

74th United Nations General Assembly

Statement by

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**General Debate
on
Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations**

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Mr. Chairman,

Peacekeeping is, in many ways, the UN's most visible cooperative venture. I, therefore, begin by thanking the President of the General Assembly and the Under Secretaries General for their opening remarks, upholding the multi-stakeholder nature of this cooperative enterprise.

2. We associate with the statement by Morocco, on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement, and would like to supplement it with national perspectives.

3. 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.

4. Over the years, UN peacekeeping has kept pace with the complexity of challenges in a changing global environment, while adhering to its core principles. This Committee has a unique role in assessing these challenges and recommending appropriate measures to update the tools that we use to "keep the peace".

Mr. Chairman,

5. The Action for Peacekeeping (A4P) initiative is our commonly agreed template to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of peacekeeping within the contours of our

shared understandings. India fully supports this. We feel that the areas of the A4P that require effective follow-up and implementation include:

- Inclusion of all stakeholders and all phases of peacekeeping operations in the Performance and Accountability Mechanism.
- Development of a common culture of UN Peacekeeping, without the privileges of caveats.
- Enhancing participation of women by prioritising offers of women peacekeepers.
- Medical mapping of all Missions comprehensively so that existing gaps are attended to.

Mr. Chairman,

6. Let me also highlight our perspective of some priority issues for the forthcoming deliberations in this Committee:

- **First**, institutionalization of an approach, where all key actors are associated in a consistent and predictable manner in the decision-making matrix, is essential. The principles of such engagement are well-established. However, in practice, we have not moved beyond perfunctory efforts. We need to agree on practical measures to institutionalize engagement and cooperation between the TCCs/PCCs, the Security Council and the Secretariat.
- **Second**, there can be no substitute for professional competence of those engaged in all aspects of UN peacekeeping. The performance of peacekeeping operations should be measured in relation to political and operational realities, priorities set for implementing mandate, adequacy and appropriateness of resources. The

phenomenon that exist today of mandates following budgets is not sustainable. Budgets should follow mandates.

- **Third**, instances of reported under-performance requires assessment. Such assessment needs to examine whether there were units available at higher levels in the Peacekeeping Capability Readiness System (PCRS) that were overlooked during selection; whether caveats have impacted performance; whether poor performance is due to lack of resources, including equipment; or whether the mandate, including guidelines, were not clear, resulting in unsatisfactory implementation. Honest assessment and feedback is essential to have an effective accountability system. Assessing performance without determining accountability will leave us open to repeating errors.

- **Fourth**, we seem to be hollowing out established mechanisms for discussion and agreement. For example, there is a visible reluctance to revise the reimbursement parameters, even after following the agreed revision procedures. During the recent discussions at the Contingent Owned Equipment (COE) Working Group, there was no consensus amongst key partners to increase the COE reimbursement rates, while the available National Cost Data estimates clearly suggested an upward revision of the scales. The triennial COE Working Group has met 7 times so far during nearly 20 years. The highest increase agreed so far was in 2001 (7.43%), during the first meeting and the last agreed increase was in 2017, a mere 0.6%. No consensus was reached in January this year, which is a throwback to 2004. It is not a good augury to avoid data based decision making on technical issues such as equipment costs. Let us not forget, appropriate equipment is a must for effective mandate implementation, safety and security of personnel, protection of civilians and overall performance of the Mission.

- **Fifth**, the financial situation of the UN Peacekeeping, particularly the non-payment or delayed payment of arrears to the T/PCCs remains a cause of concern. Some ameliorative measures, introduced last year, did provide a temporary reprieve. However, the dismal practice of delaying payments to T/PCCs seems to be making a

come back. Also, the matter of payments for so called “closed” peacekeeping missions is still festering. Non-payment of peacekeeping dues, for years after the end of peacekeeping missions, ensures that there is no closure to this matter. Using funds of such peacekeeping operations for other requirements, while payments for peacekeeping remain, is not only bad accounting practice, but also tends to be interpreted as bad faith.

Mr. Chairman,

7. Working in partnerships is key to successful peacekeeping. India is committed to working with partners in this Committee on measures that make UN peacekeeping operations more effective, efficient and innovative. I thank you.
