



United Nations Security Council  
2021-2022

HIGH LEVEL OPEN DEBATE ON THE MAINTENANCE OF  
INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY:

*INTEGRATING EFFECTIVE RESILIENCE BUILDING IN PEACE  
OPERATIONS FOR SUSTAINING PEACE*

STATEMENT BY AMB. MARTIN KIMANI, PERMANENT  
REPRESENTATIVE

3<sup>RD</sup> NOVEMBER 2022 AT 10:00 AM

Thank you.

I congratulate your Excellency, Shirley Botchwey, as Minister of Foreign Affairs, on Ghana's assumption of the Presidency for November.

I welcome the remarks by the Secretary General and those by the former President of Ireland, and now Chair of The Elders, H.E. Mary Robinson. I thank Ms. Martha Pobe, and Ms. Karin Landgren for their briefings.

I also thank Ambassador Bankole Adeoye, African Union Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security for his insights. I congratulate him, and

through him, the AU Commission, for its role in the cessation of hostilities in Ethiopia agreed under an AU-mediated negotiation.

Kenya pays tribute to UN peacekeeping personnel and their efforts in safeguarding civilians, peace and security. We mourn and honour those who have paid the ultimate price in carrying out their duty.

**Madam President,**

This Council sends men and women wearing the famous blue helmet into harm's way to implement mandates that we negotiate and adopt. We owe it to them, and the countries and communities we dispatch them into, a duty of care. The least we can do is to try our best to ensure that the mandates, equipment, and other enablers are fit for purpose.

To make this a reality, we have to consistently and professionally assess performance and ensure there is accountability throughout the peacekeeping process. That is why Kenya fully supports the Secretary General's Action for Peacekeeping (A4P) and A4P+ and all its provisions.

The job we are sending them to do, in regions such as the Sahel, are increasingly pitting them against determined terrorist groups. Left to run their course, Al Qaeda and ISIS affiliated groups in Africa may cause state collapse and the mass suffering of many millions. The UN has agreed, through multiple resolutions, both in the Council and in the General Assembly, to prioritise action against terrorist groups.

The need and the commitment align, now we must make sure that peacekeeping mandates, operational planning, TCC-readiness, and command and control are also aligned.

UN peacekeeping is an innovation of the Security Council that was not contemplated when the Charter was first agreed. It must continue to innovate, particularly in situations needing enforcement. Or it will suffer the ignominy of irrelevance and failure, leading, ultimately, to the delegitimisation of the United Nations. The Security Council cannot afford to dissociate peace operations from

counter terrorism especially in the protection of civilians and the provision of a basic level of security in countries where it is deployed.

UN peacekeeping where it is deployed under chapter seven is necessary but insufficient. It must be combined with other measures, in a coordinated and sufficiently resourced manner, for peace and security to be won in a reasonable period of time.

**Madam President,**

Allow me to share four recommendations on how the Security Council can strengthen peacekeeping, responding to how you have laid out this morning's debate. They are drawn from Kenya's long experience as a troop contributing country to both UN peacekeeping missions and the African UNION-led peace Operations.

Earlier, I thanked Ambassador Bankole Adeoye for the result delivered in Pretoria yesterday. I also thank him for the efforts by African Union-led peace missions. We honour the lives lost and marred by Al Shabaab's violence against the troops of the AU Mission in Somalia.

AU peace operations such as the one in Somalia have the mandate of the Security Council. They are fighting for international peace and security in line with the UN Charter and the commitments from member states it demands. They deserve equal priority and resources. Tough experience has taught us that voluntary and ad hoc arrangements hinder proper planning and operations. It is time to move beyond circular debates, that lead nowhere, and embrace UN assessed contributions to support AU operations. That is the first recommendation addressed to this Council's commitment to overcoming terrorist groups and standing with Africa.

The **second** is that we have to do a better operational job of protecting civilians with the peacekeepers and equipment we have now. Troop contributing countries have to prepare their personnel to raise their performance standards once they are in the field. We agree that peacekeeper safety is critical but so is the protection of civilians and robustly carrying out the mandate.

Also included in this recommendation is the need for a deliberate, credible, and continuous analysis of the conflict environment. The conflict map should always be up to date and ready for peacekeepers to have a clear operational picture. Those

peacekeepers should be trained to operate in the prevailing conflict environment and possess a mindset that is ready to adapt to changes on the ground. In addition, strategic communication should be treated as a core part of effective peacekeeping. It should manage the public's expectations, counter misinformation and disinformation, and further operational aims.

**Third** is that great effort must be made in undertaking a credible and sustainable political process to bring together disparate and conflicting actors. A uniting, inclusive political agreement is the necessary factor in delivering peace. The role of neighbours and regional organisations is therefore key. The Security Council should truly embrace chapter eight of the Charter, especially when dealing with the AU which has a comprehensive and engaged mediation and engagement architecture, as we have recently seen.

Lastly, the important synergy and complementarity between peacebuilding and peacekeeping calls for enhanced collaboration between the Peacebuilding Commission and the Security Council particularly during the consideration of mission mandates and transition periods. Kenya welcomes the written advisory from the PBC particularly its recommendations on how to better design and deploy peacekeeping operations that prioritise on the prevailing dynamics of host countries in their pursuit of sustainable political solutions.

**Madam President**, Kenya's support for peacekeeping operations as a critical tool to maintain international peace and security will remain strong. Thank you.