

UNSC Working Group on Peacekeeping Operations

Safety, security and performance of peacekeeping operations in asymmetric environments: a whole-of-Mission approach

INDIA STATEMENT

by

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Mr. Chairman,

We thank Cote d'Ivoire for organizing the meeting of the Working Group on Peacekeeping operations on this important subject and for inviting troop and police contributing countries to participate. We would also like to thank the representatives from Office of Peacekeeping Strategic Partnership (OPSP), Office of Military Affairs (OMA) and Police Division for their comprehensive briefings.

2. We take note of the three important landmarks which are being implemented in peacekeeping this year :

- Reforms in the Peace and Security Architecture.
- Secretary General's Action for Peacekeeping (A4P) and,
- Action Plan to Implement the Report on Improving Security of Peacekeepers.

Today we heard detailed briefings on the progress made in the implementation of A4P and Action Plan. We are happy to learn about various initiatives which have been undertaken by the Secretariat, which has led to reduction in the number of fatalities of Peacekeepers this year.

Mr. Chairman,

3. India pays tribute to the men and women who have served and continue to serve in peacekeeping operations for their professionalism, dedication and courage. We remember those who have lost their lives in serving the cause of peace.

4. We commend Secretary-General's initiatives on A4P to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of UN peacekeeping in order to address the changing realities and also the Action Plan aimed at reducing the fatalities of peacekeepers.

5. On the issue of Performance, Indian peacekeepers have been at the forefront in setting highest standards of peacekeeping and we believe that there is no substitute to

professional competence. We welcome the development on the “Integrated Performance Policy Framework (IPPF)” that would cover all stakeholders.

6. India welcomes the initiative to improve effectiveness of peacekeeping operations by assessing performance using Performance Data. While the present measures in the IPPF will address all the performance parameters related to stakeholders during the implementation of mandates, we feel that it is equally important to incorporate performance of all stakeholders involved from the formulation of mandates such as framing of prioritised, sequenced and achievable mandates, aspects related to ensuring a fair and transparent selection process, dissemination of realistic training guidelines and laying down precise ‘Concept of Operations’ (CONOPS) and ‘Rules of Engagement’(ROE). This will go a long way to ensure clear guidance to the Mission and ensure accountability at all levels.

Mr. Chairman,

7. We would also like to highlight the impact of Caveats on performance. Caveats have a direct impact on the fulfillment of Mission's mandate as they limit the Force Commander's ability to employ forces in an optimal manner. Therefore, we need to do away with all caveats as it is not possible to fairly assess the performance of peacekeepers operating at different levels.

8. India appreciates Secretary-General's close attention on the issue of improving safety and security of UN peacekeeping personnel. An analysis of the fatal casualties in the last four years indicate that at least a quarter of them were due to Improvised Explosive Device (IED) attacks. While a number of initiatives have been taken to incorporate Improvised Explosive Device Disposal (IEDD) measures in the field, we feel that there is a requirement of dedicated Counter-IED resources for missions facing such threats. There should also be concerted efforts to upgrade the security infrastructure of camps as a number of casualties have been related to direct attacks on the security camps.

9. On the concept of ‘Protection through Projection’ under trial in MONUSCO, which was also touched by Director OPSP during his remarks, we feel that the concept is not implementable without dedicated enablers such as information gathering and air assets. At present we are in a situation where we have lost touch with the FARDC, PNC, local community, NGOs and the local population due to reduction of troops on the ground thereby leading to void of information to react on ‘Protection of Civilian’ (POC) situations. At the same time, we are having very limited resources on the ground to react in case of any eventuality or POC situation taking place. Therefore, there is a need to either provide dedicated enablers or relook at the methodology.

10. Peacekeeping is one of the key instruments available to UN in discharging its responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security. We are in the midst of implementing various initiatives on this important issue. We hope that the deliberations during this working group will make a significant contribution to improve the performance and the safety and security of peacekeepers.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.