

Statement by
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Permanent Representative

At the High-Level Event

**"Improving UN Peacekeeping Performance: A
Year Since UNSCR 2436 (2018)"**

New York, 6 December 2019

- On the subject of peacekeeping reform, Belgium **supports the Initiative on "Action for Peacekeeping"** and the implementation of the Declaration of Shared Commitments and tries to be a Champion - particularly on the issue of performance.
- **Successful peace operations** are first and foremost about fulfilling mandates, and the protection of civilians is often at the top of the list. The credibility of the UN missions in Mali, the DRC, CAR and South Sudan depends heavily on their ability to effectively protect civilians. The worst performance incidents are related to this protection. In this context, we welcome the new policy on the Protection of Civilians.
- The protection of civilians is primarily **the responsibility of the host country**. The importance of good cooperation between this country and the mission in the effective protection of civilians cannot be overemphasised.
- **Efficiency is a key element** in the acceptance of missions by civilian populations and in the continued commitment of those who contribute troops and money. The "performance" of missions does not depend solely on adequate capacities and trained troops. It also depends on **how missions operate and use these capabilities**: the combination of the military, police and civilian components of peacekeeping operations is a comparative advantage as it allows for a multidimensional approach to violence and its root causes. It is also a challenge because, as we often see, it is sometimes difficult for these different components to work together. Strong planning and coordination must link the actions of each component of the Mission to the political and civilian protection strategies.
- **How can the different components be better integrated?** It is essential to have a mission planning and decision-making process that integrates the contributions of the various components in order to achieve the objectives. As requested by Resolution 2436, we are convinced that the Comprehensive Performance Assessment System (CPAS) has the potential to identify weaknesses and contribute to a more integrated response.
- Lastly, one performance factor can be found in **a better balance between the tasks set out in the mandates and the resources required**: financial resources, of course, but also human resources and adequate equipment. The way forward is a more mobile approach to the protection of civilians, but this requires capabilities adapted to this flexible approach.