



Malaysia

Permanent Mission to the United Nations

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STATEMENT BY
H.E. AMBASSADOR HUSSEIN HANIFF,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF MALAYSIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS
ON THE “USE OF MODERN TECHNOLOGY IN UN PEACEKEEPING”
AT THE SECURITY COUNCIL’S WORKING GROUP
NEW YORK, 19 JULY 2013

Mr Chairman,

Malaysia supports the central role of the United Nations in the maintenance of international peace and security as well as the promotion of a more equitable international political and economic order. Malaysia is of the view that the UN peacekeeping operations have proven to be a very effective tool in the maintenance of peace and security.

2. The introduction of modern technologies into the military which is also known as the “revolution of military affairs” evolved since the end of cold war. The current and future battle space requires Commanders to operate more efficiently and at a higher operations tempo. Likewise in Peacekeeping Operations, peacekeeping is no longer about the blue berets sitting between the warring parties, but rather a much more complex and multidimensional challenges. The UN mandates has expanded to a new and vast set of challenging tasks that involves humanitarian aid distribution, disarmament and demobilization of former combatants, security sector reform, organizing election, monitoring sanctions and protection of civilians.

3. The emergence of new technologies have led to the introduction of products and systems that can bring great benefit to peacekeeping operations. The use of modern technology such as Drone can increase the situational awareness of the peacekeepers. This will enhance their safety and security. Drone can be utilized in gathering intelligence by bolstering its operations in helping to identify armed groups and tracking their movements. Drone gives a value added to peacekeepers and enabling them to stay one step ahead of the enemy.

4. The UN should also look into other technologies that can enhance the operational effectiveness of the troops. No doubt there are many high-tech gadgets available in the market, priorities should be given to the technologies that are related to monitoring and observation such as **Ground Surveillance Radar (GSR)** and the **Night Vision Goggles (NVG)**. Most of the nefarious actors in war-torn countries use the cover of darkness to conduct their illegal activities at night. By having more GSR and NVG,

peacekeepers could conduct operations around the clock and overcome the “night barrier”.

5. While the use of modern technology can increase the security of peacekeepers in the mission areas, DPKO should also look on the financial aspects that will have implication to the UN and the TCCs. Not all TCCs have been equipping their troops with the modern technology gadgets. Procuring new technologies from the private companies could be a “double edge weapon” and may cause of breaking the information to the third parties. Therefore, there is a need to study how best to handle the issue of information security and data protection in the most effective way. DPKO need a body to verify that the information gathering will only be shared among the UN’s families for security reasons. In as far as Drone is concern; we need to look at the report and feedback from MONUSCO as it is still on a trial basis. The result then should be shared amongst the TCCs for future actions.

Mr. Chairman,

6. As a member-state that supports the peacekeeping work of the UN, Malaysia reaffirms its commitment to continuously support various UN efforts and measures to strengthen and improve the safety and security of all UN personnel especially in the use of modern technology in UN peacekeeping. These systems are excellent force multipliers that help to enhance the effectiveness of peacekeeping operations in the context of limited resources. We must ensure that the application of modern technologies in the UN peacekeeping is in compliance with the UN Charter and fundamental principles of peacekeeping.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.