



STATEMENT BY MR. MOHAMMAD SALIM, MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT AND MEMBER OF THE INDIAN DELEGATION, ON AGENDA ITEM 34: COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF THE WHOLE QUESTION OF PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS IN ALL THEIR ASPECTS, AT THE FOURTH COMMITTEE OF THE 62<sup>ND</sup> SESSIION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON NOVEMBER 5, 2007

Mr. Chairman,

We welcome the opportunity to participate in discussions under Agenda Item 34: Comprehensive Review of the Whole Question of Peacekeeping Operations in all their aspects. We associate ourselves with the statement made by the distinguished representative of Morocco, on behalf of the Non Aligned Movement.

India attaches considerable importance to this session of the Fourth Committee. We are confident that you will guide it to a positive outcome and assure you of our full cooperation in doing so. We thank Under-Secretary-General Guehenno and OIC Jane Lute for their comprehensive briefing and interactive session with us. We would like to compliment their teams for their dedication and hard work.

Mr Chairman,

We note from the Under-Secretary General's statement that there are 140,000 men and women in the field from 119 member states in 18 peacekeeping operations. These numbers are set to increase further with two new operations coming up in the near future. This unprecedented surge has given rise to enormous challenges in peacekeeping - not only because new missions are being established or old ones expanded, but also due to the volatile and insecure environments in which UN forces have to function, the growing complexity of the difficult tasks assigned to them, and the tools that they are provided with.

We had welcomed the efforts by the Secretary-General to respond to peacekeeping challenges by strengthening and rationalizing structures in the UN via building military planning, management, and operational capacities. The realignment of DPKO by creating two Departments - Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) and Department of Field Support (DFS) – has been undertaken. However, there is an urgent need to establish clear command structures, coherence in policy and strategy, effective coordination and integration, as well as ensure preservation of unity of command from Headquarters to the field. We look forward to the mid-

term review in 2008 and hope that appropriate corrections would be made from lessons learnt in order to make UN peacekeeping well integrated, effective and professional.

The safety and security of UN peacekeepers is of vital concern to troop contributors who place their soldiers at risk in pursuance of the UN ideal. The 67 deaths of peacekeepers in 2007, including that of an Indian peacekeeper, Corporal Mohan Singh Gurung, while doing his duty with the UN Mission in Sudan, is a reminder of the importance of fully addressing safety and security concerns.

In this context, the UN must enhance its capacity for information gathering and assessment and sharing it with field units along with concrete recommendations for preventive action. Reliable operational and tactical intelligence is essential for the successful conduct of military operations and in order to pre-empt potential threats to the security and safety of personnel. The bureaucracy at Headquarters must actively and continuously engage field missions and positively respond to resolving their problems. We look forward to examining the United Nations Security Management System Draft Policy being prepared by DPKO and DSS.

Mr Chairman, we would encourage the Secretary-General to address the issue of consolidation of peacekeeping accounts while undertaking administrative reorganization and streamlining. This would provide an opportunity to tackle the issue of selective financing of peacekeeping missions that is sometimes resorted to. Member States should be entitled to cash surpluses from missions only if they do not have dues to other peacekeeping missions. This will also help address the concern of developing countries that contribute the overwhelming majority of peacekeeping troops, yet continue to be owed considerable sums of money.

India has supported energising the mechanism of triangular consultations between Troop Contributing Countries, the Security Council and the UN Secretariat. Private Meetings under the Resolution 1353 format continue to be held on the eve of renewal of Mission mandates, leaving little scope for serious or meaningful discussions. It is important that TCCs be involved early and fully in all aspects and stages of mission planning and that their views find their way into mission mandates.

Mr Chairman,

We appreciate the effort being made by the DPKO in developing a draft Doctrine which would serve as a practical guide for peacekeeping. In our view the document should focus on planning, deployment, operational and logistical issues. We associate ourselves with the views expressed by NAM and would emphasize that DPKO should take into account the views of member states before publication of the Doctrine. We look forward to continuing our constructive engagement in this process.

Mr. Chairman,

India supports the efforts to enhance peacekeeping capacity in African countries. We share close and historic ties with Africa and are one of the oldest, largest and most consistent contributor to UN Peacekeeping missions in Africa, having participated in almost every major operation since the inception of peacekeeping. We are currently involved in bilateral capacity building in many

African countries. At the same time, the UN cannot absolve itself of "its responsibility under the Charter for the maintenance of international peace and security". The real challenge before the UN is to strengthen peacekeeping without regionalising it.

As regards conduct and discipline of troops, we are convinced that sexual exploitation and abuse are totally unacceptable forms of behaviour. We fully support the implementation of a policy of zero tolerance and encourage raising the awareness of those with managerial and command responsibilities and the establishing of standards of conduct, training and investigation. Careful preparatory training in terms of a multi-cultural, pluralistic and tolerant outlook is as important as subsequent swift punitive action, once culpability is established. We welcome the General Assembly approved resolution on draft MOU and look forward to its implementation by DPKO at the earliest.

We also note the creation of a Division of Policy, Evaluation and Training establishment of an Integrated Training Service (ITS) and would encourage it to utilise and benefit from the considerable field expertise of the Troop Contributing Countries.

As regards Security Sector Reform, we must have in place a coherent framework to clarify the various dimensions of the concept. This should take place in relevant UN inter-governmental bodies. We would also encourage DPKO to ensure that the Enhanced Rapidly Deployable Capacities (ERDC) Policy is finalized in an inclusive process so as to ensure that the views of member states are adequately reflected.

The role of Civilian Police in peacekeeping has grown substantially. We have noted the establishment of Standing Police Capacity and look forward to engaging in constructive discussions with the new Police Adviser regarding the utilization of the Capacity and its future requirements. We would also like to emphasise the need for adequate transparency in ensuring representation of qualified candidates from Troop Contributing Countries in senior leadership positions in the Police Division.

Mr Chairman, India stands solidly committed to assist the UN in the maintenance of international peace and security. We have a proud history of UN peacekeeping dating back to its inception in the 1950s. We have contributed nearly 100,000 troops, and participated in more than 40 missions. India has also provided and continues to provide eminent Force Commanders for UN Missions. We salute the 115 Indian peacekeepers, as well as those from other countries, who have made the supreme sacrifice by laying down their lives while serving in UN Missions.

India has also traditionally been contributing lady military and police officers to a number of UN Missions. In response to the Secretary-General's call for increased representation of female personnel in field missions, we were particularly honoured to have provided the first full Female Formed Police Unit for peacekeeping work. This unit is completing its first year in assisting the UN Mission in Liberia and has been successful in reaching out to the most vulnerable sections of society, i.e. women and children, in a post-conflict environment, besides performing its normal duties.

In conclusion, Mr Chairman, we are fully committed to the purposes and principles of the UN and look forward to making UN peacekeeping an ever more effective and efficient tool in the maintenance of international peace and security.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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