

73rd UNGA
Special Political and Decolonization (Fourth) Committee

Thematic Debate
Comprehensive review of the
whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects

INDIA STATEMENT
by
Mr. Sandeep Kumar Bayyapu, First Secretary

30 October 2018

Mr. Chairman,

We thank the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Mr. Jean-Pierre Lacroix and the Under-Secretary-General for Field Support, Mr. Atul Khare for their briefings and for sharing their assessment of the progress made in peacekeeping activities and the challenges therein.

2. We associate with the statement delivered by Morocco on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

3. India pays tribute to the men and women who have served and continue to serve in peacekeeping operations for their professionalism, dedication and courage. We remember those who have lost their lives in serving the cause of peace.

Mr. Chairman,

4. Peacekeeping is one of the key instruments available to UN in discharging its responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security. We are in the midst of implementing various reform proposals at the UN, including on peace and security architecture of the Secretariat. We hope that the current debate would make significant contribution in the areas of issues and policy relating to UN peacekeeping operations and contribute towards the successful implementation of the reform proposals.

5. We expect that the reforms, whose implementation would begin from next year, will cut bureaucratic delays and improve logistics for peacekeepers on the ground.

6. We commend Secretary General's initiatives, including Action for Peacekeeping (A4P), to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of UN peacekeeping in order to address the changing realities.

7. India had endorsed the Declaration of Shared Commitments on Peacekeeping. Secretary-General has rightly identified that the success of any peacekeeping reform initiative is dependent on all stakeholders playing their respective roles. We should now work together to translate the shared commitments into action. India will play a constructive role in the successful implementation and follow-up of various actions identified in the Declaration.

Mr. Chairman,

8. There is no substitute to professional competence. Indian peacekeepers have been at the forefront in setting highest standards in peacekeeping in their longstanding contribution to nearly 50 UN missions since peacekeeping operations began seven decades ago.

9. We welcome the development of an Integrated Performance Policy Framework (IPPF) that would cover all the stakeholders.

10. We would like to highlight again the impact of caveats on performance. The insistence by some on caveats in deployment is unfair and places peacekeepers at different levels. Caveats, whether declared or undeclared, are against the basic principle of equality. They place an additional burden on those peacekeepers who do not have any caveats. They also have a direct impact on the fulfilment of missions' mandate as they limit the Force Commander's ability to employ forces in an optimal manner. We need to do away with all caveats as it is not possible to fairly assess the performance of peacekeepers operating at different levels.

11. Peacekeepers must be given adequate resources to accomplish the tasks that are set for them. Under-resourced troops unable to accomplish their mandated tasks, undermines credibility of the UN peacekeeping. We cannot afford this to happen.

Mr. Chairman,

12. India remains firmly committed to contributing to UN peacekeeping activities. We support efforts of the Secretariat to initiate "Triangular Cooperation" training programs. The Center for UN Peacekeeping (CUNPK) in New Delhi contributes to training and capacity building efforts of peacekeepers worldwide, especially to our African partners and women peacekeepers.

13. We are committed to sharing our experience with other potential troop contributing countries and see partnerships as a useful tool in this context.

The co-deployment, one of the member state to member state partnership initiatives, should be encouraged as it is an effective mechanism to include new TCCs/PCCs.

14. India is pleased to announce that troops from Kazakhstan have been co-deployed yesterday as part of its contingent in UNIFIL (Lebanon).

Mr. Chairman,

15. The incidents of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA) have not only scarred the victims of such abuse but also UN's credibility. India is a strong supporter of UN's Zero Tolerance Policy on SEA and remains committed to contribute through all means possible for this cause. India is the first contributor to SG's Trust Fund set up in Support of Victims of SEA. Prime Minister of India is a member of SG's Circle of Leadership. This year, our Prime Minister endorsed the collective statement of the members of the SG's circle of leadership to reaffirm continued personal commitment on the issue. We also signed SG's Voluntary Compact last year as part of our commitment to preventing SEA.

16. Last week, India announced its contribution of US \$ 300,000 for the "Pipeline to Peacekeeping Command Programme" with a specific focus on issues of conduct and discipline. The programme will, over a period of three years, help develop the capacity of future commanders and managers to lead by example and raise awareness of UN standards of conduct among their personnel.

Mr. Chairman,

17. India appreciates the broad commitment to increase the number of women peacekeepers. We had reached the target of contributing 15% women military observers last year. India is proud to have deployed the first ever all-women Formed Police Unit (FPU) in Liberia, whose professionalism has inspired many Liberian women.

18. We need to address the issue of how to materialize the pending pledges related to deployment of women peacekeepers made by the Member States. The Secretariat should take stock of all such pending pledges and explore ways to absorb them on priority basis. The women peacekeepers need to be incentivized to encourage their much greater participation.

Mr. Chairman,

19. The issue of the large number of mandate components in peacekeeping missions has been raised by our delegation on a number of occasions at different platforms. We take note that conscious efforts are being made to

prioritize mandates in various missions and we appreciate the developments in this regard. Now that we have begun the practice of prioritizing mandates, there is a need to look at ways to address the availability of adequate resources to fulfil the prioritized mandate components. It would be useful if the views of troop/police contributing countries on implementing the mandates are adequately reflected in relevant reports of the Secretary-General.

20. India appreciates Secretary-General's close attention on the issue of improving safety and security of UN peacekeeping personnel. An analysis of the fatal casualties in the last four years indicate that at least a quarter of them were due to IED attacks. To begin with, we should have dedicated counter-IED resources for missions facing such threats. There should also be concerted efforts to upgrade the security infrastructure of camps.

21. We support the emphasis on training standards for troops being deployed in missions. It is the responsibility of the Secretariat to verify whether troops have met basic minimum training standards and this should be confirmed during the Assessment and Advisory Visits (AAVs) and Pre-Deployment visits (PDVs). The mission-specific training after troops' deployment could focus on coordination and collective training based on specific threats of the mission.

Mr. Chairman,

22. We need to keep in mind the lessons that we have learnt over last half century of peacekeeping activities in order to face the challenges of 21st Century. Peacekeeping serves primarily as a tool to support a viable political process. The peacekeeping operations should not be used as a substitute for addressing the root causes of conflict. Increasingly, the focus of peacekeeping is on a 'robust' approach and technological aspects, often appearing to lose focus on the ultimate goal of seeking a political solution to the conflict.

23. In conclusion, we need to accept the fact that it is the collective responsibility of all stakeholders to ensure UN peacekeeping activities adapt to the needs of our times.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.
