

Open Debate on International Peacekeeping Operations
26th of August, 2011, Security Council Chamber

Statement by H.E. Ambassador Regina Maria Cordeiro Dunlop, Representative of Brazil to the United Nations

Thank you, Mr. President.

First and foremost, echoing my Government's note issued early this morning, I would like to express my country's condemnation and regret regarding the terrible attack against the UN in Abuja. We express our condolences to the families of the victims, to the people and Government of Nigeria, and, through you, Mr. Secretary-General, to the whole UN family. Brazil supports a firm condemnation by the Council of this outrageous act.

I would also like to thank the Secretary-General for his briefing this morning.

Mr. President, I commend your delegation for promoting today's debate and for the thoughtful concept note that you have provided.

As one of the largest contributors to peacekeeping today, India is particularly well placed to lead a discussion on the future of these operations.

Mr. President,

The complexities of the situations blue helmets encounter demand a constant effort to improve the functioning of the peacekeeping system. At the moment, we face two main challenges.

The first challenge is ensuring that peacekeeping generates a truly sustainable peace. In the current financial climate, there will always be pressure to do less or to draw down earlier.

However, especially in times of straitened means, we must break the cycle of violence and establish the basis for long-term peace. Renewed attention must be given to early peacebuilding and the promotion of political solutions to conflict.

The second challenge is making our troops on the ground more effective -- our performance can and should be constantly improved.

We must work harder to build a common understanding of what is expected of peacekeepers, including through the development of baseline standards. We also support the Secretariat in their continued efforts to elaborate more advanced, scenario-based training, especially regarding the protection of civilians and response to conflict-related sexual violence.

The United Nations must also ensure that countries willing to contribute have the material conditions to prepare, train and equip them in an adequate fashion. This must include both direct support to troop contributing countries and cooperation to increase the capabilities of regional organizations such as the African Union.

Mr. President,

The Presidential Statement to be adopted today signals the Council's firm commitment to the guiding principles of peacekeeping: consent of the parties; impartiality; and use of force only in self-defense or defense of the mandate.

It also underlines that peacekeeping is built upon the concept of partnership, and highlights the central role of troop-contributing countries in that partnership.

Each country makes a distinctive contribution. The individual capabilities and viewpoints that each TCC has to

offer must be recognized and encouraged. The Charter itself underlines the need for the Council to consult countries that provide armed forces to it.

Strengthening triangular cooperation between the Security Council, the Secretariat, and the TCCs is therefore very important. The Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations and the Security Council Working Group on Peacekeeping Operations can make crucial contributions in this regard.

In Haiti and elsewhere, Brazil has sought to make its distinctive contribution to peacekeeping. Brazilian troops, police, and military observers are present in seven peacekeeping missions over four continents. Brazil's culture and experience have led us to give particular emphasis, for example, to civil-military cooperation, to military engineering, and to pairing military operations with social action.

Mr. President,

Brazil's long-standing commitment to UN peacekeeping reflects our determination to make a positive contribution to maintaining international peace and security. The UN can continue to count on Brazil to maintain and enforce the highest standards of conduct and discipline and to send the most capable and qualified volunteers to serve under the United Nations flag.

Thank you, Mr. President.