



**PERMANENT MISSION OF JAMAICA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

STATEMENT BY

**HIS EXCELLENCY E. COURTENAY RATTRAY
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF JAMAICA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

AT THE

**GENERAL DEBATE OF THE
2017 SUBSTANTIVE SESSION OF THE
SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS (C34)**

UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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FINAL TEXT

Mr. Chairman,

It is an honour to address the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations. My delegation aligns itself with the statements delivered yesterday by the distinguished Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Morocco on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) and the distinguished Permanent Representative of El Salvador on behalf of the Member States of the Community of Latin America and Caribbean States (CELAC).

My delegation extends its gratitude for the Secretary-General's report, entitled 'Implementation of the recommendation of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations'. Jamaica attaches great importance to the work of this Committee as the primary organ of the United Nations for the evaluation of peacekeeping in all its aspects. We are confident that our continued deliberations on the issues before us will achieve positive outcomes, and in this regard you can be assured of our full cooperation.

My delegation is also grateful to the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO), Mr. Hervé Ladsous, and the Under-Secretary-General for the Department of Field Support (DFS), Mr. Atul Khare, for the comprehensive statements they delivered at the commencement of the General Debate in this substantive session.

We also extend sincere appreciation to the committed staff of the DPKO and DFS for their open and positive engagement with Member States and for the series of timely and informative briefings received in the context of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations (C34) throughout the year.

Mr. Chairman,

Jamaica salutes the valiant military and police personnel serving in the Organization's peacekeeping Missions and honours all UN personnel who perished while performing their duties in hostile environments, including in the face of asymmetrical attacks. We join fellow Member States in expressing our profound gratitude for all they have sacrificed in the pursuit of sustainable peace and security.

Mr. Chairman,

We are aware that effective and integrated mission planning and coordination can be tremendously challenging tasks that require dedicated and intensive actions by a number of actors. We believe that in order to achieve coherence there must be a clear understanding of the mandates of the mission and the means by which they are to be accomplished. Notwithstanding the foregoing, we maintain that mandates should be tailored or modified based on key factors such as ongoing assessments of their effectiveness, collection and analysis of data from on the ground activities, and regular appraisals of the evolving political and security landscape.

Likewise, we understand that decisions taken on the reconfiguration, downsizing or withdrawal of a mission can present several transitional challenges, which could result in heightening the risk of costly setbacks. Given this reality, draw-down and exit strategies should evolve and be maintained in alignment with the national capacities and capabilities of host countries. These strategies, we believe, must include elements that ensure the success of long-term peace building efforts, which require that full account be taken of critical gaps in national capacities.

It is with this in mind that Jamaica anticipates a comprehensive report from the Secretary General, and briefings from the relevant Departments on the recent strategic assessment mission conducted in the Republic of Haiti, pursuant to Security Council resolution 2313 (2016) on the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH). My delegation highlights the necessity of clearly defining and taking account of the critical needs of Haiti, particularly in relation to its stability and security and the consolidation of its democracy, when determining the configuration of a future UN presence on the ground.

Mr. Chairman,

We note with concern that the increasing demand and complexity of peacekeeping tasks and mandates is fast outstripping the ability and capacity of personnel on the ground to successfully implement them. This precipitates a widening gap between what is expected and what can practically be achieved by peace operations. Hence, the resulting strain on the Organization to manage existing operations and simultaneously develop adequate preparations for new operations demands urgent attention. We therefore support the recommendation of the High-Level Independent Panel on Peace Operations (HIPPO), which called for “sequenced and prioritized mandates” to “allow missions to develop over time rather than trying to do everything at once, and failing”.

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This is an issue of vital importance to us all and my delegation recognizes that the safety and security of our peacekeepers must continue to occupy a central place in our overall focus. We applaud efforts geared towards addressing the evolving nature of peacekeeping mandates and those which take into account the fact that peacekeepers are in some instances required to employ more robust means of self-defense in the field in accordance with the mandates given to them.

We maintain, however, that as our personnel are called upon to defend mission mandates they must be adequately trained in the pre-deployment phase and be fully equipped to operate effectively and safely. My delegation is of the view that further collaboration on concretizing guidelines on the use of force by peacekeepers across the spectrum of peace operations could bring positive results in the implementation of mandates. This degree of clarity is of vital importance for missions working in operating environments where there is no peace to keep.

