

STATEMENT BY MR. MANJEEV SINGH PURI, AMBASSADOR & DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE, AT THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY GENERAL DEBATE ON THE COMPREHENSIVE QUESTION OF PEACEKEEPING ON NOVEMBER 08 2012

Mr. Chairperson,

Let me congratulate you and the bureau members for organizing today's important General Debate on peacekeeping. Allow me also to welcome Ms. Ameerah Haq the Under Secretary General for the Department of Field Support to the 4th Committee for the first time and commend both the USGs for their briefings. My delegation also aligns itself with the NAM statement.

Mr. Chairperson,

Peacekeeping is UN's flagship activity. Today's debate reflects the enduring relevance of UN peacekeeping in fulfilling the Charter obligations towards international peace and security. Our peacekeepers on the ground remain the sole sentinels of the peacekeeping missions that we conceptualize and mandate here. We salute these silent warriors for tireless efforts that make our work worthwhile here.

Mr. Chairman,

Having withstood tests of times for over six decades now, Peacekeeping has witnessed shifts in its designs and configurations. This evolving and adaptable attribute of UN peacekeeping continues to be its core strength.

The past one year has particularly been challenging for the peacekeepers and an unusually high number of peacekeepers have lost lives in line of protecting the mandates. We pay our tributes to all those who have laid down their lives in the service of international peace and security.

Mr. Chairman,

UN Peacekeeping debates today are compelled to tackle the twin challenges emanating from the field and of the finance. Our evaluations that are based on cost considerations alone do not capture the entirety of mission mandates and our obligations towards international peace and security.

Ambitious mandates, resource overstretch, and field-headquarters gaps continue to challenge the ability of peacekeeping to deliver for examples peacekeepers to continue to protect civilians while supporting national elections and great lakes initiative in DRC within existing resources. My delegation recommends strong field orientation in everything we do and to leverage the expertise available with the TCCs and field experts in

peacekeeping.

Peacekeeping today stands on the firm foundations built over decades on the building blocks of impartiality, consent and non-use of force. Alterations in the established rules of the game should not be undertaken with undue haste and without evidences from the ground. Our convictions must emanate from our own belief systems but also from what we observe and learn on the grounds.

My delegation firmly believes in the inter-governmental sanctity of the peacekeeping reform and policy process. Secretariat therefore must continue with efforts to capture views and opinions from the wider membership.

Peacekeeping partnership hinges on the abilities that each brings to the table. Our decision-making mechanisms should reflect this reality. Burden sharing and rewards should be commensurate with the efforts invested by each. We keenly look forward to improvements on this count.

Mr. Chairperson, C-34 remains the sole legislative GA body invested with peacekeeping. It accords us an opportunity to deliberate as a collective. It is in our interests to strengthen the democratic basis of this mechanism and work on our abilities to deliver within its norms and conventions.

Protracted conflicts have often resulted in peacekeeping missions staying in the fields for long periods. Lasting and durable peace requires that we at the UN think through the challenges before launching the missions. Not only do we need to manage the expectations of host populations but also those of ours. The practice of acting first and thinking later with hindsight needs to be curtailed. Peacekeeping is a long haul process and peacebuilding even more.

My delegation would be keen to see greater conversation between our peacekeeping and peacebuilding departments. Objectives of state and institution building require matching commitment in resources. Processes that undertake to keep and build peace can not be set far apart at HQs. Mission priorities should also be aligned firmly with national needs and priorities and are not transplanted from elsewhere.

Peacekeeping reform agenda should strive for greater balance. Police, rule of law, security sector, and disarmament are some critical areas that have received little attention in recent times due to our collective focus on field support. Basic governance, preliminary frameworks of administrations should remain our primary goals in post conflict scenarios. The strategies of development and economic revitalization will not take roots in situations of poor governance and absent administration.

We encourage the Department of Field Support to engage the larger membership in substantive aspects of discussions and deliberations. We must not lose sight of its objectives that are about bringing efficiency to mission

operations.

My delegation notes efforts with regard to the Civilian Capacity Review. We firmly believe that this process should be set in the inter-governmental settings and should be membership driven. We continue to encourage its Steering Group to be focussed on benefits to the United Nations and to keep membership updated on its implementation road map.

My delegation welcomes DPKO's efforts in gender mainstreaming in all peacekeeping missions. India's all women's formed-police-unit (FPU) in Liberia have served Secretary General's goal commendably in this regard. I would like to take this opportunity to reiterate our support to zero tolerance in respect of disciplinary and conduct issues.

Mr. Chairperson,

My country has supported and nurtured peacekeeping since its inception in the 1950s. The universal legitimacy that UN peacekeeping enjoys derives from the sacrifices that our peacekeepers endured. With over 100,000 uniformed personnel in 40 UN peacekeeping missions India remains committed to the work for international peace and security as a partner of the UN.

[BACK TO TABLE OF CONTENTS](#)