

**Open Debate on International Peacekeeping Operations**

**August 26<sup>th</sup>, 2011, Security Council Chamber**

*Statement by H.E Mr. Berger, Representative of Germany to the United Nations*

**Mr. Berger** (Germany): Germany strongly condemns the terrorist attack against United Nations House in Abuja. We convey our heartfelt condolences to the families of the victims, the Government of Nigeria and the whole United Nations family.

I would like to thank the Secretary-General for his insightful briefing and you, Mr. President, for organizing today's important debate. As we all know, India is one of the countries that has most contributed to peacekeeping over many decades.

Germany aligns itself with the statement to be made by the European Union observer a little later. We commend the active and useful role of the Working Group on Peacekeeping Operations in this field, and we would like to thank Ambassador Ogwu for her able chairmanship.

Peacekeeping operations are at the heart of the United Nations role to maintain international peace and security. We need a comprehensive and coherent approach. That includes the need to continually adapt preventive diplomacy, peacemaking, peacekeeping and peacebuilding to changing circumstances.

In recent years, much has been achieved in terms of reforming United Nations peacekeeping, including doctrine and capability review. Building on those efforts to adapt and to strengthen effective peacekeeping, we consider it vital to continuously review and develop its key areas, in particular the design and management of missions; delivery in the field, including enhanced deployment; clarifying and delivering on critical roles; and improving mission impact and building for the future.

Against that backdrop, I would like to highlight some specific aspects that are of particular concern to us in those key areas.

First, designing mandates and missions should build on an inclusive planning process, involving at an early stage a broad range of experts and potential capability providers, notably including troop contributing countries (TCCs) and police-contributing countries (PCCs), as well as the main financial contributors. The role of corrections in peacekeeping settings should also be taken into account. A decision making process that includes interaction with major stakeholders at an early stage could contribute to managing expectations and facilitate an effective force generation process. Such procedures are mandatory in other international organizations. To that end, the role of the Military Staff Committee should be revitalized and strengthened.

Furthermore, from the beginning, whenever possible, peacekeeping mandates should have clear benchmarks inserted and monitored in order to lay the ground for transition towards exit, based on sustainable political solutions. Partnership in peacekeeping and peacebuilding is crucial. We fully support initiatives to improve communication and to find a better system for consistently pooling information from TCCs, military experts, PCCs, the main financial contributors and other key stakeholders in peace processes.

Secondly, with regard to delivery in the field, including enhanced deployment, peacekeeping requires adequate means and efficient structures. In that context, we strongly support the implementation of the global field support strategy.

In reference to the deployment of staff, let me add two points on civilian staff and police. Civilian staff have a critical role to play in the peacekeeping context as they provide political, humanitarian, human rights and leadership roles, as well as management and related administrative functions. In that context, I would like to reiterate our support for the swift implementation of the civilian capacities review. We should build on existing local capacities and the capacities of Member States and regional organizations. Internal United Nations rules and regulations need to be adapted in order to improve conditions for Member States that wish to support the United Nations with their civilian capacities.

Police generation, however difficult, remains crucial. While the global commitment of trained police is high, the challenge to source sufficient numbers of police to ensure that well-trained police officers are sent to secure the sustainability of their effort remains.

Thirdly, with regard to delivering on critical roles, the protection of civilians has increasingly become a yardstick for measuring the success of peacekeeping operations. That represents both an opportunity and a challenge. It is an opportunity since the protection of civilians is now widely accepted as a part of peacekeeping mandates, while respecting the primary responsibility of States to protect their civilians. However, it also represents a challenge with regard to the discrepancy between aspirations, also contained in mandates of the Security Council, and the reality on the ground, notably with respect to the capabilities of missions to effectively implement protection tasks. We therefore advocate strengthening the evaluation of protection measures, fostering intermission exchange and drawing on lessons learned more intensively.

In the context of the protection of civilians, children in armed conflict deserve our special attention. They are the most vulnerable members of societies, both as victims and as coerced participants in conflicts. Special protection from violence, including sexual violence, and for schools and hospitals is necessary, as stated in the recently adopted resolution 1998 (2011), as are specific approaches in the field of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration.

Peacekeepers transform mandates into concrete actions on the ground and keep hope for peace alive. Clearly defined mandates, adequate resources and reliable command and control structures are crucial for successful peacekeeping. They are also crucial for a successful transition from peacekeeping to peacebuilding.

Germany remains committed to all initiatives supporting more efficient and effective peacekeeping. There are no alternatives to peacekeeping operations. However, we should keep in mind that their deployment should be a last resort. The prevention of conflicts needs to be the priority.

To conclude, let me take this opportunity to thank all United Nations military and civilian personnel involved in past and current peacekeeping operations for their duty and to express our deepest appreciation.

I thank the Indian delegation for preparing the draft presidential statement, which we fully support.