

The President: The draft resolution received 15 votes in favour. The draft resolution has been unanimously adopted as resolution 2378 (2017).

I shall now make a statement in my capacity as the Prime Minister of Ethiopia.

Let me start by expressing my appreciation to Secretary-General Guterres for his remarks and his efforts to strengthen United Nations peacekeeping. We also thank Chairperson of the African Union Commission, Mr. Moussa Faki Mahamat for being here with us today and for his commitment to enhancing the United Nations-African Union partnership. We are also grateful to President José Ramos-Horta for joining us and for his insightful briefing on where we are in terms of the reform of United Nations peacekeeping operations two years after the High-level Independent Panel on Peace Operations, which he chaired. presented its report (see S/2015/446).

Ethiopia welcomes the unanimous adoption of resolution 2378 (2017), and we thank all the member of the Security Council for their inputs and contributions during the negotiations. We also thank all those members that co-sponsored the resolution in a demonstration of their commitment to strengthening United Nations peacekeeping as one of the important tools in the promotion and maintenance of international peace and security.

The adoption of this important resolution has particular significance for Ethiopia as one of the leading troop-contributing countries to United Nations peacekeeping operations. Our contingents were among the peacekeepers deployed in the early days of United Nations peacekeeping. They were also among the peacekeepers deployed in the Congo to stabilize the country in the early days of that country's independence. Ethiopian peacekeepers also played an important role in the aftermath of the Rwandan genocide and the civil war in Liberia. More than 8,000 Ethiopian peacekeepers are serving today as Blue Helmets in Darfur, Abyei and South Sudan. Ethiopia takes pride in its important role in United Nations peacekeeping, and today we are pleased to have made a modest contribution to advancing the reform of United Nations peacekeeping by proposing the resolution we just adopted.

We are meeting here today two years after major reviews were conducted focused on the United Nations peace and security architecture, as well as two years after the holding of the leaders' summit on peacekeeping. We therefore hope that this debate will afford us an opportunity to reflect on how far we have come in undertaking a reform of United Nations peacekeeping and to chart the way forward. I am glad to highlight four points in that regard.

First, we believe the Council has a key role in strengthening United Nations peacekeeping, as its mandates authorizes the missions' deployment. Therefore, adequate implementation and follow-up by the Council of United Nations peacekeeping reform, in accordance with existing mandates and procedures, is extremely important. We welcome the decision by the Council today to entrust its Working Group on Peacekeeping Operations with reviewing reform

initiatives, in close cooperation with other Member States, including troop- and police-contributing countries and host countries.

Secondly, as much as United Nations peacekeeping reform is important, the Council has not held a dedicated debate to discuss this issue comprehensively and assess the progress made. That is why we welcome the decision to hold this annual debate on the basis of a comprehensive annual briefing by the Secretary General. It is also essential that the discussion take place at this time of the year, when world leaders gather in New York for the opening of the General Assembly's annual session, in order to keep peacekeeping reform high on the agenda.

Thirdly, we all know that the environment under which many peacekeepers operate has dramatically changed, but peacekeepers are not equipped with the necessary capabilities to carry out their mandates and protect civilians while also ensuring their own safety and security. That is why, two years ago, a number of commitments and pledges were made to address this issue. We welcome the updates provided by the Secretary-General to the Security Council as part of this comprehensive briefing on the continuous efforts made in filling the existing gaps in terms of force-generation and capabilities and other relevant aspects necessary for peacekeeping to effectively and appropriately respond to peace and security challenges.

Fourthly, we appreciate the Secretary-General's initiative to reform the United Nations peace and security architecture, both in the Secretariat and in the field. It is important that the Council send a political message to the Secretary-General welcoming his reform efforts. We believe that his continuous engagement with the Council and the General Assembly's various intergovernmental committees will be very important in moving the reform process forward.

Last but not least, enhancing global and regional partnerships is one of the most important pillars of reforming United Nations peacekeeping. Given the current global security dynamics, the United Nations cannot handle new and emerging peace and security challenges alone, and forging effective partnerships with a regional and subregional organizations is the most sensible and logical thing to do. That has already been well recognized, but what matters at this stage is taking practical steps in that direction, in the spirit of Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations, including through the sharing of burdens.

Let us be frank: there is a great deficit on this issue, and it is high time that the contributions and sacrifices of United Nations peacekeepers and of those deployed after having been authorized by the Security Council be acknowledged in an earnest and meaningful way. It is encouraging to note that the Council has expressed its intention to give further consideration to practical steps that can be taken and to the necessary conditions to establish the mechanisms through which African Union-led peace support operations authorized by the Security Council and under its authority under Chapter VIII of the Charter could be partly financed through United Nations-assessed contributions on a case-by-case basis.

Our hope and expectation was that the Council would go further than that. What Chairperson Mahamat just told us today encapsulates the sentiments in Africa on this important issue. Nevertheless, we understand the dynamics in the Council and we will continue to engage with members to make progress on this issue, while building on what has been agreed to today. We believe this is not only fair and appropriate; it is also in the best interest of our collective security.

I now resume my functions as President of the Council.

I now invite His Excellency Mr. Macky Sall, President of the Republic of Senegal, to take the floor.