

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

*Statement by Mr. Gasana Permanent Mission of Rwanda to the United Nations.*

Mr. President, allow me to start by congratulating you on your 40 years of dedication to diplomacy — an exceptional milestone that many of us will never reach and that speaks volumes of your great contributions to the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Russia and international affairs. I wish you four more decades in Russian and international diplomacy. Given your vitality in the Council, I am convinced that you will easily reach that goal.

I would like to thank you, Sir, for convening this open debate on new trends in peacekeeping. As a dedicated troop- and police-contributing country for the past decade and as current Chair of the Security Council Working Group on Peacekeeping Operations, Rwanda appreciates such inclusive interaction involving Council members, the larger United Nations membership and the United Nations leadership on this very timely and important topic. I also thank the Secretary-General, His Excellency Mr. Ban Ki-moon, for being here today and for his briefing.

While our discussion here today revolves around new trends such as robustness, new technology, inter-mission cooperation and multidimensional mandates, for the sake of brevity I will focus on three areas, namely, technology, robust peacekeeping and a few remarks on regional partnerships.

Rwanda has positively engaged in discussions on the introduction of new technology into peacekeeping theatres that could help to mitigate many threats faced by peacekeepers and civilians alike. As it has been presented, such technology has the potential to identify and monitor armed groups and arms trafficking, assist patrols heading into hostile territory, and assess the movement of displaced refugees. However, like other members here today, Rwanda shares valid concerns that need to be addressed in moving forward. Questions still exist regarding control of information collected, confidentiality and third-party impartiality.

The unmanned, unarmed aerial assistance being used in the Democratic Republic of the Congo is there on a trial basis. Once its achievements and efficacy on the ground are confirmed, then we can support its systemic integration into the requirements of peacekeeping mandates as the situation of a particular mission would dictate. In order for that to happen, however, a comprehensive and enforceable United Nations framework governing the collection and dissemination of drone-collected intelligence and data would be essential in mitigating public and regional concerns.

Given the nature of current threats to peacekeeping, Rwanda believes that the deployment of robust peacekeepers is essential not only to effectively protecting civilians, but also to their own protection in increasingly hostile and volatile environments. However, we cannot expect peacekeepers to engage in robust peacekeeping tasks without the necessary preparation and resources. If we do not have the ability to insert forces and to conduct casualty and medical evacuations or air lifts, then we have major problems and should not have deployed in the first place. Thus, in order for robust peace operations to work, the peacekeeping community must agree on the development of robust ideas at the strategic level and adequately prepare forces at the operational and tactical levels. In particular, it requires the timely provision of defence stores, strong regional stand-by capacities and the timely deployment of enablers.

Allow me to emphasize that while Rwanda supports well-prepared and well-planned robust peacekeeping when it is called for, we do not believe that peacekeepers have a role to play in asymmetric warfare. Rather, all stakeholders in the region must make a concerted effort to train and develop asymmetric warfare strategies. That being said, we should not continue to focus on military solutions and related strategies while losing track of the peaceful settlement of conflicts. We need political robustness now more than ever. The challenges we have identified in all of these new trends in peacekeeping are related in any actual sense not to the Organization's ability or creativity in

enhancing the performance of its mandates, but rather to the double standards related to using those good initiatives. It is absurd that there are those who use these advantages in the way they choose and only when it fits their interest.

How else can we explain that with the new technologies and the robust mandate of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO), it has chosen to fight some armed groups, while ignoring others, such as the longest-surviving group in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo — the Forces démocratiques de libération du Rwanda (FDLR). I recall that the FDLR is a movement that committed genocide in my country 20 years ago and that has been terrorizing the Congolese people, raping women and girls, and recruiting children. It is a negative force that has been the cause of most other rebellions in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Whose interests are those supposedly good initiatives serving, while the people we are supposed to protect are still being raped and killed? Rwanda has called upon the Council many times to hold MONUSCO accountable. It is known by all that investing resources where there is no transparency and accountability is a waste of time and money and bleeds responsibility.

On regional partnerships, Rwanda believes that when talking about the strategic future of United Nations peace operations, we must consider the Organization's ability to function successfully with partners organizations that can share the burden and bring their own comparative advantages to the table. That is especially true on the African continent, where we have seen critical partnerships in Liberia, Sierra Leone, Darfur, Somalia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Mali and currently, South Sudan.

While the role of regional organizations is recognized in Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations, the added value and increasing role they have gained in recent years requires less of an ad hoc process and a more of a streamlined framework within the United Nations peacekeeping architecture. This will take time, but it is essential to allowing us to cope with the inevitable challenges related to resources, preparedness and the political and operational aspects of cooperation. Next month during our Council presidency, Rwanda will convene a high-level open debate mainly to discuss the evolution of regional partnerships in peacekeeping. Their role in helping to secure international peace and security is rapidly expanding, and the status quo must be adapted to reflect that evolution.

Let me end by thanking the women and men who put their lives at risk in the name of international peace and security, and those who are no longer with us but whose sacrifice will never be forgotten. It is for their sake and for that of those whom they protect that we should strengthen our peacekeeping abilities.