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PRESS RELEASE

Ambassador Martirosyan speaks at the UN Security Council open debate on “United Nations Peacekeeping Operations”

On May 17, 2004, Amb. Armen Martirosyan, Permanent Representative of Armenia to the UN, made a speech at the UN Security Council open debate under Pakistani Presidency on the “United Nations Peacekeeping Operations.” In his speech he noted the recent progress made by Armenia in the field of peacekeeping. Additionally, he touched upon several important issues that could be considered as necessary precursors for effective intervention by the United Nations in different parts of the world.

Please find below the text of the speech in full.

May 17, 2004

SECURITY COUNCIL

4970th Meeting

United Nations Peacekeeping Operations

Statement by H.E. Mr. Armen MARTIROSYAN, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Armenia to the United Nations

Mr. President,

Since this is the first time that my delegation takes the floor this month, allow me to begin by extending my congratulations to you on your assumption of the Presidency of the Security Council and assure you of my delegation’s full support for the Council work.

Mr. President,

The open debate on the UN peacekeeping operations is of paramount importance as the organization is currently planning for at least four new peacekeeping missions and is contemplating a possible expansion of its activities in Iraq. This debate is held at a time when questions are asked about the efficacy of the current peacekeeping operations in Africa, Asia and

Europe and the means and ways to improve them. It is conducted when the Organization is making its first steps to address security and developmental challenges in conflict areas through integrated peacebuilding approaches.

It is indubitable that peacekeeping operations have made great headways during the last decade developing from classical peacekeeping operations into extremely complex ones encompassing conflict management, confidence-building and post-conflict peace-building. Sometimes, inadvertently, it has found itself carrying out peacemaking functions in rather complicated situations raising doubts about the legitimacy and successfulness of its actions under such circumstances. Despite the fact, that all those issues have been duly analyzed by the High-level panel headed by Mr. Lakhdar Brahimi and subsequently reflected in its report presented to the General Assembly in March 2000, we still ponder over the same issues when the question of a new peacekeeping operation comes up.

Mr. President,

Armenia is making its first small steps in this field. In 2003, Armenia made a decision to participate in NATO-led peacekeeping operation in Kosovo (KFOR). Since February 2004, a platoon of thirty-four peacekeepers from Armenian Armed Forces is operating as part of the Greek forces of the U.S.-led multinational brigade in KFOR.

In 2003 Armenia hosted NATO “Partnership for Peace” (PfP) Exercises “Cooperative Best effort – 2003”, the main goal of which was the planning of interaction between PfP nations during the peacekeeping operations.

As we are becoming part of the international community that strives to bring peace in different parts of the world, we want to make sure that the efforts are well spent and rewarded by creation of self-sustainable peace in those areas.

In this respect, my delegation would like to raise several issues that it believes could be considered as necessary precursors for effective intervention.

1. The issue of the *regionalization of conflict or regional dimension of conflict* has to be taken into account when planning for peacekeeping operations. Transborder armed groups, illegal trafficking and trade, transborder social networks are issues that should not be overlooked when considering the establishment of security environment, humanitarian assistance, disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR). Such an approach, despite its extreme complexity, may prove to be more effective if duly considered in all its aspects for its impact in such operations as the one that is currently being discussed for the Sudan.

2. UN peacekeeping operations for the last decade have evolved into multifaceted and multidimensional ones. Yet, probably, the time has come to contemplate the idea of the establishment of *multiphased* operations as well where a gradual development from peacekeeping to peacebuilding is planned in advance as part of one operation. Apart from providing an opportunity for better planning for the transition from military phase to developmental phase in the peacekeeping operation, it would also send the right message to the war-torn communities about the sound commitment of the international community to help to reconstruct the social fabric of the country in such a manner that it would be able to sustain the hard-achieved peace and advance on the path to democracy and rule-of-law on its own. The identification of the *“end state”* that the peacekeeping operation aims to achieve might set the right agenda for the programs and projects to be implemented on the ground.

In this respect we cannot overstress the need for tangible results to keep the hope from dwindling and to prevent the resumption of conflict. *“Quick impact projects”* could be one way of making real difference in the lives of people, and consequently in their minds.

3. We do realize that this kind of planning would require proper *analysis* of the situation on the ground and the roots and causes of the conflict. Yet we believe that it should be a priority in the consideration of peacekeeping operation in the first place. As the past experience shows, no

operation is successful if it does not address the deep-rooted grievances, the causes of the conflict and does not take into account its dynamics.

Mr. President,

Holistic understanding of the range of security and developmental challenges in conflict areas and developing programmes based on those realities, and sometimes worst-case scenarios, and not the theoretical models of best assumption might help to address the need for urgent improvement of the ways the United Nations deals with conflict situations. Keeping the pledges made, be those political or financial, would help to transform the United Nations into an organization that is capable of successfully fulfilling its founding mandate: “to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war”.

Thank you Mr. President.

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