



Statement by

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On behalf of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM)

**On Agenda Item 56: Comprehensive Review of the whole question of
peacekeeping operations in all their aspects**

in the Special Political and Decolonization Committee

(Fourth) Committee

at the Seventy-third Session of the United Nations General Assembly

New York, 30th October 2018

FINAL TEXT

Mr. Chairman,

1. On behalf of the fourteen Member States of the Caribbean Community, CARICOM. I have the distinct honour to address the United Nations Special Political and Decolonization Committee on its consideration of agenda item 56 (the comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects).
2. CARICOM is grateful for the comprehensive briefings delivered by Under-Secretary-General for Field Support, Mr Atul Khare, and the Assistant Secretary General for Rule of Law and Security Institutions in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, Mr. Alexander Zuev, on the developments regarding the Organization's peacekeeping activities. Despite the challenges, there is a solid commitment by both Departments to improve service delivery and to achieve more effective implementation of mandates.
3. CARICOM reaffirms its support for the Secretary-General's efforts to reform the United Nations peace and security architecture. We welcome his commitment to making the Organization more coherent, effective, and fit-for-purpose, to better deliver on mandates. In this vein, CARICOM reiterates that the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations (C-34) is the mandated intergovernmental body to review peacekeeping operations in all its aspects.
4. Similarly, we welcome the Secretary General's Action for Peacekeeping (A4P) initiative, which calls on Member States to renew their shared political commitment to enhance their engagement around United Nations Peacekeeping.

Mr. Chairman,

5. CARICOM has long regarded UN peacekeeping as essential to fostering the transition from conflict to peace. It remains one of the most effective ways in which the UN supports the transitional process in countries seeking to restore and consolidate their democratic processes.
6. We are convinced that in order to create lasting peace, it is vital that we understand the root causes of conflict. We must invest in helping countries to build their institutions as a means of strengthening resilience and promoting conflict prevention.
7. It is against this background that CARICOM supports the extension of the mandate of the UN Mission for Justice Support in Haiti (MINUJUSTH) to 15th April 2019. Furthermore, CARICOM notes with appreciation the efforts thus far by the United

Nations and the Haitian Government to responsibly articulate an exit strategy to support the transition to a non-peacekeeping United Nations presence in Haiti, beginning October 2019, in collaboration with the United Nations country team and external partners.

8. We are therefore encouraged by the political strategy of MINUJUSTH to build momentum and strengthen political buy-in by national stakeholders for a concrete course of action within a clear timeline. In this regard, we take note of the 11 benchmarks, with 46 distinct indicators, as outlined in the most recent report of the Secretary General on MINUJUSTH.
9. We concur with the Secretary General that meeting these targets with specific transition dates will be essential to the consolidation of stability gains and the establishment of a strong foundation for long term political stability, security and development in Haiti.
10. CARICOM emphasizes that in order to consolidate the progress made in Haiti and to maintain an environment conducive to sustained development; the international community has to remain actively engaged in effective partnership with the Government and People of Haiti. We are is therefore committed to assisting and advocating for Haiti as it progresses along its path towards sustainable peace, stability and development.
11. We commend Member States that have supported Haiti throughout this period of transition. We recall, in particular, the assistance provided to the Secretary General's New Approach to Cholera in Haiti, and the contributions to the UN Haiti Cholera Response Multi-Partner Trust Fund. However, CARICOM is concerned that present contributions to the Trust Fund are severely insufficient, and we therefore, call for predictable funding from the international community to ensure the just compensation to the victims of cholera and their families.

Mr. Chairman,

12. Our debate on peacekeeping is complementary to the ten-year review of the peacebuilding architecture. We place emphasis on the close coordination between Peacekeeping Operations and the United Nations peacebuilding architecture, in particular the Funds and Programmes, which must work in close partnership with national authorities.

