

**Security Council Open Debate on UN Peacekeeping: A Multidimensional Approach, January 21<sup>st</sup> 2013, Security Council Chamber**

*Statement by Mr. Mugerwa, Permanent Mission of Uganda to the United Nations.*

I wish to congratulate you, Sir, and the delegation of Pakistan on ably discharging the responsibilities of the presidency of the Security Council for this month. We thank you for organizing this important debate focused on a multidimensional approach to United Nations peacekeeping. I also thank the Secretary-General for his insightful briefing this morning.

This debate is being held at a time when the nature of United Nations peacekeeping is undergoing significant changes, with operations becoming more complex and multidimensional. The nature of peacekeeping mandates has also changed, as missions are increasingly deployed under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations, are incorporating the protection of civilians and are requiring more robust and clearer rules of engagement. At the same time, efforts to resolve conflicts by peaceful means are being put to the test by new threats to global peace and security, including terrorism, piracy and transnational organized crime. The humanitarian consequences of violent conflicts for innocent civilian populations, including women and children, are alarming.

It is therefore essential to continuously focus on how to improve the capabilities and effectiveness of United Nations peacekeeping operations through a multidimensional approach, with greater coordination among all actors in order to ensure coherent and timely responses. Uganda would like to emphasize the following four points.

First, it is crucial to ensure that United Nations peacekeeping operations and those authorized by the United Nations, such as the African Union Military Observer Mission in Somalia and, recently, the African-led International Support Mission in Mali, have clearly defined mandates, objectives and command structures and adequate resources based on a realistic assessment of the situation on the ground. It is our view that each mission should take into account the needs and priorities of the country concerned, through consultation with national authorities and other relevant stakeholders at the earliest possible stages of mission planning.

Now more than ever, United Nations peacekeeping operations should also be more adaptable to emerging challenges, with the requisite resources and capacities. We therefore stress that the existing shortages in some missions, including of air assets such as helicopters in a number of missions, should be urgently addressed if increasingly complex and multidimensional peacekeeping operations are to be effectively carried out. As we have stressed before, the credibility of the United Nations will be greatly undermined by ineffective peacekeeping capabilities anywhere around the world. Unfortunately, I think there are a few incidents that can be pointed to in that regard.

Secondly, we call for enhanced engagement and cooperation among the Security Council, the troop- and police-contributing countries and the Secretariat in addressing the challenges of peacekeeping in a spirit of partnership, cooperation and mutual trust.

Thirdly, the challenges of multidimensional peacekeeping, as we have seen in recent times, clearly require a collective effort. The ongoing efforts by the United Nations to strengthen partnerships with regional and subregional organizations on matters of peace, security and development are commendable. We call on the Security Council to continue to support regional initiatives and to strengthen their capacity to contribute to efforts to maintain international peace and security. We have seen the important role and contribution of the African Union and subregional organizations

such as the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, the Southern African Development Community, the Economic Community of West African States and the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region in peacekeeping and conflict resolution.

Fourthly, as the 2005 World Summit recognized, development, peace and security and human rights are interlinked and mutually reinforcing. The chances for promoting durable peace in conflict or post-conflict countries are bolstered through tangible peace dividends such as the provision of basic services and an improvement in the standards of living of affected populations.

Incorporating peacebuilding activities and tasks, such as support in building national capacities and quick-impact projects, during the early stages of peacekeeping is therefore critical for success. We also underscore the need for closer coordination among affected countries, peacekeeping missions, United Nations country teams and development actors in laying the foundations for durable peace, stability and development. In particular, greater attention needs to be given to building national capacities and institutions in critical areas such as security sector reform, law and order, the judiciary and the civil service, in order to enable a smooth transition when peacekeeping missions depart.

Finally, Uganda pays tribute to the selfless men and women who serve in United Nations peacekeeping missions around the world, often in dangerous and hostile situations, for their dedication and courage. We remember and honour those who have made the ultimate sacrifice in the search for peace and in serving humankind.