

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

Statement by Mr. Thomson, Permanent Mission of Fiji to the United Nations.

Allow me to thank you, Mr. President, for convening this open debate on multidimensional peacekeeping. I am pleased to align this statement with that made earlier today by the representative of Egypt on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

Given the emphasis on the evolving nature of peacekeeping missions in discussions in various United Nations bodies in recent years, the current discussion is most pertinent. It is particularly appreciated as it allows countries with long traditions of United Nations peacekeeping, such as Fiji, to contribute to the discussion at the United Nations body tasked with creating, implementing and overseeing the mandates of the peacekeeping missions. We stand ever ready to serve the noble purpose of maintaining international peace and security.

Successive reports of the Secretary-General on peacekeeping have highlighted the unprecedented scale in terms of configuration and demand. Concepts relating to peacekeeping have evolved, with a more concerted effort in recent years on the United Nations community's responsibility to protect in situations of conflict affecting international peace and security.

Work by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Field Services on peacebuilding strategies for peacekeepers, as well as the guidance given by the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations on strategies for complex peacekeeping operations and on peacebuilding issues, recognize that peacekeeping and peacebuilding are interlinked stages of a process. That process moves regions and countries in conflict from being dependent on the United Nations community for security to taking control of their own development priorities. That has been and continues to be the fundamental principle on which Fiji's tradition of United Nations peacekeeping has been based — that we are part of a larger process, not an isolated mission that is an end unto itself.

What, then, do today's conflicts require of a United Nations response? What does multidimensional peacekeeping require of us? Some 65 years of United Nations peacekeeping provide a rich store of experience to learn from, and we must utilize our shared experience to prepare for the future of multidimensional peacekeeping.

From our perspective, a clear understanding of each situation is required, as no two conflict situations are the same. The roots of the conflict — be they ideological, economic or deriving from the lack of adequate State structures to provide for the citizenry — must guide our responses to it. This requires us to be clear in our mandates with regard to exit strategies for peacekeeping missions and transitions to other types of United Nations presences. Planning for handover to national authorities at the end of an effort of the international community, starting with peacekeeping and integrating peacebuilding efforts, must begin at the time of the conception of the mission. That said, the integral role of peacekeepers as early peacebuilders should be acknowledged and incorporated into the training of all peacekeepers. Transition must be coordinated with all stakeholders.

Clear and detailed planning is required to ensure that the peacekeeping-peacebuilding transition is seamless in order to avoid any regression into conflict. That requires the involvement of local communities in trust-building exercises and the involvement of women at all levels of society in remaking their communities. It also involves well-planned and realistic strategies for disarmament,

demobilization and reintegration and security sector reform, as well as assistance to national authorities.

Resolution 2086 (2013), adopted in the course of today's debate, has the unanimous support of all members of the Security Council. We therefore trust that it will provide a useful reference point in future discussions on mandates of peacekeeping missions and their implementation, as well as guidance for the peacekeeping community as a whole. I take this opportunity to assure the Council that Fiji will continue its proud tradition of United Nations peacekeeping, and that it expects to continue to play a positive role as United Nations peacekeeping evolves.