

**Statement by Ambassador Dr. Maleeha Lodhi,
Permanent Representative of Pakistan on Organization of Work at the
Second part of the resumed Seventy-First Session of the Fifth Committee
of the United Nations General Assembly (New York, 1 May 2017)**

Madam Chair,

We align ourselves with the statement made by Ecuador on behalf of the G-77 and China.

The Nobel Committee, at the time of awarding the Nobel Peace Prize to the United Nations in 2001 had proclaimed that “the only negotiable route to global peace and cooperation goes by way of the United Nations”.

This is even more valid today in a world beset with challenges and complex threats to peace. The UN is an indispensable and powerful tool for the maintenance of international peace and security. It has positively impacted on the lives of millions of people across the world. Thus, the continuing surge in demand for UN peacekeeping is a vote of confidence, trust and faith in the UN.

Pakistan is proud to be one of the largest and most consistent contributors to UN peacekeeping, having served in 41 Mission in 23 countries since 1960. We currently have over 7000 personnel deployed in 8 peacekeeping operations, including 7 in Africa. 144 of our peacekeepers have made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty.

The 2015 Leaders' Summit on peacekeeping was a pivotal if not historic moment for UN Peacekeeping. As co-host, Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, made substantial pledges to strengthen peacekeeping operations around the world. These pledges included deployment of an infantry battalion and field hospitals, which have been registered on the United Nations Peacekeeping Capability Readiness System (UNPCRS). Our commitment to UN peacekeeping thus remains as strong as ever.

Madam Chair,

Evolution and reform go hand in hand. We have taken note of the Secretary-General's announcement to reform the UN's peace and security architecture.

UN peacekeeping, apart from being effective, is also highly cost effective. The situation where peacekeepers are continuously being asked to 'do more with less, however, is unsustainable. We need to act credibly to: provide adequate resources to missions to effectively carry out their diverse mandates; and, put in place fair, realistic and permanent mechanisms for review and updating of troop cost and COE reimbursements.

In Pakistan's view, effectively confronting the challenges faced by UN peacekeeping requires action that should include:

One, ensuring continued political commitment of member States to UN peacekeeping;

Two, bolstering triangular cooperation between the troop contributing countries, Security Council and the Secretariat. Such cooperation must take place not only in the formation of mandates, but also in their implementation, review, renewal or change, especially in case of any rapid deterioration of the situation on ground;

Three, protection of civilians, where mandated, remains critical. Clearly defined mandates would make this task easier. The goal of protection of civilians is best served by preventing the outbreak of armed conflicts in the first place, addressing root causes of conflicts, and finding inclusive and lasting political solutions to the disputes. The Secretary General's focus on prevention is in fact entirely consistent with this, and hasn't come a day too early;

Four, commensurate with their participation, representation of TCCs/PCCs at the leadership and at senior level in the field and at headquarters would provide them with another avenue to provide inputs based on ground experience;

Fifth, a capability driven approach would enhance the effectiveness of missions. Professional, well-trained and well-equipped peacekeepers are at the core of this approach and strengthening of partnerships with regional and sub-regional organizations critical.

Madam Chair,

Growing overstretch, especially in field deployments adversely affects the mission's effectiveness, compromising its objectives and complicating exit strategies. It also jeopardizes the safety and security of peacekeepers. We, therefore, recommend that rather than cost cutting, we should allocate adequate resources for operational deployment and utilization of forces, especially if deployed in hostile environments.

Madam Chair,

When we speak on peacekeeping, we speak on the basis of our abiding ideals and the rich and diverse experience we have gained from our long-standing engagement across multiple theaters of conflict. We share our perspective as a major stakeholder and a leader on the subject. Pakistan is proud of its active and consistent role in strengthening the cause of peace across the world. We will continue to play this vital role, as harbingers of hope and security, for those battered by ravages of conflict and turmoil.

I thank you