



MYANMAR

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Statement by Ms. Tin Marlar Myint,
Advisor of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Delegation
to the 70th United Nations General Assembly

at

The Special Political and Decolonization Committee
(Fourth Committee) on

Agenda Item 56: Comprehensive review of the whole question of
peacekeeping operations in all their aspects

(New York, 4 November 2015)

Mr. Chairman,

My Delegation aligns 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).

My delegation wishes to thank the Under-Secretary-Generals for Peacekeeping Operations and the Under-Secretary-General for Field Support for their informative briefings.

My delegation also would like to pay tribute to all those engaging in peace operations serving as Blue Helmets under the United Nations who had sacrificed their lives and limbs for the maintenance of peace and security across the world. In this regard, we wish, first of all, to emphasize the importance of ensuring the safety of the peacekeeping troops who are serving in difficult and dangerous conditions in various peacekeeping missions around the world.

Mr. Chairman,

Maintenance of international peace and security is one of the most fundamental objectives of the United Nations. In this regard, peacekeeping has become an important tool available in advancing peace and security.

Since the establishment of the first observer mission in 1948, the world has changed and the natures of conflicts are also changing. Conflicts and their threats are becoming more complex. The norms and mandates that were used to help resolve the conflicts that occurred between nation states will not be rightly applicable for conflicts that occur within nations or for civilian conflicts.

Consequently, peacekeeping operations have gradually undergone many changes in the way they are managed and implemented in conflict areas. My delegation therefore shares the view that there is a need for the UN peace operations to keep pace with the changing nature of peace and security context.

At the same time, it is of paramount importance for the peacekeeping missions to uphold the purposes and principles of the UN Charter and the cardinal principles or precepts of traditional peacekeeping operations, namely, consent of the parties and host-government, impartiality, and non-use of force except self defense and in defense of the mandate.

It has been the fine tradition of the United Nations peacekeeping that their operation begins only when the conflicting parties have agreed to it. Peace keeping offers only as a means to end the conflicts and to help resolve the conflict by a peaceful political settlement. Today, the ways of conducting the UN peace operations need to be reviewed and adjusted to the changing situations without undermining the traditional cardinal principles of the UN peacekeeping.

My delegation therefore welcomes the initiative of the Secretary-General to launch a review of UN peace operations at this 70th anniversary of the Organization.

In this regard, we commend the work of the High-level Independent Panel on Peace Operations (HIPPO) for its report on a strategic review of their operations and special political missions. We hope that the Secretary-General's implementation report and his recommendations will serve as a good basic for our deliberations to make the peacekeeping operations more effective mechanism for promoting international peace and security.

Mr. Chairman,

Impact of armed conflict on civilian is one of the areas cited by the Secretary-General Report as an important obligation for the UN peace operations. Protection of civilian, especially women and children in conflicts is indeed and important issues growing sources for all of us. However, primary responsibility to protect civilians lies on the host country governments. Peace missions should therefore play a supporting role to the national authorities in carrying out their protection responsibilities. As such, assigning mandate to include civilian protection needs to be realistic and carefully consulted among member States, especially with the host government with full recognition of its limits and basic principles of the UN Charter.

Mr. Chairman,

At this critical time of reviewing the conduct of the peacekeeping operations, my delegation believes that the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations (C-34) is the crucial and indispensable forum for contributing to the success of the review process.

My own country, Myanmar has made significant progress in its reform process, especially in its efforts in promoting peace and reconciliation at home.

Recently, Myanmar has made historic achievements as the nationwide ceasefire agreement was signed between the government and its 8 armed ethnic groups.

Myanmar is now reaching out to the international community and building its national capacity to contribute more to the UN peace operations.

Myanmar had participated for the first time in the peacekeeping operations in early 1960s by sending peacekeeping troops to UN Operations in Congo. After a long gap, Myanmar has now resumed its status of troop contributing countries, as some of our military personnel are now serving in UN Peacekeeping missions in Liberia and South Sudan. Accordingly, we have also joined the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations (C-34) as a member starting from this year.

Myanmar has taken a growing interest in the valuable work and changing trend of the United Nations peacekeeping operation as well as in utilizing the training opportunities provided by the United Nations. Myanmar therefore stands ready to work more closely with the United Nations to enhance its national capacity to enable us to contributing more qualified personnel in this noble cause.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.