

Mr. Daunivalu (Fiji): I express Fiji's gratitude and to you, Sir, and to the delegation of Egypt for convening this debate.

Fiji aligns itself with the statement made by the representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries.

Since its admission to the United Nations in 1970, Fiji has had at the heart of its foreign policy a strong commitment to the United Nations and its peacekeeping operations. The primary motivation in Fiji's contribution of peacekeeping personnel to the United Nations is the determination to play our full part as a responsible signatory to the Charter of the United Nations. For many small States such as Fiji, the international rule of law, peace and security are guarantees for independence and equity. It is also the basis for a stable platform for achieving human rights and our development aspirations.

Approximately 70 years since the first United Nations peacekeeping mission was established and peacekeepers were deployed, peacekeeping remains as important as ever. The nature of conflicts has evolved as has the role of peacekeepers. Peacekeepers are now asked to become much more involved and essentially act as nation builders, thereby partaking in multidimensional peacekeeping. The civilian, military and police peacekeepers are expected to perform such tasks as monitoring elections, building a civilian police force, distributing humanitarian aid and reforming the justice system, among others. That is in sharp contrast to the type of peacekeeping activities that the United Nations was originally designed to handle.

Therefore, an important element to sustaining peace are the rules that govern United Nations peacekeepers. The cardinal rules that were applicable and effective during traditional peacekeeping days may therefore need to be reviewed so as to respond to evolving new security threats and meet the situation on the ground. That is essential to ensuring that peacekeepers are not harmed, while very much keeping with the same approach of introducing new requirements, such as those related to sexual exploitation and abuse by United Nations personnel to ensure that peacekeepers do no harm to others.

United Nations peacekeeping mandates need to be clear. When the United Nations conducted an assessment on the Somalia peacekeeping mission, it concluded that the mandate was "vague and was open to myriad interpretations". The mandate of a mission is one of the critical aspects of any operation. The success of any mission can be assessed through the achievement of the objective. It is therefore imperative to have clear goals in order to avoid ambiguity, or worse still the loss of innocent lives should a conflict worsen.

That demands that there be effective collaboration and structured consultation among the Security Council, troop- and police-contributing countries and the Secretariat in order to leverage the potential of peacekeeping mandates and operations for sustaining peace. Equally important is the need to sensitize military, police and civilian personnel deployed in peacekeeping missions about the evolving policy discussions and approaches to peacekeeping.

United Nations peacekeeping missions need to have the right leadership and competent personnel in order to give credibility to the United Nations peacekeeping efforts and deliver on their mandates. Equally, how the United Nations equips its peacekeepers in terms of resources during deployment is crucial to the success of a mission.

In conclusion, peacebuilding and sustaining peace are best achieved when it they are mainstreamed in society. The involvement of broader stakeholders in peacebuilding efforts is an important factor in sustaining peace. Therefore, the engagement of minorities, women, youth, civil society organizations and faith-based groups, among others, can provide a stable platform for sustaining peace. After all, everyone is a contributor to peace.