

**Security Council Open Debate on UN Peacekeeping: A Multidimensional Approach, January 21<sup>st</sup> 2013, Security Council Chamber**

*Statement by Mrs. Khoudaverdian, Permanent Mission of Armenia to the United Nations.*

I would like to thank you, Sir, for having convened this open debate to interact and share our vision of peacekeeping and its noble objectives and to highlight our collective commitment to the cause of international and regional peace. We also thank the Secretary-General for his briefing and for his genuine efforts aimed at strengthening United Nations peacekeeping operations.

Armenia aligns itself with the statement delivered of behalf of the European Union. However, we would also like to make some remarks in our national capacity.

Since 1948, United Nations peacekeeping has evolved into a dynamic mechanism for the maintenance of international peace and security. Today, it plays an indispensable role in creating conditions for building lasting peace and development in many conflict-prone societies.

Armenia believes that the larger objective of peacefully resolving conflicts and achieving durable settlements can best be achieved only through a comprehensive approach, including a considerable investment in prevention, political facilitation and mediation within internationally agreed forums. In that regard, there is a need to reassess the ways in which the United Nations and other regional organizations engage in assisting countries emerging from conflict. We must uphold the principle of “do no harm” and review how we operate in different situations to ensure that our actions do not undermine the existing mediation and negotiation processes.

We share the views expressed by Council members and other speakers that call for more systematic attention to the United Nations peacekeeping dimension as well as to post-conflict peacebuilding, and we believe that it should be frequently reflected in the Council’s deliberations.

This open debate offers an opportunity to consider some of the core issues related to the peacekeeping agenda, namely, the political dimensions of peacekeeping and peacebuilding and the relationship between security and development.

United Nations peacekeeping operations are also viewed as vital to building peace in post-conflict situations through the promotion of compliance with international norms and the basic principles of peacekeeping, including the consent of the parties to the conflict, impartiality and the non-use of force.

Armenia remains committed to post-conflict peace initiatives and believes that the Security Council should further strengthen the rule of law and advance development initiatives by supporting peacebuilding mechanisms such as the Peacebuilding Commission, which helps countries emerging from conflict in their recovery and reintegration efforts aimed at preventing a relapse into armed conflict and at building a sustainable peace through effective peacemaking, peacekeeping and peacebuilding strategies.

It is noteworthy that the Peacebuilding Commission has shouldered an important task for the United Nations peacekeeping dimension in defining post- conflict strategies, and we are encouraged that previous reports indicate that it has registered achievements and satisfactory results in some countries.

It is also important that the programmes adopted be country-specific, needs-based and target-

oriented, so as to ensure continued adherence from the affected population and to ensure their success.

Armenia joins previous speakers in reiterating the need for the equal and effective participation of women at all stages of the peace process and their involvement in conflict prevention and resolution and the transition from conflict to peace. Female peacekeepers act as role models in the local environment, improving, inter alia, access and support for local women and contributing to empowering women in the community. Such contributions lead to better outcomes for entire societies.

In conclusion, allow me to pay special tribute to the tens of thousands of Blue Helmets who over the years have served the cause of peace under the United Nations banner. Armenia applauds their professionalism, dedication and sacrifice, which have been instrumental in bringing peace, stability and hope to millions of people affected by conflict worldwide.