

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

Statement by Mr. Mayr-Harting Permanent Mission of the European Union to the United Nations.

I would like to congratulate you personally, Mr. President, as well as the Russian Federation, on assuming the presidency of the Security Council this month. *(spoke in English)*

I would also like to thank our Korean friends and colleagues for their presidency last month.

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union (EU) and its member States. The candidate countries Turkey, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia; the countries of the Stabilization and Association Process and potential candidates Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina; as well as Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova and Georgia, align themselves with this statement.

In the interests of time, I will give a shortened version of the written text that was prepared for today's meeting; the full version of that text will be circulated in the Chamber.

Let me begin by saying that we are grateful for the work done by the Secretariat to innovate and strengthen the capabilities of United Nations peacekeeping operations. Peacekeeping remains the flagship activity of the United Nations and a crucial tool paving the way for longer-term stability and development of countries emerging from a crisis. The important work of all actors in partnership with the United Nations is a tremendous effort that may not always be given due recognition. A few days ago, on 29 May, we celebrated International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers. We would like to once again pay tribute to and express our deep appreciation and respect for those who have lost their lives in the service of the United Nations.

We share the view that the peacekeeping agenda requires regular exchanges among all stakeholders, from troop- and police-contributing countries, the Secretariat, the Security Council, to the broader membership of the General Assembly. In that regard, we underline the relevance of resolution 1353 (2001). Important discussions have also taken place earlier in the year in the context of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations.

The direct involvement of peacekeepers is required in increasingly volatile situations, and they are facing higher risks than ever before. Ensuring that peacekeepers are well trained and equipped with the most up to date tools is of essence if mandates are to be delivered with due regard to the safety and security of men and women on the ground. We should ensure that troops benefit from the certified training they need before their deployment to the field.

A more robust mandate and the use of new capabilities, such as the Force Intervention Brigade in United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO), have demonstrated that peace enforcement where necessary and under defined conditions can support the success and legitimacy of a United Nations operation. At the same time, we also need to focus on using existing capabilities in the most effective way possible and on making sure that those capabilities can perform in an optimal way.

The European Union and its member States support those modernization efforts. Specifically, we commend the Secretariat's efforts towards the wider use of modern technologies in peacekeeping operations. We have learned that the use of such technology in MONUSCO has already supported a better delivery of its protection mandate and increased the situational awareness of troops on the ground. We encourage the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to further explore opportunities to use modern technology in peacekeeping missions.

Secondly, we strongly believe in the central importance of the protection of all civilians, particularly women and children, in armed conflict. That is often decisive for the success and legitimacy of a

United Nations peacekeeping operation.

We also encourage ongoing efforts to fully implement the resolutions on women and peace and security, including in engaging women in conflict prevention, peacemaking and peacebuilding processes, and its resolutions on children and armed conflict. Integrating a gender and child protection perspective in the training of military, police and civilian staff in peacekeeping operations is equally important. We welcome the United Nations resolve in preventing and combating sexual exploitation and abuse and emphasize the key role senior mission leadership plays in ensuring accountability.

The presidential statement (S/PRST/2014/3) adopted on the occasion of the debate on the protection of civilians (see S/PV.7109) earlier in the year gives further guidance for the consideration of issues pertaining to the protection of civilians in armed conflict. Nonetheless, more needs to be done in order to translate the normative process into concrete improvements on the ground.

Peacekeeping missions play an important role in peacebuilding and the continued work on the peacekeeping/peacebuilding nexus remains important. We recognize the close links between peace, security, development and gender equality. In that context, we welcome the work on the United Nations policy on transitions, which demonstrates the close links between those different activities, with the aim of producing a positive outcome to post-crisis situations.

We appreciate the increased attention given to the role of regional organizations in peacekeeping. In that context, the European Union obviously also welcomed the adoption by the Council of the first-ever presidential statement in which it encouraged both organizations — the United Nations and the European Union — to further strengthen their institutional relations and strategic partnership (S/PRST/2014/4). High Representative Ashton has briefed the Council on numerous occasions, and Under-Secretary-General Ladsous regularly attends informal EU Defence Ministers' meetings.

On the ground, there are also many concrete examples that show the close partnership the European Union has with the United Nations. For instance, the European Union military mission to contribute to the training of the Malian Armed Forces is working alongside the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali to deliver on our shared aims. The European Union has also developed a strong partnership with the African Union in Somalia, through the African Union Mission in Somalia. The European Union has played and continues to play an important role in the cases of Mali and the Central African Republic by financially supporting African-led missions that precede and pave the way for United Nations peacekeeping operations. Last but not least, the European Union and its member States deploy many efforts to support African countries in developing their own military capabilities with a view to helping them contribute to the United Nations peace and security agenda.

The EU and its member States make an important contribution to the guidance of United Nations peacekeeping and have a great interest in making United Nations peacekeeping more efficient. We therefore look forward to constructive exchanges with all partners on issues raised in all the appropriate forums.