

Security Council Open Debate on UN Peacekeeping: A Multidimensional Approach, January 21st 2013, Security Council Chamber

Statement by Ms. Lucas, Permanent Mission of Luxembourg to the United Nations.

Luxembourg warmly thanks Pakistan for convening this open debate on peacekeeping. We welcome the exemplary commitment of your country, Mr. President, which is reflected in the fact that it is one of the leading United Nations troop-contributing countries. We would also like to thank the Secretary-General for his presentation.

This debate allows us to have an exchange on all dimensions of United Nations peacekeeping operations and the challenges and opportunities resulting from the developments in those operations in the past few years.

Luxembourg fully associates itself with the statement to be made by the observer of the European Union.

Peacekeeping operations are at the heart of the work of the United Nations. Today, they are more complex and diverse, working in increasingly difficult environments and in situations that can suddenly change. In order to meet that reality and given the fact that security, development and the rule of law are intrinsically linked, the great majority of peacekeeping operations are now multidimensional. As a result, the mandates of peacekeeping operations may now include, in particular, strengthening rule-of-law institutions, security and defence sector reform, the protection of civilians, particularly children affected by armed conflict, the protection and promotion of human rights, combating sexual violence and the support of inclusive political processes, such as establishing the necessary security conditions for the provision of humanitarian assistance.

All of these issues go far beyond any traditional concept of peacekeeping, reaching for the establishment of lasting conditions conducive to the health of societies and their citizens. Peacekeepers are therefore called on to be peacebuilders from the outset by fostering peacebuilding in the aftermath of conflict around the world, and increasingly, by supporting the host country's public institutions. Luxembourg welcomes progress in that direction.

Peacekeeping and peacebuilding are complementary and deeply linked. They require a holistic, coordinated and integrated approach that — from the initial planning stages of a peacekeeping operation through eventual modifications of the mandate — takes peacebuilding into sufficient consideration and clearly integrates its priorities into mandates. As many members of the Council have said, the Security Council must ensure that peacekeeping mandates are clear, credible, realistic and unambiguous.

Taking into account the contributions of various actors, including the Peacebuilding Commission, and the basic principle of national ownership, no attempt to integrate peacekeeping and peacebuilding can succeed unless the roles of the many players are clearly defined and their work is effectively coordinated. Such an approach will increase the added value of every contribution and bolster the effectiveness and efficiency of every stakeholder. We also believe that the United Nations should strengthen the pool of civil capacity, especially by enlisting the expertise of people from countries that have experience in post-conflict peacebuilding or democratic transition.

It is clear that no lasting peace can be achieved unless we address the root causes of a conflict from the outset. The crises in the Sahel and the Horn of Africa make that evident every day. In our view,

including all sectors of a population, in particular the most vulnerable groups, such as women, in peacekeeping and peacebuilding operations is the best way to prevent, in both the short and the long terms, the resurgence of the frustrations that can reignite a conflict. Luxembourg has therefore contributed to the efforts of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to increase women's participation in political processes, especially in Haiti, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, South Sudan and Timor-Leste.

We are pleased that the draft resolution to be adopted today (S/2013/27) highlights the essential role played in United Nations missions by advisers for the protection of the most vulnerable populations, especially children. Their roles as advocates, facilitators, advisers to heads of missions, information officers and monitors are critical components for the protection of children.

The Council is right to underline the importance of deploying qualified and experienced peacekeepers, with all the necessary skills, including language skills, and who respect the Organization's zero-tolerance policy with respect to misconduct. Sexual exploitation and abuse must not be tolerated. On the other hand, every measure should be taken to ensure the safety and security of deployed personnel. Luxembourg strongly condemns any attack on United Nations peacekeeping personnel.

I conclude by expressing Luxembourg's deep gratitude towards all peacekeeping soldiers, police and civil workers who do indispensable work, often under very difficult circumstances, in implementing the mandates entrusted to them by the Council. We honour the memory of those women and men who have given their lives executing their duty in the service of the United Nations and the cause of protecting international peace and security.