

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

Statement by Mr. Meza-Cuadra Permanent Mission of Peru to the United Nations.

At the outset, I commend your initiative, Mr. President, to convene an open debate on developments in United Nations peacekeeping operations. We also thank the Secretary-General for his presentation.

A founding principle of the Organization's establishment was the maintenance of international peace and security. Peacekeeping operations are therefore a crucial part of United Nations activities. Aware of that, Peru has actively participated in such operations since 1958, the year in which we deployed a contingent to the United Nations Observation Group in Lebanon. Since that date, my country has contributed more than 6,700 uniformed personnel, three of whom have made the ultimate sacrifice in the defence of international peace and security.

The nature and characteristics of the conflicts that the Organization has had to face in recent decades have substantially changed. Likewise, in recent years we have witnessed a necessary change in the scope of the mandates of peacekeeping operations. Currently, such operations are therefore multidimensional in nature, since their mandates include various interrelated factors, such as peace and security, development, post-conflict capacity-building and State institution-building, among other elements.

The establishment of operations with multidimensional mandates implies a greater complexity not only on the ground but also in terms of the planning and implementation of those operations.

Therefore, when

establishing such operations, strict attention must be paid not only to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations but also to the guiding principles of such operations, namely, the consent of the parties, impartiality and the non-use of force except in legitimate self-defence or in defence of the mandate.

In that regard, we reiterate that the perception of the impartiality of peacekeeping missions is essential to their legitimacy in the field, the safety of their staff and their long-term effectiveness. In that connection, while we recognize the achievements of the Force Intervention Brigade of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo in protecting civilians, my delegation believes that, in accordance with resolution 2098 (2013), the offensive activities of that Brigade should in no way be a precedent to justify similar mandates in the future. In that regard, the future scope of the activities of such operations must be discussed in the competent body of the Organization, namely, the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations of the General Assembly.

The increasing complexity of the mandates of peacekeeping operations requires greater coordination among the Security Council, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and troop-contributing countries so as to ensure that their perspectives and views with regard to the development, implementation and renewal of mandates are properly heard, given that their troops will be responsible for effectively implementing the mandate on the ground. In that context, uniformed personnel should have access to better training and policy-awareness facilities and to new technologies. Such operations must also enjoy adequate financial resources. It is therefore essential to review the scale of the cost of contingents, given that there is currently a large gap between the real cost of the troops in the field and the sums received by States. That jeopardizes the proper functioning of peacekeeping operations.

Peru believes that peace is not limited to the absence of conflict. That is why we support peacekeeping operations undertaking not only law enforcement activities but also comprehensive actions that contribute to building national structures and processes to bring about a lasting and sustainable peace. It is therefore essential to reaffirm the principle of national ownership in the

understanding that peacebuilding should be an inherently national process, in which peacekeeping operations are limited to supporting the national authorities in coordinating their peacebuilding and development priorities.

Finally, my country would like to underscore the important role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts. That highlights the need to promote their full participation in maintaining and promoting peace and security. Peru has therefore been increasing the participation of female staff, who currently account for 8 per cent of our personnel deployed in eight peacekeeping operations.

I wish to reiterate Peru's steadfast commitment to peacekeeping operations, which is reflected, inter alia, in our ongoing participation in the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti for a decade. We are ready to maintain that commitment until the mission completes its task of Haiti's stabilization and reconstruction.