MYANMAR

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Statement

By

H. E. U Hau Do Suan

Ambassador and Permanent Representative of
the Republic of the Union of Myanmar
to the United Nations in New York
at the General Debate of the Special Committee
on Peacekeeping Operations

New York

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PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR TO THE UNITED NATIONS
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Statement by Ambassador Hau Do Suan, Permanent Representative

of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the United Nations

(Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations (C-34), February 22, 2017)

Mr. Chairman,

Allow me, first of all, to convey on behalf of my delegation, our deepest condolences over the passing of Ambassador Vitaly Churkin, Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation. His sudden and untimely departure is, indeed, a great loss not only for the Russian Federation but also for all of us here in the United Nations.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate you, for your re-election as the Chair of this important committee and all the Bureau members for their election.

My delegation associates itself with the statements made by distinguished representatives of Morocco on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) and Indonesia on behalf of the Association of the Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

My delegation would like to thank the Chef de Cabinet, Under Secretary-Generals of DPKO and DFS for their statements made yesterday. We again wish to express our appreciation to the Secretary-General for his report on the implementation of the recommendations of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations.

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation would like to pay tribute to all fallen peacekeepers that lost their lives in the line of duty while expressing our deepest appreciation to all peacekeepers serving their noble tasks in difficult situations.

Today, as we witness the complexity and the increasing number of conflicts and threats around the world that put international peace and security at risk, the role and mandate of the UN peacekeeping operations remain critical. In light of this, Myanmar acknowledges the significance of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations (C-34) in providing important policy directions and strategic decisions on peacekeeping.

It is heartening to see that countries have become increasingly enthusiastic to participating in the peacekeeping operations. We view this as a constructive step forward for the consolidation of the international peace and security.

We share the view highlighted in the report of the Secretary-General that achieving durable political settlements will be an enduring challenge for the international community and a particular challenge for the United Nations peacekeeping operations. We strongly believe that without durable political settlement, there will be no sustainable peace.

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation wishes to reaffirm ASEAN's longstanding position that peacekeeping missions must uphold the purposes and principles of the UN Charter, and the basic principles of UN peacekeeping, namely, consent of the parties, impartiality, and non-use of force except in self defense and defense of the mandate. Therefore, careful assessment of C-34 is critical in strengthening the work of the UN peace operations without compromising these principles and UN Charter.

Mr. Chairman,

Safety and security of civilians and peacekeepers is of paramount importance. It is our belief that pre-deployment and adequate appropriate training opportunities could contribute to the effective implementation of the PKOs and also to the safety and security of the peacekeepers. In this regard, we welcome the UN Chiefs of Police Summit held in New York in June 2016 and the UN Peacekeeping Defense Ministerial Meeting in London September the same year which produced concrete outcomes on matching training and capacity building with requirements of new troop and police contributing countries.

Mr. Chairman,

Furthermore, we wish to highlight the importance of equal opportunity and participation of every country in contributing troops and police. Every UN member state wishing to contribute troops to peacekeeping missions should be given equal chance to do so. Decisions on acceptability of troop or civilian must be based on individual's history of conduct, not on his or her origin of country or institutions.

It is notable that only 3% of peacekeepers are women and they are under-represented in peacekeeping operations. Therefore, as reiterated in the ASEAN Statement, it is important that DPKO and other relevant entities assist the countries in developing a national action plan aimed at increasing the number of women peacekeepers.

My delegation supports the special measures put in place by the Secretary-General for protection from sexual exploitation and abuse to implement zero tolerance against UN peacekeeping personnel who commit acts of misconduct.

Mr. Chairman,

Let me conclude by assuring you of Myanmar's readiness to render its full support to the work of peacekeeping missions and operations. We are willing to contribute more military observers to the mission and also looking forward to have training opportunities provided by the United Nations and member states for our prospective PKO troops and personnel.

I thank you.

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