**Press Release**

**Sufficient and sustained peacekeeping budget is critical for the peacekeeping missions to carry out the diverse mandates –Ambassador Rabab Fatima**

**New York, 03 May 2021:**

Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the United Nations Ambassador Rabab Fatima stressed on the importance of adequate funding of the UN peacekeeping missions. Ambassador Fatima was speaking at the UN peacekeeping budget session in the UN headquarters, New York. She had mentioned that sufficient and sustained peacekeeping budget was critical for the peacekeeping missions to carry out their diverse mandates effectively. “It is imperative to ensure that the peacekeeping missions are sufficiently funded,” she added.

Ambassador Fatima underscored the need for timely reimbursement to the troops and police contributing countries for their personnel and equipment support. It may be noted that Bangladesh is the top troops and police contributing country in UN peacekeeping operations with nearly 7,000 peacekeepers serving in 7 missions.

In her statement, Bangladesh PR urged the member states to take into account the impact of COVID-19 on peacekeeping operations and ensure sufficient allocation in order to allow the peacekeepers to cope with the challenges, while considering peacekeeping budget. She praised our peacekeepers for continued efforts to fulfill their mandates in maintaining peace, stability and security in the conflict prone countries and regions, despite the challenges of the pandemic.

Highlighting Sheikh Hasina Government’s endeavors in the context of woman participation in peacekeeping, Ambassador Fatima said that increased participation of women in peacekeeping has been a key strategic objective of National Action Plan on Women Peace and Security in Bangladesh. She expressed concern at the low representation of woman in the peacekeeping operations, especially in the senior leadership positions. “We must continue to invest in our collective efforts towards full, effective and meaningful participation of women at all peacekeeping levels and positions,” she added.

Fifth Committee of the UN General Assembly sits in May every year to consider the budget of UN peacekeeping missions.

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