



ROYAUME DE BELGIQUE

Intervention de S.E. Philippe Kridelka,
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auprès des Nations Unies

Les opérations de maintien de la paix des Nations Unies

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Mr. Speaker,
Dear colleagues,

Thanks to USG Jean-Pierre Lacroix for his briefing. I would like to begin by paying tribute to the women and men who serve under the UN flag and, in particular, those who have paid with their lives for this commitment to peace. COVID-19 has added to this terrible human toll. None of us forget the sacrifices of mission personnel.

Today, I will focus my remarks on three aspects: first, where are we in the reforms and what remains to be done? Secondly, I will address the protection role of the missions; and thirdly, I will stress the need for support for the rule of law in the missions.

With regard to **reforms**, Belgium is a strong supporter of the Action for Peacekeeping (A4P). We continue to work to fully meet our commitments. We welcome the work done on the theme of performance and, in particular, the development of two central tools for a culture of effectiveness based on data, namely the Comprehensive Performance Assessment System (CPAS) and the Integrated Performance and Accountability Framework (IPPAF). Together, we can undoubtedly go further in the common use of the lessons learned from these tools. It would indeed be useful for this Council, when preparing mandate renewals, to have access to the detailed analyses and recommendations resulting from these tools, on the orientations to be given to the mission.

It is important to remain committed to A4P, on all aspects of these mutual commitments. The recent resolution 2538 on women in peacekeeping operations promotes the increased participation of women (both uniformed and civilian personnel) by advocating an approach that goes beyond stereotypes and proposes solutions to traditional obstacles to such participation. This must be continued. We also continue to promote the multilingualism of missions by translating staff training manuals into French.

Let me now turn to **protection**, another of the pillars of A4P and of the mandates of this Council. Peacekeeping has moved closer to local populations in recent years, and we welcome this development. It is reflected, on the one hand, in the mandates and, on the other hand, on the ground, in Bunia, in Mopti, in Malakal. This engagement also allows for effective identification of risks for the populations and the peacekeepers. Missions must be equipped with the tools of this engagement and their personnel must have clear instructions - including for the protection of those with whom they come into contact. The recently distributed guidelines on information acquisition are one such tool. Finally, the protection of children in armed conflict must remain at the heart of the mandates of peace operations and Belgium advocates that mission teams in charge of this protection should be strengthened.

The COVID-19 crisis has had a negative impact on the possibilities of engagement. The imperative of social distancing makes these contacts more complex, but not impossible. As we reinvent new ways of operating on the margins of this pandemic, missions must also reinvent themselves and find the tools to continue this engagement, with full respect for the health of mission staff and local populations.

This brings me to my third point, the importance of rule of law support functions in the mandates and functioning of operations, in support of national authorities. Post-conflict reconstruction must be based, in particular, on a democratic police force that respects human rights, a reliable justice system and humane prison institutions. The solidity of these institutions lays the necessary foundations for lasting peace.

In this framework, this Council mandated some UN missions to provide support for transitional justice measures. A serene and peaceful future must be based on justice, recognition of victims and commemoration of past violations. We recognize the work carried out by the missions for almost 30 years in this regards and the support provided by the missions to national justice systems. We also recognize the variety of models for both transitional justice and mission support. With our partner, South Africa, we continue to work towards the adoption of a resolution on this important subject and thank the members of this Council for their support.

Je vous remercie, Monsieur le Président.