

Statement by H.E. Mr. Marc Pecsteen de Buytsverve,
Permanent Representative

to the United Nations Security Council

Briefing

"United Nations Peacekeeping Operations"

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Mr President,

We welcome the efforts made to reform the Organisation in general and peacekeeping in particular. Thank you, Jean-Pierre Lacroix, for your insights into the impressive milestones achieved in recent months.

Action for peacekeeping - A4P - is now the roadmap on which we can all - whether contributors of uniformed personnel, Secretariat, Council members or host country, **focus our work** in the coming years. The Peacekeeping Committee, the "C34", has chosen A4P as the frame of reference for its report; we welcome this step.

The roadmap is there; it is now time to **implement it**. We welcome the survey exercise currently underway among Member States, on the occasion of the first anniversary of the Declaration of Shared Commitments. Through concrete actions, each Member State brings particular experience and expertise to peacekeeping; sharing ideas and best practice helps and inspires us all.

Mr President,

I will focus today on three aspects of A4P: (1) our collective responsibility for clear, sequenced and properly funded mandates, (2) performance efforts and, lastly, (3) the added value of partnerships.

The Council has a central role to play in defining the mandates of peace operations, whether these are peacekeeping operations or special political missions. These mandates must be **clear, understandable and sequenced**. Indeed, their comprehensive, unambiguous nature must allow them to be understood by those who will be responsible for their implementation. Our collective efforts must continue in future mandate renewals.

These mandates must also be **achievable**, in the sense that **the resources made available to the Missions** must be in line with the ambition of the mandate. It is the responsibility of the Missions to have the flexibility required to redirect resources to better further the mandate.

This brings me to my second point: working together on **successful operations**. **Performance** depends strongly on how the Missions operate and in particular on the integration of the different components. We must do our utmost to structurally strengthen the integrated planning capacity, and coordination within Missions and with country teams.

We also welcome the ongoing work within the DPO and the DPPA on the issue of **stabilisation** and how to adapt peace operations to complex conflict situations, with the presence of armed groups using terrorist tactics. As contributors of uniformed personnel to MINUSMA, we are confronted with this reality every day. The tools that the Secretariat is developing - not only reactive but also preventive tools - will certainly be very useful.

Last but not least - partnerships. The European Union and the United Nations have built a strong, solid partnership on the ground, from the Central African Republic to Mali. In many situations, EU action complements the action mandated by this Council, for example by supporting security sector reform.

The partnership between the United Nations and the African Union is also essential, and this is why we are going to Addis next month. Talks are underway on the issue of UN funding for AU missions. We welcome the trajectory undertaken by the AU - in particular through the revitalisation of the Peace Fund - to ensure predictable and sustainable funding for peace initiatives on the continent. The European Union has long supported the strengthening of the African Union's Peace and Security Architecture. **African operations, which are complementary to UN operations, must receive sound funding**, and must, of course, fully respect human rights and international humanitarian law as well as the UN's budgetary rules.

I am convinced that we will be able to find common ground in this direction.

Thank you.