



PERMANENT MISSION OF
JAMAICA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

STATEMENT

BY

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TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

TO THE

**SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS
UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

ON

PEACEKEEPING

NEW YORK, FEBRUARY 12, 2002

FINAL TEXT

Mr. Chairman,

From the outset, I congratulate you and the members of the Bureau upon your re-election. My delegation looks forward to a very productive session this year. I also thank Under Secretary General Guehenno for his comprehensive presentation on the Report of the Secretary General (A/56/723).

The Jamaican delegation associates itself with the statement made by the Permanent Representative of Jordan on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

Mr. Chairman,

Over the past decade, the incidence of armed conflict globally has shown a steady increase, making it imperative for aggressive efforts at international peacekeeping. The Journal of Peace Research asserts that during the period 1989- 2000, there were 111 armed conflicts in 74 different locations. Of the 111 armed conflicts during the period, only seven were inter-state, with one comprehensive Peace Agreement signed in 2000; the Algiers Agreement of December 12, settling the conflict between Ethiopia/ Eritrea.¹

The statistics are indeed dismaying, as according to some estimates, up to 35 million people, over 90 per cent of them civilians, have been killed in 170 wars since the end of World War II. It is in this context that the United Nations must be more proactive in its resolve to address the maintenance of

¹ Wallensteen, Peter and Margaret Sollenberg, " Armed Conflict, 1989 to 2000" Journal of PeaceResearch, Vol. 38, No 5, 2001, pp629-644

international peace and security if it is to demonstrate its effectiveness as a credible, impartial body committed to world peace.

Mr. Chairman,

The Report of the Panel on Peace Operations (The Brahimi Report) has provided a blue print for the United Nations for more effective management of Peacekeeping Operations. It is heartening to note that since the adoption of the Brahimi Report, active steps have been taken to ensure its implementation by the Secretariat, the Security Council and Troop Contributing Countries. The ensuing Implementation Reports and Reviews of the Secretary General as well as the Comprehensive Review of Peace Keeping Operations last year, all attest to the commitment by Member States and the Secretariat to achieve tangible and concrete measures aimed at making peacekeeping work more effectively to meet to current demands. Jamaica is pleased to have been associated with the efforts to implement the provisions of the Brahimi Report over the past two years while serving as an elected member of the Security Council; and remain committed to ensuring that the linkages between the Security Council and the Special Committee on Peacekeeping in terms of the management of peacekeeping operations are maintained.

The year 2001, can be viewed as a critical year for Peacekeeping. The present Report (A/56/732) notes that the United Nations, in particular the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, has faced the challenge of providing guidance and support to fifteen active peacekeeping operations with a total of 35,000 military troops and civilian police staff, while at the same time conceptualizing and implementing its internal reform process.

● The interactive debate in the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations (C34) on the Implementation Report of the Brahimi recommendations and the Comprehensive review have provided added impetus to the work of the DPKO and there have been noticeable improvements in the work of the Department in the areas of internal management, recruitment processes and Mission support. While we are aware that the situation is far from perfect, the Jamaican delegation wishes to place on record its appreciation to the Secretariat for the efforts to enhance the capacity for UN peacekeeping through the strategic goals set for the DPKO for peacekeeping reform, and the efforts made to improve the staffing situation in the Department.

While we support the thrust towards augmenting peacekeeping activities, it is equally important that the international community devote adequate attention and resources to conflict prevention and peace-building measures as these will in the long run serve to eliminate the very causes of conflict. Root causes such as poor governance, socio-economic degradation and under-development must be sufficiently addressed if we are serious about stemming the cycle of violence which are contributors to and perpetuate conflict.

Mr. Chairman,

I now turn to some specific aspects of the Committee's work which are of importance to my delegation.

TCC/ Security Council/ Secretariat Cooperation

Over the past years, the C34 has emphasized the importance of the triangular relationship among Troop Contributing Countries, the Secretariat and the Security Council in the effective management of Peacekeeping Operations. As was aptly underscored in the Brahimi Report the considerable strain in this relationship was largely due to the lack of an effective mechanism for consultation among the three entities. The Security Council by its Resolution 1327 in November 2000, demonstrated a willingness to implement the Brahimi recommendations, and made a commitment to implement those recommendations within the purview of the Security Council. Subsequently, the Security Council established the Security Council Working Group on Peacekeeping Operations and through a system of consultations it developed a singular response aimed at improving the relationship between the TCC, Security Council and the Secretariat. This led to the adoption of SC 1353.

As was noted by the major troop contributors, 1353 though a step in the right direction, did not adequately address their concerns for a mechanism. The Security Council therefore, recognising the desirability of forging a more effective partnership with the TCC's agreed in principle last month, to establish a new mechanism for cooperation which will entail the convening of joint meetings between the Security Council Working Group on Peacekeeping Operations and the TCC as an additional mechanism for strengthening cooperation with TCC's on specific PKO's. Jamaica welcomes this decision as it represents a tremendous break through in enhancing cooperation between the Troop Contributing Countries, the Security Council

and the Secretariat, and augurs well for more effective management of PKO's.

We are sure that the C34 will be kept informed of the efficacies of the new mechanism.

RAPID DEPLOYMENT

The establishment of a rapid deployment capability of the United Nations remains a key goal of the organisation. As USG Guehenno aptly stated in his address yesterday, the 30/90 day deployment is an ambitious goal. We agree that partnership between the Secretariat and Member States is key if the UN is to achieve the level of readiness required.

Jamaica fully supports the Secretary General's proposal for the concept of a strategic reserve and look forward to it becoming fully operational. We appreciate the Secretariat's efforts to engage in a consultative process with delegations on the issue and in particular welcome the informal consultations held by ASG Michael Sheehan in October last year on Rapid Deployment and strategic deployment stocks.

DISARMAMENT DEMOBILISATION AND REINTEFRATION OF EX-COMBATANTS (DDR)

The Disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of ex-combatants remains a critical aspect of complex peace-keeping operations. Jamaica has consistently advocated that DDR should be a pivotal part of a peace-keeping mandate with adequate resources disbursed through the UN Regular Budget.

As past experience has shown, the reliance on voluntary contributions for DDR often times are unreliable sources of funding, which can inevitable lead to the failure of DDR programmes. It is in this context that my delegation is pleased to support the efforts by the Secretariat as outlined in Paragraph 74 of the SG's Report to include comprehensive DDR Programmes in the planning for future peace operations as appropriate.

TRAINING

Jamaica fully supports the efforts of the DPKO to focus on training through national and regional peacekeeping training centers and the intention to create a peacekeeping training network between the DPKO and the peacekeeping training centers.

GENDER AND PEACEKEEPING

Jamaica continues to stress the need to mainstream a gender perspective into Peacekeeping Operations and commend the efforts of the DPKO in developing a training curriculum on gender awareness and sensitivity for military and civilian police and tested in the various Missions. We are particularly heartened at the positive initiatives and strides made by the staff of UNTAET and UNMIK over the past year in raising awareness among staff about the critical link between gender equality and sustainable development, and building capacity to take concrete actions towards the goal of equality. It is hoped that such successes will be replicated in other peacekeeping Missions and that adequate backstopping be provided for these programmes in Headquarters.

We reiterate the request also for the appointment of gender experts in the DPKO at sufficiently senior levels and that adequate resources be allocated to this end.

Finally Mr. Chairman,

Jamaica congratulates the DPKO on its tenth year of operation. We pay tribute to the members of staff at Headquarters and in the field who have gone beyond the call of duty in implementing the arduous task of peacekeeping. Moreso we pay tribute to the many peacekeepers who have paid the ultimate price in the line of duty.