

**Statement by DA, Permanent Representative of Bangladesh on 26 Oct 2017**

Mr. President,

Let me join my predecessors in congratulating their urge and presentation on PKO.

Mr. President,

Since its inception, United Nations Peacekeeping has been constantly evolving. The current period is no exception. Peacekeeping continues to face challenges as well as huge range of demands. UN missions are assisting countries to make the difficult transition from conflict to peace, from chaos to state-building supporting political process aimed at establishing inclusive and legitimate Governments, providing security and catalyzing peacebuilding processes. Present mandates of peacekeeping operations are more challenging and complex and it necessitates long term preparation and training of the peacekeepers. Alongside, greater sense of commitment and dedication on the part of TCCs/PCCs is also essential. It is also posing challenges on TCCs/PCCs in order to fulfil the robust mandates. In this context, UNMISS (South Sudan), MINUSMA (Mali) and MINUSCA (Central African Republic) are worth mentioning.

To meet the increasing demand it is felt that there is a need to improve rapid deployment and force generation process in start-up missions for not only enablers but all uniformed capacities. The challenges must be met through a variety of means, including joint and individual contributions. Various UN missions are lacking appropriate capabilities in meeting the multi-faceted challenges and demands to fulfil the mandates, assigned tasks and desired outcome. In spite of utmost efforts from all partners UN is still finding difficulties to meet its capabilities in terms of appropriate force generation, suitable mission support (logistics) and other technical support.

Mr. President,

UN peacekeepers have inherent operational limitations in terms of real time intelligence gathering. This limitations must be understood with due credibility before employing them in the complex and conflicting situation. Today, technology supports a wide range of tasks in UN peacekeeping operations beyond those undertaken by the military and police forces; encompassing information and communication units, medical support and analysis and reporting functions. Thus we fully support the use of modern appropriate technology to enhance the reach of the peacekeepers and increase operational capabilities in the complex environment. However, we feel that technological means should be used prudently and realistically --- not in an effort to replace the necessity of well- trained capable peacekeepers on the ground that are capable to fulfill the assigned mandates more sensitively.

Mr. President,

In the event of demanding situation and in order to fulfilling robust mandates there is a tendency of using the peacekeepers in combatant's role. We must be able to differentiate between robust peacekeeping and use of peacekeepers as the combatant. It is felt that any attempt to use them as combatants will hamper its credibility and also universal acceptability. Over years, the peacekeepers have built a good reputation of bringing long lasting peace in the conflict driven countries with professionalism and impartiality. Therefore, we also must create enabling conditions so that the peacekeepers are protected and can perform their traditional role of peacekeepers. For example, Bangladesh follows a policy of "Friendship to all and malice to none". We would not like to see our peacekeepers siding with any of the warring factions and contradict with our national policy of friendship to all and malice to none.

Mr. President,

While the primary responsibility for safety and security of peacekeepers and assets rests with the host country, the lead for UN security policy and procedure rests with the Department of Safety and Security. Peacekeepers are being subjected to increasing threats day by day. Weapon proliferation, sectarian violence, and non-state

actors are some of the factors that are making the peacekeepers more vulnerable to multi-faceted threats. Longer preparation on the part of TCCs/PCCs, developing realistic and achievable mandates and well coordinated efforts from all the stakeholders can ensure better safety and secured environment of the peacekeepers. We have lost more than 135 of our valiant peacekeepers in our efforts to maintain peace and security under Blue helmets.

Mr. President,

Protecting civilians under imminent threat of physical violence is now a key area of focus for peacekeeping operations. Implementing the protection of civilian mandates in a coordinated and expedient manner requires dedicated coordination and advisory functions of all concerned. This is adding more challenges for the Mission leadership in general and peacekeepers in particular in complex and fluid situations.

Mr. President,

In regards to reimbursement of the peacekeepers, I strongly call on the Council to increase reimbursement on the basis of the rates being proposed in the Survey commissioned under the mandate of the UN General Assembly. I would also highlight the importance of providing appropriate logistic support to the peacekeepers so that they can deliver their best on the ground.

Finally, I would like to stress upon the importance of strengthening the partnership and coordination between the Security Council, troops and police contributing countries and the Secretariat – what is known as triangular co-operation. This needs to grow further and strengthened by improving information exchange, increase strategic and consultations and promote cohesiveness and ownership among the various stakeholders. As one of the leading troops and police contributing countries we would like to assure you of our continued support in strengthening the partnership.