

STATEMENT

BY

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AMBASSADOR/PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE  
OF THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

TO THE

**FOURTH COMMITTEE**

ON

**AGENDA ITEM 56:**  
**“COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF THE WHOLE QUESTION OF PEACEKEEPING  
OPERATIONS IN ALL THEIR ASPECTS”**

DURING THE

73<sup>RD</sup> SESSION OF THE  
UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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United Nations, New York

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**Mr. Chairman,**

I thank you for giving me the floor.

Allow me to congratulate you on behalf of my delegation, for being elected to lead this important session of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations.

Be assured of our support and cooperation.

My delegation welcomes the briefings by the Undersecretary General for Field support and the Under Secretary General for Peacekeeping Operations.

We value their constructive contributions to the overall policy.

**Mr. Chairman,**

Kenya recognizes the vital role played by peacekeeping as a critical tool available to the Security Council in the maintenance of International Peace and Security. We equally appreciate the basic principles of peacekeeping as enshrined in the UN Charter, and primacy of politics as key to conflict prevention and resolution. Our long standing contribution to the United Nations peacekeeping operations is a testimony of our commitment to make this world a safer place for future generations. We commend the blue helmets for their commitment and dedication to their work, and pay tribute to those who have paid the ultimate price for peace.

**Mr. Chairman,**

Kenya aligns herself with the very comprehensive statement by the Non-aligned movement, which has covered in detail most of our concerns including the policy on peacekeeping, respect for the principle of sovereign equality, political independence and territorial integrity among others.

**Mr. Chairman,**

In the interest of brevity and to avoid repetition, my delegation wishes to highlight the following points;

Over time, the peacekeeping environment has changed considerably. Unlike in the past when the blue flag offered natural protection to United Nations personnel, Peacekeepers today face a myriad of challenges including terrorists and asymmetrical threats that target them directly. Such scenarios were never contemplated by the basic principles of peacekeeping. Equally, the system suffers from chronic policy and institutional weaknesses that continue to undermine the effectiveness peacekeeping operations. This calls for a decisive response to make the enterprise better, responsive and fit for purpose. Moving forward, the success of peacekeeping will largely depend on the ability of peacekeepers to understand their environment, the nature of the mandates and resources placed at their disposal.

**Mr. Chairman,**

The attendant complex environment requires peacekeepers to understand the political and operational context. There can never be a better way to understand the environment than cooperation with regional organizations. Strategic partnership with regional security mechanisms presents an excellent window in understanding the root causes of conflicts and designing the best possible ways of addressing the same. Imposed solutions that ignore the concerns of continental and regional bodies' risks becoming counterproductive.

**Mr. Chairman,**

The value of partnerships between the United Nations and the African Union cannot be over emphasized. The relative peace and security being enjoyed in

Somalia today is a direct result of cooperation between the UN and the AU. Somalia is a good example of what strategic partnership can achieve. However, the security situation in Somalia is still of serious concern to Kenya and the region. The risk posed by Al Shaabab remains the greatest threat to peace, security and stability in Somalia and the region. We welcome the extension of the AMISOM mandate as contained in the UNSC resolution 2431 (2018), and support the Somalia Transition Plan, but call for caution on the proposed reconfiguration of AMISOM.

Contrary to the popular belief, Al Shaabab still retains the capability to launch large scale terrorist attacks with a major disruptive consequence to the situation in Somalia. Hurried decisions that do not take into account the actual security situation on the ground, and the capacity of the local security institution risks eroding the gains already achieved and therefore should be avoided. To this end, Kenya continues to contribute both troops and resources in AMISOM to enhance its capability to fight the AS.

**Mr. Chairman,**

UNSC resolution 2431 (2018) notes that conditions in Somalia are not appropriate for the deployment of a United Nations Peacekeeping Mission; however like earlier mentioned, the nature of the environment in Somalia was never anticipated by the basic principles of peacekeeping. In this regard, the international community ought to exercise flexibility when dealing situations like Somalia. Consequently, we call upon the United Nations Security Council to consider funding AMISOM from assessed contributions in order to provide predictable and sustainable funding, enablers and force multipliers to enable the force to enhance its performance. Additionally, we urge the UNSC to rethink the drawdown strategy that is in the process of being implemented.

**Mr. Chairman,**

Peacekeeping missions are deployed on the basis of mandates developed by the Security Council. Whereas each peacekeeping mission is different, mandates have tended to be based on past templates without necessarily taking into account the unique operational environment of the particular mission. In this case, the entire lifespan of the mission risks being plagued by dysfunction. Accordingly, we urge the Security Council to develop context specific, clear and achievable mandates that permit the mission leadership necessary latitude in the execution of their tasks.

**Mr. Chairman,**

Kenya welcomes and supports UNSC resolution 2406 (2018) on South Sudan, and the signing of the revitalized peace deal between the Transitional Government of National Unity and the rebel groups. However, UNMISS continues to suffer from structural weaknesses that limit its success. We call upon the review of the UNMISS mandate to create conditions for inclusive participation in the peace process, improve utility of the regional forces and allow the host government to exercise sovereignty. We further stress the need for meaningful partnership with the AU, IGAD and the host government without necessarily subjecting the country to unnecessary sanctions that do not add value to the process.

**Mr. Chairman,**

To further the partnership with the United Nations, we are pleased to reports that Kenya continues to host the training of African Rapid Deployment Engineering Capability (ARDEC) under the Triangular Partnership Project (TPP). We thank the Government of Japan, Switzerland and Brazil for their financial and technical support.

Additionally, Kenya has offered to the United Nations, the internationally recognized International Peace Support Training Centre (IPSTC) for training of peacekeepers.

**Finally Mr. Chairman,**

We reaffirm our commitment to continue working with the United Nations and other member states to strengthen peacekeeping operations.

I thank you for your attention.