

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

Statement by Mr. De Benito Permanent Mission of Spain to the United Nations.

My delegation would like first to thank the Secretary-General for his briefing this morning on the current situation and new trends in peacekeeping operations. We also thank the Russian presidency for its initiative in convening this debate and for the priority it has attached to this issue in the Council's programme of work.

Spain fully aligns itself with the statement made by the observer of the European Union and wishes to offer the following contribution in its national capacity.

Spain believes that peacekeeping operations are a key component of the comprehensive strategy in favour of international security, which has shown itself capable of responding effectively and flexibly to the challenges posed by the new typology of conflicts in difficult and changing environments. We value the multidimensional nature of peacekeeping operations as a formula to establish sustainable peace, equipped with clear and feasible mandates and adequate resources allowing us to respond to security challenges and to the needs of host countries and of the civilian population.

We highlight the role of regional and subregional organizations in peacekeeping. We firmly support all efforts aimed at continuing to strengthen this collaboration in the conviction that it provides effectiveness and coherence to the actions undertaken, thereby avoiding duplication and taking advantage of the complementary nature of their respective efforts. At times, collaboration with regional organizations is also crucial for strengthening the invaluable regional ownership of the solution of conflicts.

We value very positively the high level of cooperation between the United Nations and the European Union, both with regards to institutional dialogue and at the operational level. Cooperation on the ground in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, along the border between Chad and the Central African Republic, and more recently in Mali and the Central African Republic provides a model to follow and to deepen in the coming years.

International peace and security is not an abstract concept; as reality reminds us every day, conflict affects millions of men and women directly and with immediacy, and it is to them we owe our efforts. We therefore welcome the Security Council's interest in the fundamental issue of the protection of civilians, as expressed in its debate in February (see S/PV.7109). The inclusion of protection of civilians in peacekeeping operations mandates is a fundamental step. In that regard, we consider it vital that child protection also be incorporated from the beginning into all United Nations activities relating to the defence of international peace and security through the inclusion of the issue in mandates. I would like to reiterate once again Spain's full support for the Secretary-General's Children, Not Soldiers campaign.

We firmly support the efforts to implement fully the resolutions relating to women and peace and security. Spain commends the British initiative to hold the Global Summit to End Sexual Violence in Conflict and is fully confident that an international protocol for investigating and documenting sexual violence in conflict will be a valuable instrument for the appropriate protection of victims and response from our contingents.

This year, Spain is celebrating the twenty-fifth anniversary of its participation in peacekeeping operations. My country has contributed to more than 50 missions and crisis management operations and has deployed more than 137,000 troops in such complex theatres as Lebanon, Afghanistan, the coast of Somalia, Mali and the Central African Republic, exemplifying Spain's commitment to the primacy of international law and to a more stable world.

I would like to express our sincere appreciation to the other troop-contributing countries for the commitment they have shown to peace and the United Nations and for their valuable work in this area. Spain believes in improving the channels of communication between troop-contributing countries and the Security Council, and in better links between those countries and the work of the Council, in keeping with articles 43 and 44 of the Charter of the United Nations. Given the continuing responsibilities we are dealing with, Spain will work to that end.