crisis and conflict situations that emerge to threaten the stability of States and the well-being of their populations. Initially designed and, until recently, operating to maintain peace in countries in conflict, peacekeeping operations have gradually evolved in order to adapt to the political, social and economic environment of our time.

Now the evolution of United Nations peacekeeping missions is such that the organization, planning and execution of related operations are transcending the primary normative framework mentioned in Chapters VI, VII and VIII of the Charter of the United Nations. Peacekeeping missions, in their multidimensional design, now rely on a normative framework that brings together the relative provisions of the Charter and the international legal instruments for human rights and international humanitarian law, as well as of regional and subregional organizations.

The issue is no longer just peacekeeping, but also peacebuilding. The mandate of peacekeeping missions has thus evolved to include the development component, thereby making Blue Helmets artisans of peace and reconstruction.

The merit of today's debate is that it highlights the multidimensional approach of peacekeeping operations and provides an opportunity to evaluate its effectiveness and to propose improvements. Rebuilding a country after conflict requires a number of competencies to act in areas as varied as those having to do with security, the rule of law, good governance, the restoration of institutions and infrastructure, justice reform and national capacity-building of the countries concerned.

The multidimensional approach of peacekeeping operations therefore shows the will of the United Nations to not limit its missions to achieving only security space, but also to achieving space for political, economic and human rights.

We are pleased to note that for a number of years now the multidimensional approach has been well integrated into peacekeeping missions, since the United Nations and its external partners have agreed to identify the activities that are part of peacebuilding.

In countries emerging from armed conflict, the array of actions to be carried out is quite vast, but the financial and logistical resources are often lacking. External support is therefore the sole hope for the country concerned, not only to re-establish security and build institutions, but also to resume political and economic activities, which are the very foundation of any State.

While recognizing the merits of a multidimensional approach in peacekeeping operations, my country believes that, given the specificity of causes and of the nature of conflicts, it would be desirable not

to lose sight of the fact that there is not just one model for peacebuilding. Therefore, each mission will need to take into consideration the specific needs of the countries concerned through ongoing consultations with national authorities.

Given that the multidimensional approach involves simultaneously implementing a number of activities by different stakeholders intervening in their areas of specialization, the success of such activities requires integrated preparation of missions, the establishment of a strategic framework and mechanisms that will assist in coordinating them and in setting priorities. That type of work is primarily up to the United Nations, in collaboration with regional stakeholders and the countries concerned.

We are therefore pleased to see that missions have been given coordinating frameworks and coherence, which now will need to be regularly assessed and from which could come relevant recommendations. Along the same lines, we must strengthen partnerships, not only among bodies of the United Nations but also between regional and subregional organizations and the international financial institutions. In that respect, Togo believes that the Peacebuilding Commission, given its importance, like the Peacebuilding Support Office and United Nations bodies, must be able to establish a partnership to avoid duplication of activities, achieve complementarity on the ground and provide an opportunity for the establishment of a model of sustained and sustainable development.

That is why my country has always supported the recommendations contained in the report of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations and believes that their implementation will help make more visible and more permanent the action of the United Nations by all partners on the ground. Also, we must note the increasingly important role to be played by political stakeholders, civil society and defence and security agencies, whose coordinated action will contribute to the success of a peacekeeping mission. To make a peacekeeping operation efficient, we need to focus on the involvement of all concerned stakeholders from the outset of the mission in order to keep them all equally informed and to make sure that the information is always shared.

Togo appreciates the efforts already made in terms of training and expertise before deployment on the ground, both for civilians and security forces. To assist those efforts and meet international standards in that area, a training centre for military and police was set up in Lomé in order to ensure their efficient deployment in peacekeeping operations. We would also like to note that, in order to optimize the chances for success in those actions on the ground, it is important to avoid any policy of exclusion in the implementation of those projects. We therefore particularly welcome the increasingly important place that the United Nations is granting to women as key stakeholders for the implementation of projects that assist in re-establishing peace and security. We believe that it is also vital to promote the role of ethnic minorities and the media in promoting sustainable peace.

To conclude, I would like to reiterate the urgent need to adopt clear mandates for peacekeeping operations that coherently highlight the goals to be achieved in the post-conflict period in order to ensure that the country emerging from a crisis or conflict will not relapse for lack of substantial international support.

The protection of civilians and human rights, as well as security sector reform and building the rule of law and good governance, should also be given pride of place in the reconstruction programmes identified by and with the participation of national political stakeholders.

However, it is undeniable that the mandates of peacekeeping operations can be executed only if missions have considerable means. In spite of the efforts made, financing remains today the Achilles heel of peacekeeping operations. The international community must therefore spare no effort to make the contributions necessary for ensuring the harmonious implementation of United Nations

peacekeeping operations.