



NEPAL

Statement by H.E. Mr. Amrit Bahadur Rai, Permanent Representative of Nepal to the United Nations, at the 76th session of the UNGA, Special Political and Decolonization (Fourth) Committee on Comprehensive Review of the Whole Question of Peacekeeping Operations in all its Aspects (item 56)

Madam Chair,

Peacekeeping operations have remained the most visible, viable, and valuable conflict management tools at the disposal of the United Nations. Over the years, cognizant of the fact that there is a strong relation among peace and security, development and state-building, peacekeeping missions have evolved as a robust and multi-dimensional undertaking with the inclusion of a range of components, including political affairs, rule of law, human rights, humanitarian, reconstruction, and gender empowerment.

Madam Chair,

Nepal takes pride in being a dependable and enduring partner in the UN peace operations for more than six decades. Nepal has always responded positively and in good faith to the calls of the United Nations even at the shortest notice, always without any national caveat.

We have contributed over 151,000 peacekeepers so far, who have served with distinction in more than 50 UN missions. Currently, Nepal stands at 3rd largest troops and police contributing country.

In serving the noble cause of international peace and security, we have lost 82 of our blue helmets and hundreds of them are wounded in the line of duty.

Madam Chair,

Conflict areas have become more volatile, uncertain, complex, and challenging with the emergence of unconventional and asymmetric threats from criminals and terrorists.

We are deeply concerned about the safety and security of UN peacekeepers. Among other things, lack of adequate clarity in the mandate, lack of adequate resources and technological enablers are placing our blue helmets in a high-risk environment. This has been further exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic which has further exposed our fragilities warranting us to ensure medical capacity building in an urgent manner.

Nepal supports the ongoing efforts in improving peacekeeping operational capabilities under the auspices of the United Nations including timely rolled out (A4P) initiatives and recent (A4P+) as its implementation strategy. It helps us in taking a holistic approach for effective peacekeeping. We also support the recent Strategy for the Digital Transformation of UN peacekeeping that facilitates real-

time monitoring and data-driven decision making. Nevertheless, we think that it must be demand-driven and absorbable to its user.

Nepal has always been constructively engaged in the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations (C-34) to devise recommendations with a view to enhancing the effectiveness of peace operations.

For the impactful peacekeeping operations, Nepal wishes to highlight the following points:

First, successful peacekeeping is based on our concerted efforts. The Security Council, host country, T/PCCs. Regional organizations and the Secretariat should work together to devise well-defined, pragmatic, and achievable mandates which must be focused to address the context specific core issues.

Second, UN Peacekeeping should promote and support political dialogues, and nationally owned political solutions for lasting peace.

Third, peacekeeping missions should be adequately resourced. The Secretariat should ensure all logistical coordination to implement the mandates effectively.

Fourth, Member States should deliver their financial contribution in full and timely manner. And the secretariat should also settle any outstanding reimbursements to TPPCs well in time for enhancing operational capabilities of peacekeeping missions. The administrative and procedural problems should be interpreted in good faith with sincerity of intentions to strengthen partnership and maintain the high morale of peacekeepers.

Fifth, a caveat in peacekeeping leaves a detrimental effect on the achievement of mission mandate so it should be removed. Outstanding performance of peacekeepers should be appreciated and rewarded.

Sixth, the application of mission-specific performance indicators, based on its mandates and ground reality, should be administered for a better assessment of the mission's performance. Mission leadership should be held accountable for the whole-of mission performance.

Seventh, partnership among Member States is essential for filling capability gaps. We view that triangular partnership and Light Coordination Mechanism among UN, T/PCCs and developed countries would help to enhance peacekeeping mission's capability including digital technologies. In this light, we are also ready to offer our world-class peacekeeping training center and training facilities should there be any need for the Secretariat and other T/PCCs.

Nepal hopes that the upcoming Seoul UN Peacekeeping Ministerial Meeting would be an important event for strengthening partnership to equip our peacekeepers for the effective delivery of mandates.

Madam Chair,

Nepal has been supportive of normative frameworks for the protection of civilians and the integration of peacebuilding components in all levels of peacekeeping operations. Participation of women, youths, and community leaders must be promoted in all sustained peacebuilding efforts.

Let me take this opportunity to reaffirm our commitment to increasing the number of female peacekeepers. Nepal has already met the UN set target of female peacekeepers in Staff Officers (SO), Military Observers (MILOBS) and we are endeavoring to increase the number to military contingent.

Nepal is committed to 'zero tolerance policy' for any case of sexual exploitation and abuse.

Nepal firmly believes in the balanced, fair, and equitable representation from T/PCCs in the senior positions of the Secretariat and field missions based on their contributions.

Madam Chair,

To conclude, UN peace operations must succeed in regaining and nurturing the hope of millions of people shattered by conflicts. I would like to reiterate Nepal's firm commitment to contributing to UN peace operations for the noble cause of maintaining international peace and security.

I thank you.