

Statement by Mr. Mohammed Adeb, Hon'ble Member of Parliament and Member of the Indian Delegation, on Agenda Item No. 53 "Comprehensive Review of the Whole Question of Peacekeeping Operations in all their Aspects" at the Fourth Committee General Debate of the 68<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations General Assembly on October 30, 2013

**Madam Chairperson,**

At the outset let me thank you and the USG DPKO Mr. Herve Ladsous and USG DFS Madam Ameerah Haq for their useful briefings the other day.



It is my honour to speak today at the peacekeeping general debate of the 68<sup>th</sup> UNGA.

My delegation aligns itself with the statement delivered by the distinguished representative of Egypt on behalf of NAM.

India is proud to have been associated with UN Peacekeeping from its very inception. Having contributed over 150,000 peacekeepers to virtually every peacekeeping mission, India has an abiding interest in UN peacekeeping. India is one of its largest contributors today and we remain committed to this global enterprise.

Peacekeeping has been a critical tool of the United Nation in maintaining international peace and security. Its collaborative character infuses it with a unique legitimacy that defines its strength.

The core values of UN peacekeeping explain its enduring relevance. Principles of consent, impartiality, and non-use of force except in self-defence and in defence of the mandate have outlived many transitions that peacekeeping has witnessed

from truce-supervision missions of yesteryears to multi-dimensional mandates of today.

**Madam Chairperson,**

Peacekeeping is often evaluated as a stand alone exercise rather than a part of an overarching peace process. While this reflects its usefulness, lasting peace always accompanies the success of the overall political process.

Peacekeeping's agenda today is generated mostly outside the General Assembly. Major peacekeeping policy initiatives get on-boarded outside the C34. This encourages a reliance on factors outside the confines of the General Assembly. Moreover, this allows ourselves to be judged by those who do not even take part in peacekeeping. Over a period of time this has distorted peacekeeping's policy universe.

Peacekeeping mandates continue to be the preserve of a privileged few. These are generated in isolation from the personnel responsible for their field implementation. Moreover, they accord primacy to material over men.

In-depth consultations with troop and police contributing countries should be an integral part of the mandate generation process. A fair assessment of mandates with corresponding resources will inject a sense of realism into expectations with respect to mission objectives and achievements.

The working methods that were meant to smoothen C34's functioning ended rusting it up. The substantive core of C34's functioning stands damaged today on account of a mere technical detail. Revival of C34 is necessary to restore its democratic underpinnings. Under no circumstances can peacekeeping be allowed to be run as an executive affair.

C34's dormancy will hurt triangular partnership between the member states, security council, and the secretariat. A healthy C34 is necessary for the consolidation of this relationship.

Sadly, countries that have dispatched hundreds of thousands of men in service of UN peacekeeping, continue to be at the periphery including in the headquarter departments.

We welcome the assurance by USG DFS at the adoption of peacekeeping budgets this year to undertake corrective measures to improve representation of troop and police contributing countries in headquarter departments.

It is our firm belief that the welfare and safety of soldiers must be dealt with in a responsible manner. Indifference to personnel matters such as troop-cost results in a disconnect between the field and the headquarter.

Secretary General's Special Advisory Group was set up to resolve this long-standing grievance of the field personnel. Its outcome, therefore, must remain true to this objective.

Unfortunately, resource allocation too has failed to keep pace with expansion in the mandates. Peacekeeping missions are called upon to do more and more with less and less. This has added to operational challenges faced by peacekeepers and missions are overstretched due to shortage of personnel and equipment.

**Madam Chairperson,**

Peacekeeping and peacebuilding are two sides of same coin. Critical peacebuilding tasks are all premised on peacekeepers proactive involvement. Our strategies and approaches, therefore, should be geared to capitalize on these strengths.

Two-thirds of UN's field presence comprises of uniformed personnel. They respond to a complex set of challenges in a holistic manner. We should, therefore, synergize the keeping-of-peace and the building-of-peace. Their mutual complementariness should be harmonized rather than being zoned as civilian versus military.

In this regard, we keenly look forward to the long-awaited materialization of the civilian capacity review process. This process should be firmly placed in the member state domain in its intergovernmental context.

UN peacekeepers are keeping peace today in most dangerous and challenging terrains and circumstances. Attacks on peacekeepers by armed militia groups have increased exponentially. United Nations must undertake manifest action against the perpetrators of such violence and bring them to justice.

**Madam Chairperson,**

The representative character of peacekeeping and its reform is the key to its across the board acceptability. It is imperative that the work on this reform process is not the prerogative of a few but is representative across the board.

I thank you Madam Chairperson

BACK TO TABLE OF CONTENTS