

Statement by Counsellor, Jaesin Ko
Permanent Mission of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations
Second Resumed Session of the Fifth Committee, 69th General Assembly
Item 148: Administrative and Budgetary aspects of financing UN PKOs:
“Cross-cutting Issues”

6 May 2015
New York

< Check against Delivery >

Thank you Mr. Chairman,

1. At the outset, I would like to thank Ms Bettina Tucci Bartsiotas, Assistant-Secretary-General, Controller of the office of the Programme Planning, Budget and Accounts, Mr. Atul Khare, Under-Secretary-General for Field Support, Ms Carole Wamuyu Wainaina, Assistant-Secretary-General for Human Resources Management, Ms Carman Lapointe, Under-Secretary-General for Internal Oversight Services and Mr. Carlos Ruiz Massieu, Chair of the ACABQ, for introducing their respective reports.

Mr. Chairman,

2. I would first like to emphasize that the Korean delegation is a strong supporter of United Nations peacekeeping operations not only as a major finance contributing country but also as a troop contributing country. We, therefore, are committed to ensuring that UN peacekeeping should be as effective and efficient as possible in order to serve the need of maintaining peace and security, as mandated by the Member States.
3. As we are aware, the overall level of the peacekeeping budget has increased significantly over the past few years and reached the historic peak of 8.46 billion dollars for the financial year of 2014/15. It is

welcome that the initial level of the proposed 2015/16 peacekeeping budget before us is 8.49 billion dollars slightly higher than last year. However, my delegation has still doubts on the sustainability of the peacekeeping budget under the restraint of resources, and, particularly, on-going economic difficulties of major financial contributing countries. As such, it is time to collect our creative and pragmatic solutions on enhancing the efficiency of peacekeeping operations without any negative impacts on the implementation of the mandate. I will take this opportunity to touch upon a couple of the areas that my delegation is interested in and intends to tackle.

4. First, we note that Global Field Support Strategy(GFSS) will have been successfully completed by the end of June, with demonstrating tangible efficiency gains including about 400 million dollars savings. We support and encourage the Secretary-General to continue to accelerate efforts to achieve more efficiency through the established mechanisms like standard financing models, shared-service delivery, supply chain management and so on. My delegation, however, would like to reiterate that we should examine the lessons learned from the experience of GFSS and evaluate the performance of the current regional service center before we consider the next step, including the establishment of a second regional service center. At the same time, we note that many innovative management initiatives such as aviation modules, new turnkey rations and fuel contracts are implemented and hope that the Secretariat will sustain such operational innovations.
5. Second, my delegation also has concerns on the incremental budgeting approach. We reiterate the importance of periodical review on civilian staffing and the on-going activities of the individual mission while streamlining them from the results. Finally, we would like to examine the relevance of the prediction on the common economic indicators like oil price and currency exchange rates.

Mr. Chairman,

6. Last but not the least, we observed that the 5th committee failed to adopt a cross-cutting issues resolution in the past two years. This year, we hope to adopt an effective resolution on policy issues through the collective cooperation of Member States. In this context, my delegation would like to assure you of its readiness to engage constructively in the forthcoming discussions for a successful conclusion of this agenda item. I thank you.