

**STATEMENT BY DR. MADAN PRASAD JAISWAL, MEMBER OF PARILIAMENT ON
COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF THE WHOLE QUESTION OF PEACEKEEPING
OPERATIONS IN ALL THEIR ASPECTS AT THE 57TH SESSION OF THE UNGA
SPECIAL POLITICAL AND DCOLONIZATION COMMITTEE (4TH COMMTEE) ON
OCTOBER 22, 2002**

Mr. Chairman,

I would like to begin by complimenting Under Secretary General Guehenno for his clear and lucid presentation on the implementation of the report of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations, which we see as a valuable precursor to our discussion on the "Comprehensive Review of the Whole Question of Peacekeeping Operations in all their aspects".

We associate ourselves with the statement delivered yesterday by the distinguished Permanent Representative of Jordan on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

Mr. Chairman,

Peacekeeping for India encompasses its commitment to an ideal: strengthening the United Nations system and international peace and security. We see the peacekeeping activity of the United Nations as an international obligation assumed by those with the capability to participate in it and we have accepted the sacrifice that this obligation entails. Since the inception of Peacekeeping Operations under the aegis of the UN, India has contributed over 58,000 troops. They have participated with distinction in some of the most delicate and complex UNPKOs in the Congo, Somalia,

Namibia, Cambodia, Rwanda and Lebanon spanning 35 missions in every continent of the globe. 109 Indian peacekeepers have died in the service of the United Nations. India's commitment to UN peacekeeping is undiminished and unwavering. When we speak on the subject, therefore, it is from the perspective of a Peacekeeper of long and varied service with a vested interest, as it were, in strengthening peacekeeping operations of the UN in every possible way. It is in this spirit, that our observations today, are being made.

Let me now turn to document A/56/863, the report of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations. The Committee has distinguished itself as a forum that regularly proposes practical recommendations that have a far-reaching impact on the conduct of peacekeeping operations. The current report is consistent with that tradition. We would like to place on record our appreciation for the efforts of the Chairman of the Committee, Ambassador Mbanefo of Nigeria and Ambassador Duval of Canada, who chaired the proceedings of the Working Group.

The report has an array of recommendations all of which my delegation, as a member of the C-34, fully supports. In the interest of time, however, I will, however, not dwell on all

of them, but highlight only some of the areas, that, we feel, warrant particular attention.

First, the triangular relationship among the Security Council, the Secretariat and the Troop Contributing Countries. We have been discussing this subject for some time now. While this discussion has yielded some result, notably Resolution 1353 of June 2001 and Note dated January 14, 2002 from the Council President translated, in actual terms, in an increased frequency of briefings for troop contributors, a lot still needs to be done. Our experience has been that the information provided is at times insufficient and often too late. For the meetings to be more meaningful, therefore, we would emphasise the need to hold these much before the Council mandates or renews an operation, on a regular and periodic basis. Anything less would not do justice to the spirit in which this debate was conceived which envisaged a periodic, sustained and meaningful interaction with TCCs having an ultimate bearing on the Council's decisions. India is committed to an evolution in this regard and looks forward to working with the Council, Secretariat and member states to bring about further improvements in the evolving relationship among the Council, the Secretariat and the TCCs.

Second, the concept of rapid deployment. The panel on peace operations headed by Mr. Brahimi had recommended that since first the 6 to 12 weeks following either a ceasefire or a peace accord are often the most critical ones for establishing both a stable peace and the credibility of a new operation, such opportunities should not be lost, and that as a consequence, the UN should develop a rapid and effective deployment capacity to fully deploy in a traditional and complex peacekeeping operation in a time frame of 30 and 90

days respectively. I do not think anyone will disagree with this objective. In fact, the General Assembly has since endorsed this goal. Conceptually, therefore, the idea is viable and we support it. On the military side, India has pledged a brigade and 60 officers to the on-call list for a generic mission headquarters. On the Civilian Police side, we note and welcome the recent initiative of the Secretariat which has held consultations with member states to discuss the Rapid Deployment of 100-Persons On-Call. In order, however, for the whole concept to be more effective, we as member states, should come up with more innovative approaches so that the UN can effectively and rapidly deploy. India will work with other member states and the Secretariat to fine tune this concept further, and looks forward to carrying the discussions forward at the next session of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations to be held in February-March 2003.

