

**Statement by Mr. Vinay Kumar, Charge d’Affaires, at the UN Security Council
briefing on UN Peacekeeping Operations, on June 20, 2012**

Thank you, Mr President.

At the outset, I would like to thank USG Herve Ladsous and the Force Commanders of MONUSCO, UNIFIL, UNMISS and MINUSTAH for their statements. We have carefully noted their views, and think that their perspectives, based on experience gained on the ground while implementing this Council’s resolutions, are important and will help the Council in its work.

2. Mr. President, as the nature of threats to international peace and security has changed over decades, so have the challenges facing peacekeeping missions. Three briefers today head missions, which are not deployed to keep peace between States, but within States. They have to keep peace not between two conventional armies, but deal with threats posed by armed groups, where it is not easy to distinguish a combatant from a civilian. They have to neutralize threat not to an easily identifiable boundary, but to state institutions and civilians. Moreover, they are called upon not only to keep peace but also help in building national institutions and carry out functions which normally belong to national governments. And for their effective operations, they need to gain the confidence not only of the host governments but also of communities in which they are deployed.

3. Under these circumstances, the rules of engagement and concepts of operations have to be adjusted to suit the particular circumstances prevailing in the host countries. As they say, no one size will fit all situations. Standardization should aim at optimal performance, not to achieve the sameness of equipment. And the need to maintain objectivity, neutrality, impartiality and fairness assumes even greater importance.

4. In this connection, Mr President, it is important to keep in mind that several UN peacekeeping mandates have included tasks that raise questions on the fundamental tenet of consent. These place peacekeepers in difficult legal circumstances, as the Force Commander of UNMISS mentioned in the context of his area of operation, and thereby hamper effectiveness. The principle of national ownership needs inform all that we undertake through the peacekeeping and peacebuilding activities of the United Nations.

5. Mr President, the peacekeeping missions today are tasked with mandates that have

been compared with [Christmas tree](#). Peacekeepers are asked to achieve what many of us as States have struggled for decades, if not centuries, to implement, even while resource gap continues to be the singular reality that constraints the reach and ambit of peacekeeping operations. We therefore have to keep in mind that provision of resources, in man and in material, commensurate with the mandates is necessary not only for the operational effectiveness of peacekeeping missions but will also have a direct bearing on the credibility of this Council's mandates. The UNMISS Force Commander gave us a concrete example of resource constraints during the Jonglei crisis in December 2011.

6. Peacekeeping missions today are a part of the overall composite efforts wherein the international community has to pool resources of its various institutions and organizations to mount these operations. Statements by the Force Commanders of MONUSCO, UNMISS and MINUSTAH underscore the vastness of their mandates. The success of such missions strength will depend not only on peacekeepers' performance but on the collaborative nature of the venture. Assessments of peacekeeper's performances cannot, therefore, be isolated from the efficacy of overall peace process. Leadership at the headquarters and in the field and coherence of objectives among various stakeholders, and not only the posture and operations of peacekeepers, will determine overall performance and achievement of the tasks mandated to the peacekeeping missions.

7. In this connection, we have noted the idea of composite force formations. Though this appears to be a logical option, the need for contingents functioning as coherent units must also be borne in mind. Our policies in this regard must evolve gradually with reality checks at each step.

8. Mr. President, preserving and supervising peace agreements, restoring basic governance, and seeding the skeletons of institutional framework are peacekeeping's chief accomplishments. The larger peace process must contribute and capitalize upon the stabilization achieved by the military components. Tasks ranging from law and order and the rule of law to national institution building cannot be entrusted to the military components alone. Strategies must be devised with sufficient details, resources, and implementation plans to address each phase of peace process.

9. Mr President, UN peacekeeping is truly a unique enterprise that involves global burden sharing. The partnership between the UN Secretariat, troop and police contributing countries, and the Security Council underpins this exercise. It derives sustenance from our respective abilities to contribute positively to this venture. It requires a great deal of willingness to account and accommodate views and concerns

of each.

10. Protection of civilians to a life of dignity, security, and opportunity is indeed a task that deserves much more than what the international community has committed thus far. Leaving it to the hands of peacekeeper alone remains a half measure at best. Our efforts in this regard must begin from where we faltered rather than to attempt universal thematic constructs.

11. Mr President, as the largest contributor of peacekeepers in the UN's history, we are conscious that much has changed since the first peacekeeping missions were launched more than five decades ago. The challenge before us is to build upon the legacy of peacekeeping and to ensure its relevance to current realities. We must remind ourselves that it is a small cost in front of the noble goals we have set ourselves to achieve. Our capacity to effectively implement the mandates of UN missions will depend on provision of adequate resources, rational mandate generation and sourcing of expertise from countries having experience most relevant for the conditions in which peacekeepers are deployed. This we must keep in mind and act accordingly.

12. Before I conclude, Mr President, I would like to pay homage to those peacekeepers, including from my country, who laid down their lives while serving in UN Missions.

I thank you.

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