

Unofficial translation

S T A T E M E N T

by Deputy Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation K.K.Dolgov at the General Assembly Committee on Special Political and Decolonization Issues on Agenda Item 32: Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects

October 25, 2005

Mr. Chairman,

The Russian delegation is grateful to the Under-Secretary-General J.-M.Guehenno for the detailed briefing on the peacekeeping activities of the United Nations and complex issues and tasks it is facing in conducting peacekeeping operations. His assessments and proposals deserve a most careful study.

This fully applies to the idea to develop a peacekeeping doctrine that integrates the theory and practice of current peacekeeping activities of the UN. We believe that such an integration is long-overdue taking into account not only the increase in the number of UN operations in the recent years but also the rising of their qualitative complexity as well. This is not an easy task, and it can be solved only by collective efforts of Member-States. We agree that the most appropriate framework for such work, as well as efforts to define the peacekeeping terminology is the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations. We are ready to participate in the forthcoming discussion on this issue in the Special Committee, and will await additional ideas from the Secretariat.

Naturally the improvement of conceptual basis of the UN peacekeeping must be very closely associated with increased efficiency of operations conducted under the auspices and through the United Nations.

In the 2005 World Summit Outcome Document the world leaders stated their commitment to the maintenance of international security on the basis of a comprehensive collective approach in strict compliance with the UN Charter. An important element of increasing efficiency of this global Organization as a central multilateral institution is the strengthening of its capacity to conduct peacekeeping

operations including in their modern complex form that are a flexible and effective instrument to address wide range of crisis response tasks.

No less important is also the reiteration by the Summit of the need to strictly comply with basic principles and criteria of international peacekeeping activities at all stages of prevention and settlement of conflicts and post-conflict peace-building. Above all it is a question of absolute and strict recognition of the primary responsibility of the UN Security Council for the maintenance of international peace and security.

Each crisis situation is unique in its own way and requires appropriate set of settlement tools, be it either a UN PKO, or a coalition operation, or a regional organization mission. We proceed from the need to strengthen by our joint efforts the legal framework of peacekeeping in accordance with the UN Charter and decisions of the Security Council and the World Summit that would serve as a real alternative to unilateral approaches to the settlement of crisis situations in the world.

The UN peacekeeping experience in Africa, especially in Liberia, Sierra-Leone and Sudan, as well as in Haiti and other conflict areas clearly demonstrates the intrinsic link between the tasks of making and maintaining peace and the comprehensive social and economic rehabilitation of conflict-stricken countries. In this context, it is of crucial importance to establish a Peacebuilding Commission within the time frame envisaged by the world leaders. This new body is called upon to serve as a focal point of peacebuilding efforts and provide assistance to the Security Council and when necessary to other UN bodies in the efforts aimed at an early rehabilitation of countries emerging from crisis and creating guarantees of non-recurrence of conflicts.

The world leaders also expressed their firm intention during the September Summit in New York to ensure that the regional organizations which have a potential in the field of preventing armed conflicts or in peacekeeping consider the possibility to make such capacities a part of UN Stand-by Arrangements System. We are convinced that as a follow-up to the Summit decisions the regional partners and this global Organization must continue moving towards each other. On the one hand we expect that the regional and sub-regional organizations will be more actively promoting themselves

in terms of providing their resources and comparative advantages. On the other hand the UN and its Security Council should continue to pay unwavering attention to closer coordination and cooperation with these organizations with a reasonable division of labor and maintaining the prerogatives of this world Organization and its Security Council, especially, when the peacekeeping operations include elements of peace enforcement. In this context we emphasize the decision of the Summit in favour of formalization of agreements between relevant secretariats of the UN and of the regional partners. The more complex nature of problems generated by modern conflicts, quite often with dangerous regional dimension and social and economic impact requires an unfaltering attention to the task of improving the integrated planning and enhancing the rapid deployment of multifunctional PKOs, stronger coordination among various mission components, and increased interaction in their areas of responsibility with other international presences. In this context it is necessary to single out the need for enhanced military expertise, early at the stage of discussion of a draft resolution in the Security Council, and during the planning and conducting of peacekeeping operations. We consider as one of potential mechanisms for addressing this task the full engagement of Military Staff Committee capabilities. We are prepared to discuss various options to employ the potential of this body, including stronger coordination of the Security Council with the contingent suppliers.

In the context of UN efforts to ensure the Rule of Law as a basis for an integrated settlement of conflict situations the UN civilian police becomes even more important. We welcome the decision of the Summit in favour of creating the initial operational capacity for a civilian police component in the Secretariat with a view to ensuring a coordinated effective and operational capacity at an early stage of UN PKO police contingent deployment, and, rendering assistance to current missions by the provision of consultative and expert service.

We call for further improvement of an effective mechanism of interaction among the SC members, the Troop-Contributing Countries and the UN Secretariat as envisaged by 2005 Summit. We fully share the view on the need for most efficient use of timely

Security Council consultations in accordance with SC Resolution 1353, and in the framework of a Special Mechanism of the SC Working Group on the basis of the Note by the President of the Security Council dated 14 January 2002. We take note of the fact that quite recently the mechanism of such consultations has been promptly engaged by the Council upon the request of one of the Troop-Contributing Countries.

Unfortunately, the agenda of the aforementioned consultations with respect to emergency situation around the UN mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea had reflected an urgent challenge to the UN peacekeeping. It is inadmissible to allow the UN peacekeeping personnel to become hostages of the behavior of the parties to the conflict. It is important that all these parties receive a clear signal on inadmissibility of acts – under any pretext whatsoever – against UN or its missions. Otherwise the prospect of peaceful settlement of conflicts will only become more distant. In fact the UN peacekeepers risk their life exactly because they try to create favorable conditions for political unblocking of crises or conflicts.

Russia fully recognizes its responsibility in the framework of peacekeeping efforts of the international community. We intend not only to increase our direct contribution to the UN peacekeeping but also to promote the peacekeeping capacity of other countries including training of their peacekeeping personnel. In particular, the topic of peacekeeping assistance to African nations has been included in the agenda of the Russian Presidency in the G-8 for 2006. We have scheduled in Moscow two meetings of government experts to work out specific parameters of such an interaction.

Besides, Russia is preparing curricular of annual training for groups of African cadets at the training facilities at the Russian Ministry of Interior Police Peacekeeping Training Center and the Ministry of Defence Training Center. We are looking forward to productive cooperation in this area with the UN and countries concerned.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.