

**Security Council Open Debate on Peacekeeping Operations: New Trends June 2014,  
Security Council Chamber**

*Statement by Ms. Lucas Permanent Mission of Luxembourg to the United Nations.*

Luxembourg thanks the Russian Federation for taking the initiative to organize this debate on peacekeeping operations, an important topic that comes directly under the purview of the Security Council. I also thank the Secretary-General for his statement and for his personal commitment, within the context of his priorities under his mandate, to the task of building a strengthened partnership for peacekeeping and for enhancing the ability of the United Nations to ensure the protection of civilians.

I fully endorse the statement to be made by the observer of the European Union.

Since the deployment of military observers to monitor the truce in the Middle East in 1948, peacekeeping operations have been at the core of United Nations endeavours. They have constantly evolved in complexity and diversity. They have often been conducted in difficult environments where their role is no longer limited to overseeing a ceasefire or a simple line of demarcation. The Security Council recognized that shift when it adopted resolution 2086 (2013). In so doing, the Council defined more robust mandates for strengthening the protection of civilians.

On that basis, the Council decided, in adopting resolution 2098 (2013), to provide the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) with an intervention brigade in order to prevent the expansion of the armed groups in the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and to neutralize and disarm them in a “robust, highly mobile and versatile manner”. That strengthened mandate has already borne fruit against the Mouvement du 23 mars and other armed groups. It should continue to remain in force. In the case of MONUSCO, the implementation of that mandate has also made it possible to bolster the protection of civilians and thus to fill in some of the gaps in that area revealed by the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (A/67/787). The mandate itself is one thing. Those responsible for peacekeeping operations still need to have the will and the capability to implement their mandate.

In that context, I would like to stress the contribution of new technologies that can improve understanding of a given situation and thereby strengthen the safety and security of peacekeepers deployed in difficult terrain. A trial application has been in place in the Democratic Republic of the Congo since last December, with the deployment of drones under MONUSCO’s mandate. Those drones also enable the Mission to monitor the movements of armed groups and thus to enhance the information available for military operations. In addition, they enable better surveillance of displaced-persons camps. The information thus obtained improves the Mission’s effectiveness with respect to civilian security in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo. That positive experience should encourage us to equip other United Nations operations with similar systems according to their needs.

I will not dwell on the theme of inter-mission cooperation. The temporary transfer of personnel and equipment from one operation to another to address a sudden deterioration in one situation is sometimes necessary in the short term. But the recent case of South Sudan has shown the limits of that approach. Without being able to significantly increase the resources of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS), the Security Council was well advised, in adopting resolution 2155 (2014), to reframe the Mission’s mandate by making the protection of civilians its top priority and authorizing UNMISS to utilize all necessary means to ensure the protection of civilians.

Peacekeeping operations have a crucial role to play in protecting highly vulnerable populations, especially women and children. It is also essential that we deploy capacities specifically dedicated to those tasks, particularly advisers on the protection of children and women. Nor should we forget that in the context of peacekeeping operations, Blue Helmets are often the first to deal with situations of

violations concerning women and children or of violence towards them. The fate of those women and children depends largely on their ability to handle such situations properly.

Peacekeepers should therefore have specific training before and during their deployment to enable them both to cope with these situations and take the necessary decisions that arise. We welcome the fact that in resolution 2143 (2014), the Security Council recommended that the United Nations and troop- and police-contributing countries provide targeted and operational training in order to prepare their staff to help prevent violations against children.

I would like to conclude by expressing Luxembourg's deep appreciation for the commitment of the peacekeepers, police officers and civilian staff who do a vital job, often in difficult conditions, in order to carry out the demanding mandates the Security Council entrusts to them. We pay homage to the memory of the more than 3,200 men and women who have given their lives since 1948 in performing their duties in the service of the United Nations for the maintenance of international peace and security. The best tribute we can give them is to learn the lessons of the past and to improve the tool we possess in peacekeeping operations, in the interests of the civilians those operations are mandated to protect, and to labour unceasingly to create the political conditions our Blue Helmets need to succeed.