

THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA

SIXTY-FOURTH SESSION
FOURTH COMMITTEE
AGENDA ITEM 33:
COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF THE WHOLE QUESTION OF
PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS IN ALL THEIR ASPECTS

Check against delivery

STATEMENT

by

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Representative of the Republic of Serbia to the Fourth Committee

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Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, I would like to thank Under-Secretaries-General Mr. Le Roy and Ms. Malcorra for their comprehensive briefings. Serbia had aligned itself with the statement made earlier by Sweden on behalf of the European Union.

Mr. Chairman,

The segment of peacekeeping operations is one of the most important aspects of the capacity of the United Nations to safeguard international peace and security.

The peacekeeping operations mandate is much more diversified today than it was in the past and includes conflict prevention and maintenance of peace, as well as post-conflict reconstruction and a long-term social development. We therefore need a comprehensive approach, with the establishment of a solid basis and legal criteria to make peacekeeping operations more efficient and effective. We also need to establish more firmly a principle of analysis and review of each individual peacekeeping operation, together with strengthening cooperation and coordination of the Security Council and other United Nations bodies in the areas of joint responsibility. It is also necessary to prepare an integrated strategy of planning and carrying out peacekeeping missions.

Serbia attaches great importance to the United Nations engagement in promoting and maintaining international peace and security and is committed to participating in the system of collective security. Today, Serbia takes part in 5 peacekeeping operations: UNMIL, UNOCI, MONUC, MINUSTAH and MINURCAT.

Mr. Chairman,

As we are witness to the emergence of an ever greater number of crises and armed conflicts in the world today, an active participation of United Nations Member States in peacekeeping operations is of particular importance. Respect for law is crucial for maintaining peace and security and preventing resurgence of conflicts. In order to have a successful peacekeeping operation, we need to define its mandate in clear terms, taking always into account the specific situation in which the operation is going to take place, as well as the involvement of external factors. This is particularly true of the deployment of rapid reaction forces where we need to define very clearly the role of the Troop Contributing Countries as well.

Lately, the United Nations has been increasingly involved in coordinating activities among different peacekeeping missions. In addition, regional organizations tend to be assigned an ever greater role in peacekeeping operations in various parts of the world. However, their inclusion in maintaining regional peace and security cannot be a substitute for the key role of the United Nations in the implementation of a peacekeeping operation. Regional organizations' mandate must be strictly in accordance with the provisions of Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter and fully under the aegis of the Security Council.

Though the success of a peacekeeping operation largely depends on the cooperation of the United Nations with TCC's, we must not disregard United Nations cooperation with Troop-receiving Countries especially on the issues such as terrorism, human and drug trafficking etc. Also, peacekeeping missions must not get involved in causes of the conflicts and must be carried out with strict respect for the principle of territorial integrity and political independence.

In conclusion, let me reiterate the importance of the DPKO and the DFS contributions in defining present and future challenges of the UN peacekeeping operations, as well as finding the ways of dealing with them. They give us a solid basis for enhancing our discussions in an open and constructive manner.

Thank you.