

**Security Council Open Debate on Peacekeeping Operations: New Trends June 2014,
Security Council Chamber**

Statement by Mr. Emiliou Permanent Mission of Cyprus to the United Nations.

Cyprus aligns itself with the statement made on behalf of the European Union.

I would like to thank the Russian Federation for organizing such an important and timely debate.

Cyprus would like to pay tribute to all the men and women who have served and continue to serve in peacekeeping missions around the world. Their contribution to the maintenance of international peace and security is invaluable.

The year 2014 marks the fiftieth anniversary of the establishment of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP). I take this opportunity to extend our deep appreciation and gratitude to the United Nations and its Member States, in particular all those Member States who have contributed troops to UNFICYP throughout the years. Cyprus can attest, from its own experience, that the maintenance of international peace and security would be precarious without United Nations peacekeeping in many parts of the world.

Peacekeeping remains one of the primary tools through which the United Nations fulfils its principal mandate — the maintenance of international peace and security. Peacekeeping has gone through various phases and is now more multidimensional than ever before. That is largely due to the ever-changing nature of conflicts, which have become more internalized and thus more challenging and complex and with more far-reaching effects on regional and international peace and security.

The emergence of new challenges requires the collective and organized response of the international community. They underline the need for this debate, as well as for our quest for efficiency and modernization to be ongoing. Increased challenges also underline the need for the cost-effective use of resources and the most efficient resource allocation. Those, however, should be in line, and not to the detriment of, the ability of peacekeeping missions to adequately and effectively fulfil their mandate.

It is necessary that modern peacekeeping adapt to new needs and challenges, for example by adequately equipping peacekeepers and civilian personnel. Up-to-date technology is a sine qua non for the execution of the mandate of all United Nations peacekeeping operations. Cyprus commends the efforts made so far in that direction and would like to encourage the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to keep looking into possibilities for the expanded use of modern technology.

In line with that, we would like to stress the importance of the security of the Blue Helmets and civilian personnel, which is closely associated with the use of upgraded equipment and modern tools. Safeguarding the welfare of peacekeepers and providing an upgraded working and living environment should also form part of our priorities. In that regard, we are in favour of the idea of extending peacekeeping mandates, when necessary, so that the safety and security of peacekeepers is guaranteed. We also consider that the recommendations of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations provide a comprehensive context of specific ideas that correspond to evolving needs.

In discussing modern peacekeeping, the need for a broader introduction of a gender perspective in peacekeeping operations and the full implementation of Security Council resolutions on women, peace and security come to the fore. Cyprus attaches great importance to the pivotal role of women in conflict management and resolution with the aim of achieving sustainable peace, and we would very much welcome increased participation of women in peace processes and peacekeeping operations, including in senior roles.

In that regard we feel privileged to have two women at the top of the United Nations mission in Cyprus. In addition to the current Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of

UNFICYP, Ms. Lisa Buttenheim, we will soon have the pleasure of welcoming to Cyprus Major General Kristin Lund, the next UNFICYP Force Commander and the first ever woman to lead a United Nations peacekeeping force. We are certain that their insight will prove decisive in our effort.

In this volatile international environment, it is of utmost importance to adhere to the principles of the Charter, specifically to the principle of respect for State sovereignty, when deploying peacekeeping operations. It is essential that our efforts address the root causes of international conflicts and that we undertake solid and tangible steps that will enhance the United Nations collectiveness and reaffirm our joint commitment to upholding and strengthening the principles and values of the Organization.