

Intervention by H.E. Ms Karen Van Vlierberge,
Deputy Permanent Representative

to the United Nations Security Council

Briefing

"United Nations Peacekeeping Operations"

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Mr President,

I would like to start by paying tribute to the men and women on the ground who serve under the flag and values of the UN. This Council owe them to pursue the work begun as part of the Action for Peacekeeping initiative.

Today, I would like to highlight two aspects in particular: support for political processes and performance.

Mr President,

I will start with our commitment to promoting **lasting political solutions** in the context of A4P. I can see several means of doing this:

- Firstly, the mandates of the PKO **must be dynamic and adapted to the realities on the ground**. UNAMID is an excellent illustration: it would be unrealistic to continue to withdraw without taking into account of the current political developments in Khartoum. **I would like to thank the UNAMID Force Commander for sharing with us his assessment of this issue.**
- The missions can only be given **clear, understandable and sequenced mandates**. **I would be grateful if the briefers could let us know how we can better help them in this endeavour.**
- Lastly, aligning mandates with resources: Belgium would like to ensure that **adequate resources** are made available to the United Nations missions. However, I must share a bitter observation with you: the most extreme positions in the current session of the 5th Committee on Peacekeeping come from countries that are members of this Council. Giving peacekeeping a chance also means agreeing to invest in it.

I now come to **my second point. The performance** of missions is a key element in increasing their acceptance by civilian populations and the renewed commitment of those who contribute troops and funds. We all have a common interest in effective missions. The host State is both a key contributor to in this performance and its main beneficiary.

Performance does not depend solely on adequate capacities and trained troops. It also depends on the way in which the United Nations missions function and use these capacities. In addition to the command-and-control relationships required for the military component, it involves the way in which all the capacities and components work together in an integrated way.

Dear Force Commanders, what has been your experience of this integration and this coordination within your respective missions?

Mr President,

The performance of the missions also implies gender balance within them. We would like to congratulate the Secretariat for the exercise underway within UNFICYP, making this mission a model of gender balance in management roles.

Major General Cheryl Pearce, we would be very grateful if you could share your experience in this area.

Thank you.