



STATEMENT BY MS. RUCHIRA KAMBOJ, COUNSELLOR, ON CONSULTATIONS WITH TROOP CONTRIBUTING COUNTRIES AT THE SECOND MEETING OF THE OPEN-ENDED WORKING GROUP ON THE QUESTION OF EQUITABLE REPRESENTATION ON AND INCREASE IN THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED TO THE SECURITY COUNCIL ON FEBRUARY 15, 2005

Mr Chairman,

As we resume the discussions in the afternoon, we sincerely hope that we will be able to avoid the kind of rhetoric that was found in the statements of some delegations this morning. To say, for instance, that some are vociferous in pursuing their national interests is unfortunate since it implies that those saying so are given by pure altruism. Similarly, while we agree on the need to ensure the accountability of all members, we cannot agree with partial suggestions to achieve this. In our view, the only way of enforcing this would be to appoint new permanent members and through a review clause, institute a system of keeping the performance of all members under constant review.

We would also agree, Mr Chairman, with Italy that discussions on Cluster I and reform of working methods of the Council are of critical importance, especially in the context of reducing the sense of alienation, or marginalization as the Italian Ambassador put it, of the vast majority of the general membership. We would only wish to add that it is only through expansion of the permanent membership and inclusion of developing countries as permanent members in an expanded Council can we have a critical mass in the Council in favour of reformed working methods and accountability.

Mr Chairman,

The relationship between the Security Council, the Secretariat and Troop Contributing Countries (TCCs) is critical to the success of a peacekeeping operation. As a leading TCC, we have been in the forefront of this debate, and have had occasion to expand in detail our views on the subject, in the Security Council, in the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations, the Fourth Committee as in this Working Group. We shall, therefore, restrict ourselves to making a few main points on when and how there should be closer consultations amongst these principal actors in a peacekeeping operation.

- **These consultations should start when the Council mandates an operation.** By then the Secretariat has decided which countries should be TCCs and it has a concept of operations. At that state, there should be a meeting or meetings of the Council, the Secretariat, and the potential troop contributors, to: *Explain in some detail what the scope of the tasks is, what the likely problems are, what the TCCs will be expected to provide, and what to do. TCCs must commit themselves to an agreed set of tasks with resources and problems identified, and establish that they have the means to discharge their obligations. This is the stage at which those who are considering participation can assess their readiness in terms of the challenge of the task. Share operational information, which some permanent members have and do provide on an ad hoc basis to some TCCs. This information is often invaluable in helping prepare for a difficult mission in unfamiliar terrain. Introduce TCCs to Secretariat bodies that they do not interact with, but which are often prime movers in some operations; OCHA comes to mind, but there are others.*
- **There must be close consultations in the preparations for deployment.**
- **Consultations must be immediate whenever there is a change of situation on the ground.** TCCs are not only the first to know that things are going wrong, they have the keenest interest in being told what the Council and the Secretariat have in mind because it is their troops who will get the blame for failure or take casualties. Collective decisions, not just consultations, are essential.
- **Consultations must be held with TCCs before the Council changes a mandate.** TCCs are often the only ones who can properly advise if a change is needed, if what the Council has in mind will make matters worse or better, if it can be done militarily with the resources available, and, if it is, what the outcome is likely to be. The Secretariat may have this information too, relayed from the field, but may be diffident about opposing powerful voices in the Council. On other occasions, when its own predilections may be shared by these members, the advice from the field is suppressed. It is the Council that must make the decisions, but its members would agree that they can only make informed decision if they are given the information they need.
- **TCCs must know, and accept in advance, material changes to the terms and conditions under which they committed their troops.** This is obviously essential when there is a formal change from a Chapter VI to a Chapter VII mandate. This collective agreement is essential for the UN because it must satisfy itself that troops trained and equipped to carry out a set of agreed tasks can in fact take on and do well a set of radically altered tasks. For the TCCs, it is just as important because their Governments and Parliaments want to know why their soldiers have been sent into situations not anticipated when the UN's request for forces was accepted.

- **When force is authorized, the Council must implement Articles 43 and 44 of the Charter.** As we have repeatedly pointed out, Article 44 stipulates that TCCs must participate in the Council's decisions, not just be consulted on them.

How are these consultations at various stages to be held ? Private meetings under the 1353 mechanism are welcome but we need to go beyond this. In particular,

- Instead of resorting to ad-hoc measures, a regular body should be created comprising members of the Council and contributors of formed units to a particular mission to interact on various aspects of the conduct of that particular operation.
- The Security Council's Working Group on Peacekeeping Operations should involve TCCs more frequently and intensively in its deliberations, particularly in the very early stages of mission planning.

Mr President,

The issue of meaningful consultations between troop contributors and the Council is not a question to be determined by preserving status or privilege, but by necessity. Troop contributing countries put at risk the lives of their soldiers in the service of the United Nations, in upholding and preserving the cherished ideals of the UN Charter, strikingly more than do many members of the Council, who hold primary responsibility in this regard. But that is not all. This involvement is often related to the whole state of public opinion and in a democratic country like ours, this naturally has a great influence on our Parliament and our Government. The Council must be acutely aware at all times that it is acting on behalf of the membership and not to safeguard its own preferences. We call upon its members to involve troop contributing countries early and fully at all stages of a peacekeeping operation, in an attempt to address one of the most glaring lacuna in the way this organization conducts PKOs.

[BACK TO TABLE OF CONTENTS](#)