

**Mr. Ibrahim** (Malaysia):

On behalf of the Malaysian delegation, I join earlier speakers in thanking you, Sir, and the Senegalese presidency for convening this open debate. The significant number of high-level participants is a testament to its importance. I also take this opportunity to acknowledge the commendable role that Senegal has played and continues to play as a major troop- and police-contributing country to United Nations peace operations.

I thank the Deputy Secretary-General and all the briefers for their valuable contributions and insights.

Former Secretary-General Dag Hammarskjöld famously said, “The United Nations was not created to take mankind into paradise, but rather, to save humanity from hell”. Since that time, the concept of United Nations peacekeeping, which he pioneered, has evolved into one of the most important instruments available to the United Nations to support diplomatic efforts in maintaining international peace and security. It is clear that the need for United Nations peacekeeping remains immensely pressing. In 1990, the total United Nations peacekeeping deployment stood at roughly 70,000 personnel. Today, that figure stands at slightly more than 116,000 personnel deployed in 16 active missions, 9 of which are in Africa and out of which 5 are in francophone countries.

A key turning point in the evolution of traditional United Nations peacekeeping mandates was the inclusion of civilian protection elements as the core mission mandate, first introduced by resolution 1270 (1999), concerning the situation in Sierra Leone. As rightly noted, an increasing number of peacekeeping missions, which have the protection of civilians as a core mission mandate, are currently deployed in complex geopolitical environments, including those that pose significant asymmetric threats. The recent surge and persistence of asymmetric threats against United Nations peacekeepers complicate already precarious security situations and threaten to unravel hard-won gains and progress in the restoration of peace and stability in concerned countries.

In the face of increasing asymmetric threats, one approach could be to address such threats with similarly asymmetrical thinking, focusing on such key areas as networking, methods and ideologies. Another area of priority should be to ensure that troops on the ground are afforded the necessary and appropriate equipment and training. On the other hand, new technologies that could contribute to better intelligence and situational awareness are critical. More opportunities for troop-contributing countries to partner with relevant donor countries or institutions to equip troops with new, specialized skills — for example, to detect and disarm improvised explosive devices — are equally urgent.

Malaysia continues to believe that a holistic approach is the best solution to containing asymmetric threats. To that end, we reaffirm our support for and

endorsement of the recommendations of the High-level Independent Panel on Peace Operations and the priorities outlined in the Secretary-General's implementation report (S/2015/682). To further contribute to this debate, Malaysia wishes to make the following recommendations.

First, the host nation is encouraged to establish a networking mechanism to allow information-sharing with peacekeepers. This will assist in planning for operations as well as in identifying possible threats prior to the United Nations peacekeeping deployment.

Secondly, the host nation forces should be ready to work hand in hand with United Nations peacekeeping operations in addressing the threats. The host nations force must be prepared from the beginning of the deployment of peacekeeping operations to assume full security responsibility for the missions.

Thirdly, the war on asymmetric threats will take generations to resolve. The host nation should therefore place greater emphasis on human resource development, particularly focusing on young people and women. These groups must be given the opportunity to participate actively in any peace process and peacebuilding efforts in order to make the process sustainable.

Fourthly, peacekeeping missions must be adaptable and responsive to the various lessons learned in past experiences in order to continue to improve themselves in responding to new threats, including asymmetric ones.

As a firm believer in multilateral approaches to the maintenance of international peace and security, Malaysia has been an active contributor to United Nations peacekeeping. Since the 1960s, just three years after achieving independence, Malaysia has to date participated in more than 30 peacekeeping operations. In that regard, I wish to reaffirm Malaysia's continuing commitment and support.

In conclusion, let me pay tribute to the tireless and dedicated efforts of the Blue Helmets serving around the world. We salute them for their bravery, selfless service and sacrifices.

My delegation aligns itself with the statement to be delivered by the representative of Thailand on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.