



Statement in the Fourth Committee “Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects”

Mr. Chairman,

Let me begin by thanking you for convening today's debate. My delegation also thanks the Secretariat for the briefings yesterday which set the tone for our discussions at this forum.

Mr. Chairman,

The United Nations should be justifiably proud of the history and accomplishments of UN peacekeeping. It is indeed a success story and Pakistan takes immense pride in its contributions –having deployed over 200,000 of its personnel in 47 UN Missions in almost all the continents of the world. We view peacekeeping as a sacred duty and a powerful tool to serve the humanity.

When we speak in this forum, we do so with over five decades of experience and expertise, professional excellence, dedication and sacrifice of our men and women in the field, as well as our sustained engagement at the policy level here in New York. This is Pakistan's contribution to the maintenance of international peace and security, to which we remain deeply committed. This commitment to peace, obviously, comes at a cost that indeed all T/PCCs have had to bear. 168 Pakistani peacekeepers have fallen while serving the cause of international peace. In addition to being a longstanding T/PCC, Pakistan is host to one of the first peacekeeping missions, UNMOGIP, the UN Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan, which reminds us of the longstanding dispute of Jammu and Kashmir on the agenda of the Security Council.

Mr. Chairman,

Given our vital stake in the UN peacekeeping architecture, my delegation would like to submit a few specific points:

First, UN Peacekeeping has emerged as a vital instrument to give life to the Charter's vision of collective security. It is a cost-effective, practical and politically acceptable means to build a bridge from conflict to durable political solutions. That is why Pakistan seeks to strengthen and diversify its peacekeeping contributions to make them even more substantive and robust. We intend to increase our footprint in the fields of aviation, technology, trainings and medical support. We also wish to promote community engagement goals by maintaining our longstanding tradition of holding free medical camps, providing trauma and psychological support, restoring infrastructure and extending skill and vocational trainings. Our women peacekeepers will play a pivotal role toward this endeavour.

Two, peacekeeping is most effective when it is part of the overall ‘political strategy’ to resolve conflicts and sustain peace. This strategy should embrace the entire peace continuum: From conflict prevention to conflict resolution, addressing the root causes using mediation, peacekeeping and peacebuilding as tools to build durable peace.

Three, we condemn attacks against UN missions and personnel. Pakistan lost 7 peacekeepers only this year, including 6 in a helicopter incident in March in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Based on the inquiry report of the incident, we call for bringing to justice the perpetrators of this heinous crime. The safety and security of peacekeepers is paramount. We must continue to look into the causes of the mounting violence and hate speech against peacekeepers to take and refine preventive and remedial measures.

Four, we support the modernization of peacekeeping and equipping missions with new technologies. Deployment and use of these technologies on a case-by-case basis should be guided by lessons learnt, and the consent of the concerned states.

Five, comprehensive strategies with the inclusion of regional and sub-regional organizations, especially the African Union, must continue to evolve. These organizations bring in unique political insight, resources and expertise.

Six, drafting the mandates of peacekeeping missions should be a two-phase process to allow for consultation with the TCCs, identification of the most appropriate troop contributors and taking into account the realities on the ground. Sufficiently staffed and resourced missions are also the best guarantee for the safety and security of troops and personnel in the field, which is an issue of critical importance for us. It is only logical to mention that the troop cost reimbursements should match the current financial indices.

Mr. Chairman,

Let me conclude by reiterating that blue helmets are a source of pride for the UN. Those caught in the throes of conflict see them as guarantors of peace and harbingers of stability. Their hands should be strengthened and their success appreciated.