



UN Security Council
2019-2020

Fostering Consensus
Acting for Peace

STATEMENT

H.E. Ambassador Marc Pecsteen de Buytswerve

at

High Level Side-Event

“Action for Peacekeeping (A4P) and the Responsibility to Protect: From political commitment to operational reality”

New York 27th September 2018, 4.30pm – 6pm (Conference Room 6)

Thank you very much. And first of all thank you to all the organizers and co-sponsors of this very timely meeting. Of course we all know peacekeeping missions and the need to prevent mass atrocities are clearly linked. And lots of progress has been made over the year to create better prevention, better protection for civilians. But obviously there are still many challenges remaining.

I have a long speech here. I am not going to read it. But maybe make a few points.

The first one is that we should try to have the Security Council more active in this field of prevention of mass atrocity crimes. For instance, the Security Council could invite more regularly the Secretary General's Special Advisors on the Prevention of Genocide, Adama Dieng to brief the Security Council ahead of establishing or renewing a Peacekeeping Operation mandates to take this aspect into consideration in the mandate.

That takes me to my second point. There are obviously many peacekeeping operations with a mandate incorporating protection of civilians. Actually eight out of fourteen. But sometimes the mandate is too wide. If we want to have an efficient protection of civilians. Perhaps there is a need for a more targeted mandate with this protection of civilians at their core in a very clear way. But it is not always the case.

I fully support current efforts lead by the Secretary General to strengthen peacekeeping missions, including his action plan to implement the “Action for Peacekeeping” initiative.

There is also, I think, a need to work in the training area. To have better training and preparation of the peacekeeping troops. That is something Belgium is trying to contribute to with training that we are giving in French to make peacekeepers aware of this mission of protection of civilians.

I am going to be already a bit too long. So let me conclude by reminding us all we commit ourselves to strengthen our action in addressing atrocity crimes, in many instruments like the Kigali Principles on the Protection of Civilians, the ACT Group's Code of Conduct regarding Security Council action against atrocity crimes, the Safe Schools declaration and the political declaration on the protection of medical personnel in armed conflict, to name just a few. Like many of us in this room here today, Belgium adhered to all these declarations. And we will have to work now to implement all these declaration. This is totally what we will try to do as we join the security council next year.

Thank you.