

Ambassador CHO Hyun, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea before the 4th Committee of the 76th session of the United Nations General Assembly

Agenda item 56: Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects.

New York, October 2021

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Thank you, Mr. Chair

Let me begin by thanking all of the men and women who have served in peacekeeping missions for their commitment and dedication. The recent tragic incident in Mali, where peacekeepers were killed and injured, serves as a stark reminder of the dangerous and difficult circumstances that United Nations peacekeepers are operating in. The Republic of Korea pays tribute to their noble service and sacrifice, and stresses that those responsible for such despicable attacks on blue helmets should be held accountable in a timely and appropriate manner.

Since 1948, more than 70 peacekeeping operations have been deployed by the United Nations, and 12 of them are still in operation today. Over the past decades, UN peacekeeping activities have evolved as the nature of conflict has changed, but one thing remains unchanged. Peacekeeping has been one of the most effective and visible instruments for the international community to maintain and promote global peace and security.

More recently, we have underscored the importance of enhancing the PKO's impact with the launch of the Secretary-General's Action for Peacekeeping (A4P) initiative three years ago, as well as the new phase of A4P Plus this year.

Re-emphasizing Korea's unwavering and continued support for such endeavors to reinvigorate UN PKO, I would like to highlight three specific points in relation to how we can improve both the capabilities and efficiencies of peacekeeping operations moving forward

First of all, Member States need to make substantial and tangible contributions. We must provide and commit adequate resources for all peacekeepers to ensure proper equipment and training for them. In this regard, the Republic of Korea would like to emphasize the significance of the 2021 Seoul UN Peacekeeping Ministerial, which will be held this December. The Ministerial will provide a timely opportunity for Member States and partners to identify and gather concrete pledges to fill gaps in capabilities.

In particular, Korea has already identified technology and medical capacity building as the two guiding cross-cutting themes of the Ministerial. We look forward to working closely with all of you so that pledges in support of these two key cross-cutting themes will be developed and implemented. This will ensure that peacekeeping is more fit for purpose in our rapidly changing world. Also, in this vein, we fully support the implementation of the UN strategy for digital transformation of peacekeeping, as well as ongoing efforts to advance medical capacity in various ways.

Second, we need to take a comprehensive approach to view peacekeeping operations as a part of the entire peace continuum, from prevention to peacebuilding to achieving and sustaining peace. This is especially relevant for multi-dimensional PKO missions. Therefore, it is imperative that not only the Security Council and the DPO, but also other key stakeholders including TCCs, international organizations, and the PBC, be included in the mission designing process. By doing so, relevant parties can find the most suitable and realistic mandates in an efficient and effective manner, throughout the whole peace process.

Third, we should keep in mind that deploying peacekeepers that are well trained and have proper capabilities is simply indispensable in enhancing peacekeeping performance and accountability. During one of the Preparatory Meetings for the 2021 Seoul UN Peacekeeping Ministerial, the US and Rwanda, as co-hosts, demonstrated how an effective, long-term partnership has successfully built and strengthened peacekeeping capacities. And that, in turn, has led to the improved performance and accountability of blue helmets.

It is our collective responsibility to provide T/PCCs with the necessary support in terms of training and capabilities, and, at the same time, to hold them accountable for the proper conduct and the delivery of mandates. Member States should also go beyond troop and equipment contributions and do more to integrate training and technological mechanisms. Therefore, we welcome and encourage the use of innovative approaches in supporting T/PCCs, including triangular partnerships and light coordination mechanisms.

Mr. Chair,

With a firm belief that peacekeeping is one of the most effective tools we have today in maintaining international peace and security, the Republic of Korea, as the host country of the 2021 Seoul UN Peacekeeping Ministerial, would like to assure you of our continuous efforts to play an active role, together with the United Nations and its partners, with a view towards better implementing peacekeeping operations around the world. Thank you. /END/