



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

22 April 2010

Excellency,

I am pleased to convene a thematic debate of the General Assembly entitled “UN Peacekeeping-looking into the future” on Tuesday, 22 June 2010.

Peacekeeping is today a major activity of the United Nations - a vital tool in the hands of the world body for the maintenance of international peace and security. Tens of thousands of blue helmets deployed around the world are bringing stability and hope for a better future for millions of people affected by conflict. The unique role and legitimacy of the United Nations brings added credibility and acceptance for its peacekeeping activities.

Ensuring the effectiveness of UN peacekeeping is a collective objective of the entire membership, whose political will and full backing are fundamental for the success of this endeavour. The evolving nature and scope of peacekeeping mandates also require a continuous effort for reform and strengthening of the UN peacekeeping capacity.

Success of peacekeeping in recent years, particularly in Africa, has also led to high expectations and a surge in demand. This poses significant challenges in terms of policy and decision making, planning, force generation, deployment and management of peacekeeping missions. Available resources are often stretched beyond capacity, impacting the efficiency and effectiveness of missions. That peacekeeping must be accompanied by parallel efforts on the political track, with credible peace processes, is evident for its success. In complex crises, often in intra-state conflicts, peacekeeping and the wider peace-building efforts must go hand in hand in order to achieve successful transitions towards comprehensive and durable peace and development.

Many of these critical questions and challenges relate to several of the current peacekeeping operations and are also the focus of a growing political debate over the future of peacekeeping. Several initiatives from the Secretariat and Member States have sought to advance this discussion aimed at adapting and enhancing the peacekeeping capacities. Mostly rooted in the landmark “Brahimi Report”, the ongoing reform efforts bring out the lessons learned from the implementation of its key recommendations and the need to continue to address the “unfinished business”.

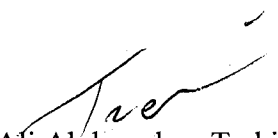
All Permanent Representatives
and Permanent Observers
to the United Nations
New York

The thematic debate, with high level participation of member states, leading experts, academics and practitioners, will provide an inclusive setting for a strategic discussion on the major issues concerning peacekeeping. Panels will focus on themes ranging from the centrality of the political commitment; to the importance of a sustained and meaningful engagement of all stakeholders particularly the troop contributing countries; the provision of capabilities commensurate with the mission mandates; and the crucial inter-linkages with peace-building especially in the context of integrated missions. (detailed programme will follow).

I believe the thematic debate will be an excellent opportunity to advance a common vision of peacekeeping and to muster the political support of all Member States, key elements in timely and effective mobilization of the required resources for peacekeeping. Doing so would also be an important manifestation of our acknowledgment and tribute to the tremendous service and sacrifice of our peacekeepers, and of our collective will to make peacekeeping deliver even better.

I look forward to your support and active participation for the success of this debate.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.



Ali Abdussalam Treki