

76th session of the UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Fourth Committee Joint General Debate

“Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects.”

(Agenda Item 56)

INDIA STATEMENT

Thank you Madam Chair, for giving me the floor.

1. Over the last seventy years, the Blue Helmets have become synonymous with harbingers of peace in conflict zones across the globe. Possibly no other organisation in the history of mankind has done more for humanity. Thousands of Peacekeepers, cutting across national and civilisational boundaries come together to act in unison to deliver designated mandates in conflict zones. Many have made the supreme sacrifice of their lives in their endeavour to fulfil the same. We convey our tribute to these Warriors of Peace.
2. Peacekeepers operate in varied security environments. Over the last few years, there has been a paradigm shift in this environment.
3. Appropriate use of field-focused, reliable and cost-effective technologies in peacekeeping operations that are driven by practical needs of end users is the need of the hour. Ongoing efforts for enhanced usage of technologies for purposes of improving situational awareness, safety and security, enhancing field support and effective mandate implementation is appreciated. India stands ready to support UN efforts of enhancing technological interventions in the UN peacekeeping operations. I would like to recall that recently, India provided financial support of \$US 1.6 million towards rollout of the UNITA-WARE platform, which is aimed to help enhance safety and security of peacekeepers as well as in effective mandate delivery.
4. The issue of accountability of crimes against the peacekeepers has remained long outstanding. It is unfortunate that while more than 1000 UN peacekeepers have lost their lives due to the malicious acts against them, the rate of conviction of such criminals and perpetrators has remained dismal. We would like to re-iterate that while the safety of the blue helmets is primary responsibility of the host countries, the UN should take adequate measures in line with the UNSC resolution 2589, which was championed by India, and adopted as presidential text, and cosponsored by more than 80 countries.
5. India has always voiced its support for adoption of “No National Caveats Policy” at UN peacekeeping deployments. India believes that caveats, especially those undeclared, places additional burden on those who do not have any caveats besides having an impact on performance of peacekeepers in fulfilling their mandate and safety and security. We also call for matching mandates with adequate resources. Under-resourced and under-

equipped mission will not only result in underperformance in mandate implementation but will impact on the credibility of UN peacekeeping as a whole.

6. Reporting of under-performance requires careful analysis and assessment. Such assessment should examine whether units with higher capability levels in the Peacekeeping Capability Readiness System (PCRS) were overlooked during selection; whether caveats have impacted performance; whether poor performance is due to lack of resources; or whether the mandate, including guidelines, were not clear, resulting in unsatisfactory implementation or whether administrative decisions were divorced from ground realities. Equally important is to ensure transparency in selecting contingents. The basis of selection should include training standards, equipment, and skill sets that would best suit the requirements of a specific mission's operational environment.

7. While we are responsible to Peacekeepers, Peacekeepers are responsible to the people they serve, even though primary responsibility for protecting the people lies with the host country. Their personal conduct has to be beyond reproach. Professionally, they have to be able to deliver their mandate. They cannot be lacking in either. In spite of the numbers of its Peacekeepers, India has one of the best records in terms of conduct. In matters professional also, we have endeavored to ensure that our Peacekeepers always meet the desired standards. In both aspects, our standards have been achieved through assiduous training and mission specific orientation. We have trained not only our Peacekeepers, but also from other countries, both through specific training as well as 'on the job' training in Mission areas. We remain committed to doing so.

8. Mandate execution involves a number of stakeholders; all such stakeholders need to be involved in the process right from the Planning Stages for effective Mandate delivery. Communication and Coordination between the Security Council, TCC/PCC and Secretariat is essential in this regard.

9. Finally, Mr Chairman, we continue our wholehearted support to the ongoing efforts to improve peacekeeping. We take note of the A4P Plus action plan focused on developing concrete deliverables look forward to working with partners in this Committee to make UN operations more future ready and effective.

I thank you.
