



MYANMAR

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Statement

by

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the Republic of the Union of Myanmar

to the United Nations in New York

on Agenda item (5) in the General Debate of the Special Committee

on Peacekeeping Operations

New York

(18 February 2015)

Madam Chair,

As my delegation is taking the floor in this Special Committee for the first time as a member, I would like to congratulate you and other members of the Bureau for their re-election and for your able leadership in steering this important Committee. I also wish to thank you for your kind words of welcome to the three new members including Myanmar.

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

I also wish to thank Mr. Hervé Ladsous, Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations and Mr. Atul Khare, Under-Secretary-General for Field Support for their informative briefings.

My delegation would also like to express its appreciation to the Secretary-General for his report on the implementation of the recommendations of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations.

Madam Chair,

Seven decades after the founding of the United Nations, maintenance of international peace and security remains the overriding concern for the world today. Therefore, the role of the United Nations in conflict prevention, peace keeping and peace building needs to be constantly enhanced and strengthened. In our view, peacekeeping operations, despite its challenges, remain a vital tool for promoting international peace and security.

My delegation therefore fully recognizes the crucial role of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations (C-34) in providing important policy directions and strategic decisions on peacekeeping. The C-34 is an indispensable forum for discussing the comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects. At this crucial juncture of reviewing the conduct of peacekeeping operations to meet the present realities, the work of this Special Committee has become even more relevant and important than ever before in shaping the future of peacekeeping.

Madam Chair,

The world and the nature of conflicts are changing. Conflicts and their accompanying threats are becoming more complex. Thus, peacekeeping operations have undergone many changes in the way they are managed and implemented in conflict areas. My delegation therefore fully understands the need for the UN peacekeeping operations to keep pace with the changing complex nature of peace and security context. At the same time, it is of paramount importance not to weaken the cardinal principles or precepts of traditional peacekeeping, namely, consent of the parties and host-government, impartiality, and non-use of force except self defense and in defense of the mandate. Myanmar therefore wishes to reaffirm ASEAN's joint position that the success of peacekeeping operations is anchored to these fundamental principles of United Nations peacekeeping.

My delegation therefore welcomes the Secretary-General's appointment of a High-level Independent Panel on Peace Operations to conduct a strategic review of their operations and special political missions. We look forward to the Panel's comprehensive assessment and recommendations which, we hope, will be designed to turn the peacekeeping operations into an effective mechanism for promoting international peace and security.

Madam Chair,

Providing enhanced security measures for the peacekeepers as well as necessary financial and logistical support to the peacekeeping operation are also crucial in implementation of their mandates successfully. Therefore Myanmar, despite its own financial constraints, has always fulfilled its minimal obligation of financial contribution to the peacekeeping missions on time and in full. Myanmar was one of the early contributors of troops to the peacekeeping operations, as it had contributed peacekeeping troops to UN Operations in Congo in the early 60s.

With the positive changes taking place at all fronts, including our efforts in promoting peace and reconciliation at home, we look forward to having similar opportunities once again in near future. To this end, Myanmar takes growing interest in learning the developments and trend of United Nations peacekeeping as well as in utilizing the training opportunities to be provided by the United Nations to make itself ready for contributing personnel once again in this noble cause.

In this regard, my delegation therefore fully supports the continuation of the Secretariat's efforts to place effectiveness and performance at the heart of peacekeeping operations through a "capability-driven" approach. Myanmar would also like to encourage the Secretariat to provide more insight into the lessons learned process, and the use of lessons learned and best practices to develop policy guidance and training materials.

Madam Chair,

The complexities of today's conflicts have indeed changed the environment under which UN peacekeeping operates and their mandate are expanding with multidimensional tasks. We can therefore foresee many challenging tasks ahead for this Special Committee. We hope that our deliberations this year will continue to be guided by a spirit of consensus for the successful and productive conclusion. Myanmar stands ready to render its full support to the work of the Committee in its efforts for ensuring that peacekeeping operations remain an effective and indispensable mechanism in promoting international peace and security. May I conclude by paying tribute to all those who have lost their lives while serving in peacekeeping missions for this noble cause.

I thank you, Madam Chair.