

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

Statement by Mr. Khiari, Permanent Mission of Tunisia to the United Nations.

I would like to thank the Pakistani presidency of the Security Council for organizing this timely open debate on a very important topic and for the opening remarks. We welcome the adoption of resolution 2086 (2013) this morning. We remain confident that the recommendations and remarks outlined in this debate will contribute to enhancing the effectiveness of this important tool and in highlighting the relevance of a multidimensional approach.

My delegation would also like to associate itself with the statement delivered by the representative of Egypt on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

As contributor to United Nations peacekeeping operations since 1960, Tunisia attaches great importance to the United Nations peacekeeping and its fundamental role in the maintenance of international peace and security. Tunisian troops and, since recently, police deployed on United Nations missions have earned high regards thanks to their performance in difficult conditions and environments.

As the nature of threats to international peace and security has changed over decades, so have the challenges facing peacekeeping missions. Conflicts have changed in nature and are today mostly linked to the incapacity of State institutions to deliver and perform effectively. Once limited to protecting boundaries from potential threats, peacekeeping troops are nowadays deployed to protect State institutions and civilians. Intra-State conflicts and the challenge of providing more effective and sustainable responses have led to an expansion in the scope and mandates of peacekeeping.

The new responsibilities, which go beyond the nature of its political and military roles, highlight the strong link between peacekeeping and peacebuilding and their increased complementarity. It is widely asserted that they are mutually reinforcing.

Although not prevalent at the time that the Charter of the United Nations was drafted, peacekeeping and peacebuilding reflect the spirit of collective efforts enshrined in that Charter. In that spirit, we need to continue to work on our common vision for post- conflict scenarios. We need to carry on in our task of grasping the linkages between development, peace and security, and to suggest solutions. Our objective is to secure smooth transitions to lasting peace, security and sustainable development.

The United Nations must play the central role in securing a common peacebuilding vision and in bringing together the various actors, including national authorities and development actors. Peacekeeping should be conducted within a coherent, precise and realistic mandate. In that regard, permanent assessment and coordination should be continuously undertaken with the Peacebuilding Commission, regional and subregional organizations and international funds and programmes to ensure a coherent passage to a post- conflict situation. In that regard, my delegation would like to reiterate the outstanding role of the Peacebuilding Commission in providing policy guidance and strategies in post-conf lict peacebuilding activities.

To date, peacekeeping and peacebuilding operations are ever better at taking into account realities on the ground. In that regard, we would like to put emphasis on the importance of women's participation and of language skills, among other requirements, to ensure smooth interactions with populations at the grass roots.

Collective efforts require the full participation of troop-contributing countries in formulating policies and decision-making to ensure the effectiveness of United Nations peacekeeping and peacebuilding activities. Also, countries that generally face economic and financial constraints should not bear the burden of providing troops and financing them. It is extremely important that the issue of the unresolved reimbursement of troop costs be addressed as soon as possible.

Tunisia strongly supports the role and relevance of regional organizations in peacekeeping and peacebuilding. The African Union in particular is strengthening its capacities for post-conflict peacebuilding. That should be strongly supported by the international community. Peacebuilding actors, including financial institutions, should play a significant role in that regard. It is also the responsibility of the international community as a whole to provide the required resources. Peacekeeping and peacebuilding operations last for decades and require the appropriate level of resources over extended periods.

My delegation would like to stress that Tunisia, with its vast experience in peacekeeping, spanning more than 50 years, remains fully committed to actively contributing to peacekeeping and peacebuilding efforts and stands ready to contribute further troops and expertise, guided by the ideals and purposes of the United Nations.