13. The natural synergy that exists between peace, security and development has been further reinforced by our collective endorsement of the sustainable development goals (SDGs), in particular Goal 16.
14. CARICOM continues to support the active participation of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts, peacekeeping, peacebuilding and in all efforts to promote international peace and security. We recall the adoption of resolution 2242 (2015) by the Security Council, which builds on resolution 1325 (2000), and embodies the Organization's commitment to integrate women, peace and security concerns across all country-specific situations.
15. We look forward to future reports outlining strong efforts towards the implementation of the Women, Peace and Security agenda, including the finalization of the Gender Forward Looking Strategy of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Field Support. We, therefore, encourage the DPKO to continue to strengthen efforts in this regard and to increase the number of female officers in peacekeeping missions.
16. In the same vein, we encourage Member States to continue efforts to deploy female peacekeepers in peacekeeping missions, particularly at senior levels. Meaningful participation of women in peacekeeping goes beyond statistics and should ensure that women are at the table when negotiations are taking place, that their interests and lived experiences are fully reflected in peace processes, and that they are equally considered in recovery efforts in the aftermath of conflicts.

Mr. Chairman,

17. CARICOM is fully supportive of the Organization's zero-tolerance approach to all forms of misconduct and in particular acts of sexual exploitation and abuse on the part of peacekeeping personnel. We believe that action taken on allegations of misconduct, especially acts of sexual exploitation and abuse, should be dealt with in a comprehensive and inclusive manner.
18. We are also supportive of the comprehensive approach laid out by the Secretary General that places and dignity of victims at the centre of efforts to end impunity, through better reporting, transparency and accountability. We are equally in favour of deepening the engagement with civil society and key national and international actors. We look forward to further progress in this regard as we work to ensure that UN personnel continue to be held to the highest standards.

19. CARICOM, therefore, appreciates the measures taken by the United Nations in the framework of prevention, training, and victims' assistance.

Mr. Chairman,

20. The effectiveness of any peacekeeping mission depends on strong political support and adequate human and financial resources. We underscore the importance of securing the full participation of troop contributing countries (TCCs) and police contributing countries (PCCs) in policy formulation from the outset, in order to achieve the level of partnership, cooperation, confidence, mutual trust and effectiveness required for UN peacekeeping missions.

21. Furthermore, we highlight the need for consistent, transparent and effective triangular cooperation among the Security Council, the Secretariat and the TCCs and PCCs in addressing the challenges of peacekeeping. This cooperation would be best served by initiatives that allow TCCs and PCCs to provide substantial input into the decision-making processes of peacekeeping missions.

22. In addition, it is important that the reimbursements to troop contribution countries and police forces must be carried out in a timely and efficient manner, as it supports the cornerstone of peacekeeping and incentivizes diverse and sustained participation of troop and police contributing countries in United Nations peacekeeping. We look forward to the quick and appropriate follow-up on compensation claims submitted by troop-contributing and police-contributing countries in cases of illness, disability or death, as a result of their participation in peacekeeping missions.

Mr. Chairman,

23. In the face of heightened risks, including unprecedented targeted attacks in increasingly dangerous environments, peacekeepers must be alert, proactive and properly equipped. CARICOM underscores the need for appropriately resourced, well equipped and capable UN peacekeeping missions. We, therefore, look forward to the provision of diversified learning programmes and educational resources for peacekeeping personnel.

24. We are encouraged by the technological advances that have been made, including the cost-free multilingual e-learning courses provided by the Peace Operations Training Institute. We note, in particular, the E-learning for Peacekeepers from Latin America and the Caribbean programme, which supplements traditional training methods and provides access to standardized training materials across a wide cross-section of military, police and civilian peacekeepers. CARICOM also welcomes the

integrated distance learning programmes provided directly to the peacekeeping missions by the Institute.

25. We are also appreciative of the support provided by UNITAR for pre-deployment training, which builds on the training packages developed by the DPKO.

Mr. Chairman,

26. CARICOM pays tribute to the men and women who have served and continue to serve in peacekeeping operations and salute their high level of professionalism, dedication and courage. Particular tribute is due to those who have given their lives for the maintenance of peace and security.

27. We reaffirm our support for the initiatives of the Organization aimed at strengthening its capability, in order to ensure the safety and security of personnel across all United Nations peacekeeping operations.

28. **In conclusion, Mr. Chairman,** CARICOM looks forward to meaningful and comprehensive engagement on UN peacekeeping. We remain committed to doing our part to actively support and participate in the development of practical solutions to all aspects of current and future peacekeeping matters.

I thank you.