

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

Statement by Sir Mark Lyall Grant, Permanent Mission of the United Kingdom to the United Nations.

I thank you, Sir, for convening this morning's open debate on United Nations peacekeeping. Pakistan's outstanding contribution to United Nations peacekeeping over many years is appreciated by all Member States.

As our understanding of the relationship between security and development has strengthened, we have responded with increasingly complex mandates that demand more of our peacekeepers. In particular, we have come to recognize that peacekeepers can themselves be early peacebuilders. But to be effective, they require clarity from this Council about their roles and responsibilities, and they require the right equipment, training and support to fulfil their mandates.

Peacekeepers play three critical roles to support peacebuilding. First, they help Governments articulate their peacebuilding objectives, as in Liberia, where the United Nations Mission in Liberia has supported the Government in determining security and justice priorities in a national development strategy that itself forms the basis for international support.

Secondly, peacekeepers enable the wider peacebuilding community to work by providing a secure environment, such as in South Sudan, where peacekeepers are working to drive security to a local level to enable others to help others to extend State authority.

Thirdly, peacekeepers may implement peacebuilding tasks themselves, as in Côte d'Ivoire, where peacekeepers have demonstrated that disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) have to be a joint effort. The United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI) may have the unique skills necessary to disarm and demobilize ex-combatants, but others must be involved from the outset in designing and implementing successful reintegration programmes.

Peacekeepers' efforts to support peacebuilding are made vulnerable by two factors: first, a lack of political will and, secondly, a deficit in civilian expertise. The UNOCI DDR programme is limited by a lack of proactive political will, and the innovative strategy to extend State authority adopted by the United Nations Mission in the Republic of South Sudan has yet to be truly tested, in part because of a lack of civilian expertise.

The New Deal for Engagement in Fragile States, agreed upon by the Group of Seven Plus, is a commitment on the part of the international community to supporting peacebuilding in a coordinated and transparent manner. But it is also a firm political commitment on the part of some Members States to achieving sustainable development and peace. We support that demonstration of political will.

Since 2009, the Secretary-General has consistently identified the need for the United Nations to broaden and deepen the pool of civilian expertise for critical peacebuilding tasks, in particular drawing on capacities from the global South. But recent figures show that over 20 per cent of civilian rule of law posts in United Nations missions remain vacant. This shortfall is unacceptable and we must deal with it.

Specific innovations are being made. Women protection advisers will increasingly play a critical role in preventing further horrific incidences of sexual violence, in protecting vulnerable populations, and in promoting the participation of women in peace settlements and political life. My Foreign Minister

is personally committed to supporting such endeavours, and we warmly welcome the Secretary-General's call for greater representation of women in the prevention and resolution of armed conflict and in peacebuilding. We look forward to discussing his broader proposals for addressing a shortfall in civilian expertise in the General Assembly over the coming months.

As conditions change on the ground, peacekeeping missions will cede their initial comparative advantage on some tasks to other actors, and the system must respond accordingly. An integrated response is particularly important as peacekeeping missions draw down. To achieve successful transitions from peacekeeping missions, such as that in Timor-Leste, we need a well-coordinated United Nations system that plans strategically from the outset of a mission's deployment. We look forward to seeing in the next few months the emerging policy in this area led by Under-Secretary-General Hervé Ladsous.

Today's draft resolution (S/2013/27), the first of its kind on peacekeeping in more than 10 years, captures how we have reformed peacekeeping to meet the challenges of effective peacebuilding. It further underlines the importance of peacekeepers in containing, managing and resolving conflict in a manner coordinated with those that will ultimately lead to longer-term reconstruction, rehabilitation and development, and ensure that national authorities are placed at the centre of those efforts. The United Kingdom is pleased to be a sponsor of the draft resolution.

I would like once again to thank Pakistan for this initiative, which recognizes how far we have come and demonstrates the Council's continued commitment to peacekeeping as a means, not only to contain conflict, but also to build peace for all.