

Statement by

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Permanent Representative**

**Debate on
United Nations Peacekeeping Operations**

United Nations Security Council

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Mr. President,

UN peacekeeping is a unique innovation of Multilateralism to respond to threats to international peace and security.

2. As a country that has been associated with various facets of this phenomenon and contributed to its evolution, we thank you, the Russian Federation, for holding this debate and for providing us an opportunity to express our views.

3. We thank Undersecretary General Jean-Pierre Lacroix for setting the context of today's discussion. Like other speakers, I join in conveying our deep condolences to the people and Government of Burkina Faso, who have been the most recent victims of terrorism.

Mr. President,

4. India is committed to implementing the Secretary General's Action for Peacekeeping (A4P) initiative to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of peacekeeping within the contours of our shared understandings.

Mr. President,

5. At the current stage, Peacekeeping is in a “no-man’s land”, between trying to keep the peace in fragile environments and trying to enforce the maintenance of peace, where there is none to keep. Responses to new security environments require a willingness to adapt abilities to meet emerging realities. In this context, we will offer three specific suggestions for your consideration.

6. **First:** Institutionalization of an approach where all key actors, especially Troop Contributing Countries (TCCs), are associated in a consistent and predictable manner in the decision-making matrix has been now discussed for decades.

7. The issue of consultations with and communications to TCCs has been in focus since the Council’s Presidential Statement of 1994 (S/PRST/1994/22). It has been reflected in a number of other Council documents, for example, the Presidential Statement of 1996 (S/PRST/1996/13); UNSCR 1327 (2000) on the Brahimi report; UNSCR 1353 (2001). However, in practice, we do not see effective improvement of the cooperation between TCCs/PCCs, the Security Council and the Secretariat. It is time to move from pursuit of activism of individual member states to collective action by this Council to institutionalize this effort.

8. **Second:** Further incentivizing women peacekeepers is now essential.

9. As of 31 July 2019, women peacekeepers constituted 6%. There are 5,243 female peacekeepers, out of a total of 86,687 peacekeepers.

10. In 1993, during the first spurt of peacekeeping, women made 1% of those deployed as uniformed personnel. Today it is 6%. In 26 years, we have increased the share of women by 5%. At this rate, it may not be possible to meet even minimum targets. There need to be special incentives for women peacekeepers and priority deployment of all women-unit pledges. Otherwise, the targets will remain just targets.

11. **Third:** Innovation in capacity building of peacekeepers needs to be a priority, if we are to move away from a culture of caveats that bedevils peacekeeping into a segmented activity.

12. Innovative options such as co-deployment of peacekeepers from different countries engenders a genuine spirit of partnership for peace and needs to be promoted.

13. Enhancing capabilities and capacities through Mobile Training Teams in large Missions is a useful mechanism to harness available talent for specific common objectives.

14. Expansion of online initiatives to develop capacities of future commanders and managers so that they lead by example and raise awareness of UN standards of conduct among their personnel is another innovation that can be further promoted.

Mr. President,

15. The best tribute that we can pay to the valiant men and women, who have served the cause of peacekeeping and to the memories of those who paid the ultimate sacrifice while serving UN peacekeeping, is to keep incentivizing change, institutionalizing best practices and place a premium on innovation. We hope these objectives will inform the next generation of changes of UN peacekeeping that this Council undertakes.

Thank you.