Mr. Chairman,

At the core of the success of UN peacekeeping missions, globally, is the provision of the requisite support from the international community. The quality of the support in relation to the human resource element, in particular, the professional conduct of peacekeepers, is of intrinsic value to the triumph of peacekeeping. In this regard, Jamaica is supportive of advancements made in preventive efforts such as the expansion of United Nations misconduct vetting to include military contingent and formed police units, to ensure that all categories of personnel are routinely vetted for misconduct during prior service in UN peace operations.

My delegation takes note of the enhanced monitoring of conduct and discipline functions in field missions, through the implementation of the Department of Political Affairs/Department of Peacekeeping Operations/Department of Field Support policy on accountability for conduct and discipline in field missions and its related accountability framework. We further note that this policy highlights the roles, responsibilities and accountability of various actors in instituting measures to prevent, respond, and provide remedial actions for instances of misconduct, including sexual exploitation and abuse in field missions. These actors include individual UN personnel, managers and commanders, the UN as a body and member states.

Jamaica reiterates its zero tolerance approach to acts of sexual exploitation and abuse by United Nations personnel against the people they are mandated to protect. My delegation agrees with the Secretary General in his report contained in document A/70/729 of 16th February 2016 on this matter, that the regrettable increase in the number of new allegations in 2015 compared to the previous year signifies that more must be done to not only reduce allegations, but to more importantly reduce the number of victims.

Consequently, we welcome initiatives to strengthen measures for the protection from and prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse, particularly through means of greater transparency and accountability. We are also supportive of the Secretary General's wide ranging initiatives regarding prevention, response and victim assistance being implemented in peacekeeping and special political missions.

Mr. Chairman,

Jamaica remains a strong proponent of the active participation of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts, peacekeeping, peacebuilding and in all efforts to promote international peace and security. In this regard, we recall the adoption of resolution 2242 (2015) by the Security Council, which represents the Organization's commitment to integrate women, peace and security concerns across all country-specific situations on its agenda.

We commend the Organization on its progress thus far in implementing Security Council resolution 1325 (2000), which included the relocation and elevation of mission gender advisers to the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary General in field missions, and to the Office of the DPKO/DFS Chief of Staff at UNHQ, as a means of enhancing the direct assistance given to senior peacekeeping leadership with respect to gender mainstreaming commitments. Indeed, Jamaica encourages an increase in the number of female participants in all aspects of peacekeeping.

Mr. Chairman,

We emphasize the importance of the full participation of troop contributing countries (TCCs) and police contributing countries (PCCs) in policy formulation, to achieve the optimum level of partnership and effectiveness required for UN peacekeeping missions.

We therefore anticipate an expansion in the level of cooperation between the Security Council, troop-and police-contributing countries and the Secretariat on mandates, capabilities and performance issues.

Mr. Chairman,

Jamaica wishes to highlight the importance of training in the Organization's efforts to strengthen the performance and effectiveness of peacekeeping personnel. It is the hope of my delegation that peacekeeping training for existing and new contributors and focused guidance will become increasingly accessible, comprehensive and timely. This should be made available to each region across a variety of platforms and topics, such as protection of civilians and leadership.

In addition, we appreciate the continuous efforts to enhance the use of technology in peacekeeping operations. This we believe will augment the operational readiness of missions; and the capabilities of peacekeepers to implement their respective mandates, including through improvements in situational awareness and reaction rates.

In closing, Mr. Chairman, Jamaica reiterates its steadfast commitment to participating in meaningful dialogue on the initiatives aimed at strengthening the Organization's capacity to provide the support necessary to ensure the consistent success of peacekeeping operations, and to generate sustainable policy solutions to current and future peacekeeping matters.

We are mindful and supportive of the views expressed by the Secretary General at his inaugural briefing to the Security Council, at which he underscored the need for new and strengthened efforts to build and sustain peace, ranging from prevention, conflict resolution and peacekeeping to peacebuilding and sustainable development. We must reimagine the paradigm of peace, in which it is viewed along this continuum, if we are to realize the vision of our Secretary General of making 2017 a year for peace.

I thank you.

