



Malaysia

Permanent Mission to the United Nations

STATEMENT

BY

**COLONEL MOHAMAD PERANG HJ MUSA
REPRESENTATIVE OF MALAYSIA**

**AT THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON
PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS**

ON TUESDAY, 1 FEBRUARY 2005

[Please check against delivery]

Mr. Chairman,

At the outset my delegation would like to take this opportunity to express our happiness at seeing Nigeria continuing with the Chairmanship of this important Committee and our pleasure at seeing you in the chair. My delegation also seizes this opportunity to congratulate the other members of the bureau. We are confident that under your able leadership and guidance, the Committee will be able to carry out and complete its work successfully. My delegation will continue to extend its full support and cooperation to you and to all other delegations to ensure that the work of this Committee will be brought to a successful conclusion.

Mr. Chairman,

2. My delegation also wishes to express its thanks and appreciation to the Under Secretary General, Mr. Jean-Marie Guehenno for his comprehensive report of the Implementation of the Recommendations of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations as contained in document A/59/608 and his comprehensive statement delivered yesterday. We would also like to commend the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) for its tireless efforts and dedication towards improving the capacity of the UN Peacekeeping operations in all its aspects.

Mr. Chairman,

3. My delegation fully aligns its position with the statement made by the distinguished representative of Morocco, yesterday, outlining the general position of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) on this issue. My delegation would like to make a few remarks of its own in recognition of the central role of the UN in the maintenance of international peace and security and the use of peacekeeping operations as an important tool in that regard.

4. Malaysia recognizes the continued relevance of UN peacekeeping operations as an indispensable instrument for the maintenance of peace and security, both in the context of interstate and intra-state conflicts. Since its first participation in ONUC in the early 1960s, Malaysia has subsequently participated in 17 peacekeeping missions under the purview of the United Nations as well as UN-sanctioned multi-national forces operations. Although the numbers of Malaysians participating in UN peacekeeping missions have been reduced, Malaysia's commitment has not diminished. With the increasing demand for expertise in civilian police deployment, Malaysia has

made some contributions to this component. In August 2003, the Royal Malaysian Police deployed a self-sustained unit consisting of 125 personnel to serve in UNMISSET to form the International Police Unit in support of the Timor-Leste National Police. Currently, the Royal Malaysian Police continues to deploy 29 police officers to serve in four UN peacekeeping missions, namely UNMIK, UNAMSIL, UNMISSET and UNAMIS. The Government of Malaysia is constantly reviewing its position with a view to being further involved in UN peacekeeping missions.

Mr. Chairman,

5. The current surge in UN peacekeeping is approaching what may become their highest levels ever. This could prove to be critical in terms of both funding and manpower. Such a situation may improve the prospects for conflict resolution. But it is also stretching thin the capacities of the UN system. Apart from troops, enabling units such as force Headquarters Company, construction Engineer Company, military police units and field hospitals remain to be the components that make up the 'critical gap' in the surge. In this regard, my delegation calls upon member states to actively participate and contribute peacekeeping troops, staff officers or military observers for this anticipated surge. It is a fact that the main troop contributors are the developing countries. It is important that the developed countries with well-equipped military forces should actively participate in contributing to the strategic, enabling and niche capabilities of UN peacekeeping operations. Building up the force capacity for the UN peacekeeping operations must be a collective responsibility of all Member States.

6. Malaysia supports the involvement and contribution of regional organizations or arrangements in peacekeeping, where appropriate and feasible, in accordance with Chapter VIII of the United Nations Charter. However such regional arrangements should not in any way diminishes or absolves the role and responsibility of the United Nations. The operational linkages with regional and sub-regional organizations or arrangements must be carefully coordinated and managed. We believe that the United Nations can provide all the necessary support through its larger membership, including advisory, logistic and financial support towards enhancing the capacities of regional organizations or arrangements in peace-making, peacekeeping and peace-building activities. However, it is imperative to ensure that missions undertaken on a regional basis are governed by the basic principles of peacekeeping, in full conformity with the UN Charter.

Mr. Chairman,

7. Peacekeeping operations today have become more complex. They have expanded from the traditional role of peacekeeping to include law and order, civilian policing, human rights monitoring and electoral support. In this regard it is important that peacekeeping missions be provided with clearly defined mandates, objectives, and structures as well as secure financing. It is equally important to stress the need to ensure congruity between mandates, resources and objectives in the formulation and implementation of mandates. Some basic elements of peace-building operations must be incorporated at the early stage of the mission-planning phase. The inclusion of peace-building elements during the early stage must be explicitly defined and clearly identified before they are incorporated into the mandates of peacekeeping operations. To further ensure the effective implementation of UN peacekeeping operations, the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations must be strengthened and adequately staffed taking into account the equitable military staff representation within the Department.

Mr. Chairman,

8. Equally important is the need to concretize and implement the concept of Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR), which is crucial to the success of United Nations peacekeeping missions. The reintegration phase certainly requires detailed and proper planning in terms of security and socio-economic programs with a clearly defined end state. While the time required to disarm and demobilize ex-combatants may vary from three months to one year, the process of reintegration is more complex and should be based on long-term objectives. The financial contribution of the international community is important to finance socio-economic projects as well as to the appropriate establish government machinery to oversee the implementation of the project. In this regard, consultation and coordination between the Department of Peacekeeping Operations with other relevant departments in the Secretariat would be very important to ensure the success of DDR programmes.

9. The security and safety of United Nations staff and associated personnel must be given the utmost priority. Peacekeepers are practically serving in the interest of the international community at large. Therefore, the security and safety should be our collective concern. It is heartening to note that significant advances have been attained in the Secretariat in strengthening the cooperation between the new Department of Safety and Security and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations in the framework of the unified security management system. Nevertheless, the United

Nations must ensure that this capacity is better developed to manage and prevent threats both in the headquarters and in the field. The Joint Mission Analysis Cell needs to be fully functioning to reinforce the information gathering capacity of the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations.

Mr. Chairman.

10. My delegation supports the strengthening of the Peacekeeping Best Practices Unit to enable it to play a more active role in the development of generic guidelines, procedures and best practices for current and future use in peacekeeping operations. In undertaking this initiative, it is important for the Unit to consult with the Troop Contributing Countries (TCCs) that have participated in the various UN peacekeeping missions in order to acquire their valuable experiences. Regular meetings should be convened by the Secretariat with the participation of the former force commanders, national contingent commanders, including battalion commanders, in the effort to develop a good validation mechanism for lessons learned and good practices.

Mr. Chairman,

11. Malaysia fully acknowledges that the scope and dimension of peacekeeping operations have now become more challenging. They require the deployment of peacekeepers that are well trained and capable in handling delicate situations. In this regard, the development of the Standardized Generic Training Modules (SGTM) for the training of potential peacekeepers and peacekeeping training-related information-sharing capability with the national peacekeeping centers by the DPKO is a step in right direction. This is most commendable. My delegation also welcomes the Secretariat's timely decision to provide support to the various national peacekeeping training centers. This support undoubtedly will ensure that the standard and quality of training be maintained and monitored. Malaysia welcomes the participation of member states in the peacekeeping training programs conducted at the Malaysian Peacekeeping Training Centre. We sincerely appreciate the cooperation that has been extended to the centre by UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations.

11. In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, my delegation reiterates its strong belief that for peacekeeping operations to be successful there is a need for sustained political and financial commitment in all its aspects. In this context, Malaysia will continue to uphold its commitment towards the attainment of global peace through the United Nations mechanism. Indeed,

global peace and stability will enable countries to focus their resources in the pursuit of economic development for the well being of their peoples.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.