

**74<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations General Assembly**

**Special Political and Decolonization (Fourth) Committee**

**Thematic Debate**

**Comprehensive Review of the Whole Question of Peacekeeping  
Operations in all their Aspects**

**INDIA STATEMENT**

**By**

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**6 November 2019**

Mr. Chairman,

We thank the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Mr. Jean-Pierre Lacroix, the Under-Secretary-General for Operational Support, Mr. Atul Khare and Under-Secretary-General for Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance, Ms. Catherine Pollard for their briefings and for sharing their assessment of the progress made in peacekeeping activities and the challenges therein.

2. 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.

3. Peacekeeping is a multistakeholder enterprise available to UN for the maintenance of international peace and security. Member States are working to revitalize the collective approach to peacekeeping. The objective of this exercise is to ensure that peacekeeping operations function at an optimal level. We see some basic steps in this direction including the ongoing reforms of the peacekeeping architecture; efforts to improve performance, strengthen partnerships, enhance safety and security; and boost the capabilities and capacities of stakeholders. We hope that this year's debate would make significant contribution towards a better peacekeeping fit for the future.

Mr. Chairman,

4. My delegation would like to bring to the attention of peacekeeping stakeholders, some of the crucial aspects of peacekeeping from the perspective of an experienced stakeholder.

5. Firstly, India would like to highlight the financial management issue related to peacekeeping operations. We take note and welcome the reduction of pending arrears to troop and police contributors. There has been considerable progress in addressing the pending issues of delayed

payments, however it needs to be further addressed, especially those related to Closed Peacekeeping Missions.

6. Secondly, we would like to express our serious concern over instances of compromise in peacekeeping operational issues to reduce costs. This will have a direct bearing on the safety and security of peacekeepers. For example, in one of the peacekeeping mission, in order to save money, it has been decided that there will be no overlap between the incoming and outgoing troops. This would mean that the incoming troops will have no first hand understanding of the existing operational situation, thereby impacting the implementation of the mandate.

7. Thirdly, the policy documents prepared by the UN Secretariat, particularly the Department of Policy Evaluation and Training (DPET) play a major role in the day-to-day functioning of peacekeeping operations. We appreciate the efforts that go into the development of the documents and their utility for Member States, Peacekeeping training institutes and other partners. However, recently, we have noticed that the consultation process in preparing some of the policy documents is not broad-based. For example, in the preparation of Casualty Evacuation (CASEVAC) policy, only some select Member States have been approached that too in the last stage of document finalization. The Secretariat should engage with all the stakeholders from early stages in the preparation of all policy documents. This would bring in transparency to the process and also create value addition by bringing in best practices from the stakeholders' experiences.

8. Fourthly, we would like to highlight an issue related to the ongoing reform. The intention of the reform to facilitate the procedures is well appreciated. However, we noticed that the transition to new structures needs also proper record management and institutional memory. For example, there are instances when Member States are asked to reproduce older communications of over a decade or longer, which ideally should have been available as part of the UN system. To address this situation, we recommend that peacekeeping structures in the Secretariat should have a proper record keeping and maintenance, particularly related to the pending issues. We expect and hope that the newly formed Uniformed Capability Support Division is more proactive in resolving the pending issues.

Mr. Chairman,

9. Fifthly, we would like to touch upon the issue of revising the working methods of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations (C34). We appreciate the efforts undertaken to address issues that have impacted the functioning of the Committee. At the same time, we hope that the process which would impact the whole of peacekeeping issues need to be broad-based and not restricted to a regional approach. This is important to retain the credibility and relevance of this Committee.

10. Sixth, we reaffirm our commitment to the Action for Peacekeeping (A4P) including the recent A4P Champions initiative by the Secretariat.

India is providing financial support for the implementation of the theme 'Conduct of operations and of personnel' and has expressed support for 'Performance and accountability'. We have co-deployed troops from Kazakhstan in our UNIFIL (Lebanon) battalion as an example of member state to member state partnership. To advance the UN Gender Parity Strategy, we have deployed a Female Engagement Team (FET) as part of Rapidly Deployable Battalion (RDB) in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) in June 2019.

Mr. Chairman,

11. In conclusion, we would like to point out that while paragraph 24 of the A4P Declaration provides adequate guidance for follow-up, it has to be implemented in letter and spirit. India would like to highlight some of the focus areas for an effective A4P follow-up and implementation.

- ❖ Performance and accountability mechanism can be successful only when the Policy framework covers all stakeholders and all phases of peacekeeping operations.
- ❖ We cannot ignore the impact of caveats on performance. There is a need to develop a culture of no national caveats in the UN peacekeeping.

- ❖ Women peacekeepers need to be incentivized to encourage their greater participation. Priority should be given to the pending pledges related to women peacekeepers.
- ❖ The issue of medical capabilities in all Missions need to be paid serious attention. We appreciate the steps taken such as life-saving first-aid training and innovative ideas like tele-medicine which are useful, however they by themselves do not fill the medical gaps in the Mission. My delegation would again request for a comprehensive medical mapping exercise of all Missions.

I thank you for your kind attention.

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