Third, the issue of strategic deployment stocks which, is linked to the second. Inability of many developing countries who provide more than 70% of troops to UN peacekeeping operations to deploy rapidly is generally due to lack of contingent owned equipment and full self-sustainability. If this problem is addressed effectively, rapid deployment can become a reality. We, therefore, welcome the General Assembly's endorsement of the concept of strategic deployment stocks, which will equip the Secretariat to support complex missions by pre-positioning equipment at the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi. Such a move is bound to benefit a large number of TCCs who are unable to deploy fully equipped and self-sustained troops. The timely availability of strategic sealift and airlift capabilities will further reduce lead times for deployment and enable us to build on the concept of rapid

deployment to better serve the cause of UN peacekeeping.

Fourth, training. We note and welcome the progress achieved by the Secretariat this past year, in particular the development of the Standardised Generic Training Module (SGTM) project. Training and education are influenced by many factors, with content, approaches and standards varying from country to country. The challenge is to develop global norms for peace operations. Such norms should be acceptable and achievable by all member states and international organisations and not reflect the norms of any particular group of countries or organisation. The UN is best placed to develop these norms in consultation with member states, even as the primary responsibility for training and education lies with the member states. As part of this steadfast commitment to training and education, I am happy to inform you, Mr. Chairman, that my Government in collaboration with the Training & Evaluation Service of the DPKO will be hosting an International Course for emerging TCCs next year in New Delhi. This will provide an excellent opportunity for sharing of experiences and a better understanding and appreciation of the various facets of UN Peacekeeping. India sees training and education as an investment in more effective peace operations.

Fifth, claims for reimbursements for troop-costs and contingent-owned equipment. On Friday, in response to questions, the Secretariat had briefed us on recent efforts that have been made to process the backlog. We are encouraged to hear this and would urge the Secretariat to process outstanding claims speedily, wishing to emphasise how much of a strain unpaid costs can be, especially for the developing countries. India itself is owed around US \$ 65 million; despite that, we

continue to send our troops into difficult missions.

Sixth, efforts aimed at enhancing Africa's peacekeeping capacity. Under Secretary General Guehenno, in his introductory remarks to the Fourth Committee on Friday had underlined the need to revisit the mechanisms currently being utilized as also the need to consult with regional and sub-regional capitals in Africa on this. We welcome these efforts. India is a lead contributor to UNMEE. We are proud of our long-standing links with Africa and our substantial participation in almost every peacekeeping operation, including some of the most difficult and complex, in the Congo, Somalia, Angola, Mozambique and Rwanda. We will maintain our commitment, bilaterally and through the UN, to our friends in Africa.

Seventh, appointments in DPKO. Under Secretary General Guehenno in his remarks on Friday spoke of the openness and transparency that has characterised the recent appointments to the DPKO. We take note of and welcome these efforts. We wish to emphasise, however, that the same transparency should also accompany senior appointments in DPKO, which should not appear to be arbitrary, ad-hoc or subjective. We should like to hear more from the Secretariat on the methodology and criteria it uses for such recruitments.

Finally, and I don't think I can conclude without emphasizing this point, which has also been commented upon earlier by us, commitment to Peacekeeping. Brahimi in his report had drawn our attention to this problem when he had observed that 70% of troop contributors come from the developing countries. This is untenable and reflects poorly on the commitment of those who have a special responsibility in the maintenance of

international peace and security. The lack of political will among certain member states detracts from the universal character of UN peacekeeping operations. They also lay themselves open to the charge of double standards, whereby they are prepared to contribute to operations in Europe, but are reluctant to do so in Africa. More importantly, this is not only a political issue, but also a matter of capacity. There are certain needs that only a limited number of countries can meet, and in our opinion, must meet, if UN Peacekeeping is to be truly effective and international. By himself drawing

attention to this `problem', Under Secretary General Guehenno has brought to the fore a matter of critical importance, and it is perhaps time that we considered practical solutions, else this can only fester. India, Mr. Chairman, is willing to discuss this issue, openly and frankly, in the Special Committee at its next session and looks forward to working with you and other delegations on this and other issues of concern in a constructive and comprehensive manner.

I thank you, Sir.

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