

STATEMENT BY MR. SERGEI RACHKOV,
CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS,
AT THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS

28 FEBRUARY 2006

Mr. Chairman,

Today's meeting is taking place at a very important time when we started the process of reshaping the key activities of United Nations, including peacekeeping operations.

Belarus supports the conclusions made in the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Implementation of the recommendations of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations". Belarus has made the concrete steps aimed at preparing itself for participation in the United Nations peacekeeping operations. The national legislation on involvement of the Belarusian uniformed and civilian personnel in the UN peacekeeping is put into effect. At this moment highly qualified officers from our country are nominated to perform the task of United Nations Military Observers.

We should further enhance the security and safety of the PKO personnel who takes great risks in the field. The environment in which UN military and civilian peacekeepers conduct their operations has been deteriorating in the last years. Today UN peacekeepers have to be regarded as being at much higher risk, and accordingly, much greater caution has to be exercised in their deployment. We need to implement better security arrangements and adjust operational concepts and techniques to prevent attacks on peacekeepers and the taking of UN troops as hostages.

The financial resources, entrusted by Member-states, should be applied in the most cost-effective and efficient manner possible and are held accountable against the highest standards of integrity. Developing and land-locked states as much as top UN fiscal contributors are concerned about substantial evidence of abuse in procurement for peacekeeping operations.

As a member of the Non-Aligned Movement Belarus supports its position that the ultimate results of the investigation on procurement should be formally introduced, in accordance with the GA resolution 59/296, for the consideration by the General Assembly.

In conclusion, Belarus reiterates its strong belief that in ensuring peacekeeping operations to be successful there is a need for sustained political resources and financial commitment. Belarus will continue to support all the dimensions and ideas that have the potential to extend the cause of peace.