

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

Statement by Mr. Masood Khan, Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the United Nations.

I shall now make a statement in my capacity as Foreign Secretary of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

It is a great privilege for me to preside over today's open debate. I thank the Secretary-General, His Excellency Mr. Ban Ki-moon, for his insightful briefing. We deeply admire his leadership on United Nations peacekeeping and his personal commitment to making United Nations peacekeeping operations efficient and effective.

Blue Helmets are recognized and respected all over the world. They symbolize the United Nations quest for regional and international peace, security and stability around the globe. They underline the collective will and endeavour of all Member States to make the world peaceful and stable.

United Nations peacekeeping has saved and protected tens of millions of lives around the globe. It helps shattered communities and neighbourhoods rebuild themselves. It replaces strife with harmony. Brave women and men in the peacekeeping missions have made tremendous sacrifices in the cause of peace. More than 3,000 peacekeepers have laid down their lives to save the world from the scourge of war. Today we collectively pay homage to them. Today we should all once again reiterate our commitment to their safety and security.

We are grateful to the members of the Council for holding this debate on under the theme "United Nations peacekeeping: a multidimensional approach" during our presidency. We held wide-ranging consultations, including with the Secretariat, to ensure that all stakeholders were on board and all perspectives were reflected in the preparation of this debate and the draft resolution (S/2013/27) on a multidimensional approach to peacekeeping. I am glad that today we will adopt a draft resolution on this subject that has been sponsored by all 15 members of the Security Council, which will be the first comprehensive resolution on peacekeeping after more than 11 years. Our motivation to hold this debate and present the draft resolution is three-fold.

First, peacekeeping missions are the most effective tool in the hands of the United Nations to deal with conflicts.

Secondly, over the decades peacekeeping operations have evolved from traditional to multidimensional peacekeeping operations to better correspond to the requirements of different situations. Their growing capacity to build peace, in addition to their primary role of keeping peace, needs to be harnessed.

Thirdly, in the past 52 years Pakistan has demonstrated strong commitment to peacekeeping and has served in missions all around the world.

We are grateful to the members of the Council and to Member States for their warm response to our proposal.

With regard to the debate today and the draft resolution to be adopted by the Council later, I want to highlight seven aspects of a multidimensional approach to peacekeeping: first, early response in order to prevent conflict, address its root causes and stem a relapse into conflict; second, the nexus between peacekeeping and peacebuilding — early mission assessment and planning will ensure

coherence and synergy; third, sound planning and coordination in mandating and deploying peacekeeping missions through consultations with all stakeholders, especially troop-contributing countries; fourth, professional excellence, demonstrated by ensuring the deployment of trained, committed and well-equipped peacekeepers; fifth, broader ownership of peacekeeping and peacebuilding activities by strengthening partnerships with national Governments, regional organizations and development actors; sixth, inclusive political dialogue for fostering national unity and reconciliation; and seventh, tailoring missions to local conditions within the general template.

Pakistan has been a proud participant in peacekeeping missions. Pakistan has been a leading military and police contributor to peacekeeping missions, from Latin America to Africa and from Europe to Asia. In more than five decades, we have had the honour of contributing approximately 145,000 troops and of serving in 41 missions in 23 countries. That has given our peacekeepers valuable experience in handling diverse and difficult conflict and post-conflict situations all over the world. One hundred and thirty-two of our peacekeepers have given their lives for peace. That is among the highest number of casualties suffered by Member States in the service of the United Nations.

Pakistan's peacekeeping role is rooted in our abiding faith in the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations. Our participation in United Nations peacekeeping is underpinned by a national consensus and is an integral part of our foreign policy.

Pakistan is also host to one of the oldest United Nations peacekeeping missions, namely, the United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan. That mission has played an important role in monitoring peace along the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir.

The complex and dynamic nature of contemporary conflicts demands change in the nature and scope of peacekeeping missions and a comprehensive and integrated approach to peacekeeping. Multidimensional peacekeeping missions are a manifestation of such an approach. Accordingly, intricate crises are increasingly seeing the deployment of multidimensional peacekeeping missions. In such situations, keeping peace is as imperative as building it. Such missions achieve the twin goals of peacekeeping and peacebuilding by preventing the recurrence of conflict, building local capacities for sustainable peace and creating space for development actors and financial institutions. The enhanced efficiency and cost-effectiveness of United Nations peacekeeping efforts are among the benefits of a multidimensional approach.

Success in Burundi, Liberia, Sierra Leone and Timor-Leste has demonstrated the value of multidimensional missions. Yet, there are situations where challenges are larger than the United Nations wherewithal. That calls for a more calibrated response.

Shared responsibility and partnerships underpin United Nations peacekeeping. It is a multilateral exercise under one United Nations flag.

Continued success in peacekeeping will be ensured by upholding the legitimacy bestowed on them by the Charter of the United Nations and the guiding principles of peacekeeping, that is, consent, impartiality and the non-use of force except in self-defence or defence of the mandate.

I am sure that our deliberations today will strengthen those partnerships and enrich the discourse for a robust response to the challenges of peace and security.

I now resume my functions as President of the Security Council.

I shall now give the floor to the members of the Council.