

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

Statement by Mr. Šćepanović, Permanent Mission of Montenegro to the United Nations.

Let me begin by congratulating you, Mr. President, on your assumption of the presidency of the Security Council for the month of January. I would also like to thank you for organizing today's important debate, as well as to thank the Secretary-General for his briefing. Montenegro welcomes the adoption of resolution 2086 (2013).

My country fully associates itself with the statement made by the observer of the European Union. I would, however, like to make some additional remarks in my national capacity.

Following the trend of change in the nature of conflict and in the dynamics of global security, as well as the more demanding conditions in which peacekeepers operate, the concept of peacekeeping has been evolving and, as a result, we have seen a shift from traditional to modern and more complex peacekeeping, with a truly multidimensional character. With their diversified mandates and vast array of tasks, peacekeeping operations carry out crucial work in countries emerging from conflict in order to pave the way for post-conflict peacebuilding, the prevention of the recurrence of armed conflict, and a move towards sustainable peace and development.

What is needed to meet that challenging objective and build more resilient States is a strategic and coordinated vision and planning, within the framework of an integrated and coherent overall approach that effectively and efficiently incorporates and combines many different aspects of mutually enforcing peacekeeping and peacebuilding activities, starting at the earliest initiation stages. Significant progress has been made so far in developing the nexus between peacekeeping and peacebuilding. Incorporating a peacebuilding perspective in the mandates of peacekeeping operations, thereby contributing to supporting priority peacebuilding areas, has come a long way. We should continue to build on it, in accordance with the relevant strategy of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Field Services and while following the priorities of host countries in order to ensure national ownership.

The involvement, active engagement and, most important, close cooperation and collaboration of a wide range of the stakeholders involved is of the utmost priority in ensuring complementarity and comprehensiveness in the pursuit of lasting peace and stability. Of particular importance in that context is the need to promote the work to more clearly define and identify everyone's role and responsibility so that the contribution of every actor is optimized. Close partnerships and the system-wide cohesion of United Nations bodies and other elements of the larger United Nations system and its growing connection with regional, subregional and other international organizations represent an irreplaceable tool for the success of peacekeeping operations in their peacebuilding tasks. It is equally important that we aim for the enhancement of integration and coordination between host Governments and international partners.

Institution-building and capacity development in peacekeeping mandates, in particular in the fields of justice, security and enforcement, are critical components of peacebuilding that enable host countries to effectively tackle post-conflict situations and challenges, especially in the area of the rule of law. In that vein, the civilian capacities initiative represents a good and useful example of enhanced partnership between the United Nations and its Member States to expand the pool of relevant civilian experts in peacekeeping operations to support the immediate capacity-development needs of countries emerging from conflict.

I also want to underline that women have to be included as active participants in peacekeeping missions and in all peacebuilding activities, including in decision-making roles, because we know that peacekeeping and peacebuilding processes involving the participation of women have a better chance to succeed. The protection of civilians, especially women and children, is another area that I believe is central for the restoration of security and, as such, has to be taken into account throughout the lifecycle of a peacekeeping operation.

Montenegro greatly appreciates the importance and role of United Nations peacekeeping as a flagship activity of the Organization and a vital instrument in the maintenance of international peace and security. Although it is a small country with limited capacities, Montenegro is firmly committed and determined to contribute actively and constructively to the noble cause of peacekeeping and peacebuilding, with a view to securing sustainable peace around the globe. My country continuously enhances its participation and contribution in that regard and will make further contributions in line with international efforts.