

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

Statement by Mrs. Perceval, Permanent Mission of Argentina to the United Nations.

We thank Pakistan for organizing this open debate on an issue that Argentina, as a country that has contributed troops and police to United Nations operations since 1958, deems of particular importance. We currently have more than 1,000 personnel participating in the armed and security forces of seven peacekeeping operations, four of which are multidimensional.

We would like to thank the Secretary-General for his statement, and we welcome the presence here of the Foreign Secretary of Pakistan.

Argentina's participation in peace operations reflects my country's support for the development of a transparent and democratic collective security system in the framework of the United Nations, based on consolidated multilateral mechanisms and in the service of compliance with international law. Peacekeeping operations are an essential instrument of the Organization in complying with its objective of maintaining international peace and security, which we believe must be continually improved upon and strengthened in the future.

Another fundamental reason for our participation in peace operations stems from the close ties between peacekeeping and the promotion and protection of human rights, in particular through the rebuilding of institutions and the consolidation of democracy and the rule of law in those countries where increasingly complex and integrated multidimensional missions are taking place. We believe that progress in improving that type of mission with three components — military, police and civilian — with different but clear and precise mandates and rules of engagement is one of the greatest successes of the past decade. We must preserve that and improve upon it.

We welcome the draft resolution, on which we worked together with other Council members, and its request that the Secretary-General take account of the developments achieved in recent years, while underlining the broad range of peacekeeping operations existing now, from traditional operations dedicated primarily to monitoring ceasefires to new, multidimensional missions that carry out time-bound peacebuilding tasks.

Argentina supports peacekeeping operations taking on a multidimensional character when specific circumstances justify it, as long as their mandates include support and assistance for Governments of the countries in which missions are operating. Such support must include such considerations as assistance and cooperation to strengthen institutions and social participation, the holding of free and transparent elections, the establishment of inclusive political processes, the development of the rule of law, the design and implementation of effective plans for disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, security sector reform, the effective application of guidelines on the gender perspective, and measures for the protection of the civilian population, particularly those under imminent threat of physical violence, including all forms of sexual, sexist and gender-based violence. However, we recognize that the protection of civilians is a primary responsibility of the host country, as noted in the draft resolution to be adopted today (S/2013/27), which also refers to the provisions in this area in paragraph 16 of resolution 1674 (2006).

Particular attention should be given to the fact that, as a result of developments over the past decade, the mandates of new, multidimensional missions can include—as in the case of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti—references to mission support for national Governments and local

human rights groups in their efforts to promote and protect human rights, in particular those of women and children. We believe that such actions would contribute to ending impunity and ensuring that those responsible for violations of human rights and of international humanitarian law are held accountable before justice. Such mandates also promote the implementation of reliable mechanisms for monitoring and reporting on human rights situations in host countries, providing advice and assistance to national Governments in investigating violations of human rights and international humanitarian law so as to ensure that perpetrators do not go unpunished.

I wish to underscore the importance of cooperation between the United Nations and the International Criminal Court in the context of peacekeeping operations, in particular as it relates to the issue of non-essential contacts with individuals subject to arrest warrants issued by the Court. For Argentina, that should be part of the cooperation between the Court and the United Nations, as provided for in the relationship agreement between them.

Argentina welcomes the fact that the draft resolution reaffirms the commitment to address the particular impact of armed conflicts on women and children, underlining what is contained in resolution 1325 (2000) and all subsequent resolutions. We reiterate the need for the full, equal and effective participation of women at all stages of peace processes, not only to achieve the goal of greater gender equality, but also because today it is clear that women taking a primary role in preventing and resolving conflicts and in peacebuilding guarantees better results.

Argentina understands that the actions included in the current multidimensional-mission mandates must be in line with the principle of national responsibility on the part of the countries where missions are deployed.

Whatever the character of the peace mission in question, it is crucial that the populations in countries where missions are deployed have the assurance and the evidence that the efforts of the Organization are designed with the aim of improving their situation and prospects for the future. It is not a question of imposing solutions but rather contributing so that each society, on the basis of its own experiences and expectations, may build the democratic foundations on which to achieve sustainable development and pave the way towards a just, stable and lasting peace.

We recognize that peacekeeping operations increasingly depend on the possibility of deploying high-level specialized personnel, especially for specific police and civilian tasks, such as experts in the rule of law, human rights, and security sector reform. We underscore that the draft resolution that we will vote on today calls on national Governments and international organizations to put to use and increase their capacities for cooperation in post-conflict peacebuilding. We have noted as a positive trend in this regard the important potential of innovation in technical cooperation and in strengthening South-South cooperation.

Aware that peace missions are today the most visible face of the United Nations, and aware of the new challenges posed by multidimensional missions, the Organization and each of its Member States have the responsibility to step up continuous training for mission staff in the areas of human rights and international humanitarian law so that, as in the case of our country, those who participate in missions can continue to play an impeccable role in those areas.

Argentina believes that the future of peacekeeping operations depends on their having clear and adequately financed mandates. We need to continue relying on consensus in the General Assembly so that the efforts of troop- and police-contributing countries are met with an analogous commitment from those countries with greatest financial responsibilities. This is not merely a budgetary question but a political issue that affects the work and the credibility of the Organization in an area as important as peacekeeping, in particular when we compare the relatively limited budget

of \$8 billion available for all peacekeeping operations with the enormity of worldwide military spending.

Finally, Argentina is pleased to be a sponsor of the draft resolution. We do so paying tribute to the personnel of peacekeeping operations who have lost their lives over the past 65 years, including 26 Argentines, for their inestimable contribution to peace, development and the well-being of all of our peoples.

We are convinced that it must be made clear for global public opinion that multidimensional peacekeeping operations are not war by another name, but a strategic instrument in the service of our peoples, offering assistance and cooperation in peacekeeping and peacebuilding.