



**The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Kenya
to the United Nations
Security Council - 2021-2022**

**HIGH-LEVEL POLICY ROUNDTABLE EVENT ON IMPROVING THE PROTECTION OF
CIVILIANS IN UN PEACEKEEPING TRANSITIONS**

WEDNESDAY MAY 26, 2021 – 11:30AM

REMARKS BY AMB. MARTIN KIMANI – PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE

1. Thank you, Ambassador Geraldine Byrne Nelson, for your stewardship of this important event which we are proud to co-host.
2. We thank H.E. Simon Coveney, Ireland's Minister of Foreign Affairs and Defense, for his championing of this cause.
3. Thank you as well to the panelists for their insights on improving the protection of civilians in UN Peacekeeping Transitions.
4. Protection of civilians must always remain central to peacekeeping missions - from deployment to exit, and beyond.
5. There is of course a robust challenge in civilian protection between deployment and exit. To that must be added the transition and aftermath of missions.
6. The transitions are, by design, marked by drawdowns as the mandate termination approaches. While the conflict that demanded peacekeeping in the first instance may be stilled, there will remain complex risks to the security of populations.

7. Let me highlight a few points that Kenya believes can close this gap:

- i) Plan for the full handover of the protection of civilians' responsibilities early given the timeframes required in strengthening national institutions.
- ii) Transition processes should emphasise and support development of national capacity particularly the security sector and the rule of law.
- iii) Efforts must be made to ensure inclusive national ownership of a successful transition. This should emerge from extensive political consultations of key national actors, and coordination with regional and international stakeholders.
- iv) The Security Council must make it clear to any potential spoilers that it will act promptly and firmly to hold them to account. Regional organizations must be aligned to this insistence on accountability, and remaining seized of the transition.
- v) Emerging humanitarian crisis or emergencies that have large-scale effects on the lives and livelihoods of civilians should also be responded to by the International Community. Their effects can easily spill over into the political realm, and a return to forms of conflict that threaten the security of civilians.
 - A good example of such an action is by the Force Commander United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL), Lt. Gen. Leonard Ngondi – a Kenyan national. He led the Mission's support for the SRSG's assistance to the Liberian authorities in managing the Ebola outbreak. Such protecting of civilians was paramount to the Mission's successful transition.
- vi) Finally, transitions must be accompanied by a surge of economic and livelihood opportunity. Optimism about the future must be the defining

public mood that in turn limits political and conflict dynamics that run counter to stability and peace. Transition planning of the peacekeeping mission should therefore be undertaken in a linked way to its counterparts in economic relief, investment, debt relief, and grants allocation planning.

- Success depends on the coordinating and project management ability of the United Nations to help an often fragile and under-resourced host government to coordinate multiple actors, including peacekeeping missions, TCCs, UN bodies, International Financial Institutions, the private sector, and civil society. Kenya will support the capacitation of such a coordinating and planning capability in the UN, building on existing institutions and mandates.

I thank you.