



Security Council

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Letter dated 31 March 2020 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General and the Permanent Representatives of the members of the Security Council

I have the honour to refer to Security Council resolution 2518 (2020), in connection with the item entitled “United Nations peacekeeping operations”. The resolution was adopted on 30 March 2020 in accordance with the voting procedure set out in the letter dated 27 March 2020 from the President of the Security Council (S/2020/253), a procedure agreed upon in the light of the extraordinary circumstances caused by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic.

Pursuant to that procedure, I enclose herewith copies of the following documents:

- My letter dated 27 March 2020 addressed to the Permanent Representatives of the members of the Security Council, putting to a vote the draft resolution contained in document S/2020/240 (see annex I and enclosure thereto);
- Letters received in reply from members of the Security Council, indicating their national positions on the draft resolution (see annexes II to XVI);
- Statements subsequently submitted by members of the Security Council, providing their explanations of vote (see annexes XVII to XX).

The present letter and its annexes will be issued as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) **Zhang Jun**
President of the Security Council



Annex I

Letter dated 27 March 2020 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Permanent Representatives of the members of the Security Council

According to the understanding and procedure agreed upon by the members of the Security Council during the current extraordinary circumstances caused by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, and as reflected in my letter dated 27 March 2020, I would like to draw your attention to the following issue:

The members of the Council discussed and reached consensus on the draft resolution submitted by the People's Republic of China for the safety and security of peacekeepers (S/2020/240). The draft resolution has been put in blue (see enclosure).

With the understanding of the members of the Council, in my capacity as President of the Council, I shall put the above-mentioned draft resolution to a vote now.

Please kindly provide your vote (in favour, against or abstention) on that draft resolution and possible explanation of vote by sending the Director of the Security Council Affairs Division of the Secretariat (egian@un.org) a letter signed by the Permanent Representative or Chargé d'affaires within the next non-extendable 24 hours. The process will then proceed accordingly, as agreed.

(Signed) **Zhang Jun**
President of the Security Council
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative
of the People's Republic of China to the United Nations

Enclosure

United Nations

S/2020/240



Security Council

Provisional
26 March 2020

Original: English

China: draft resolution

The Security Council,

Recalling the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, reaffirming the primary responsibility of the Security Council under the Charter of the United Nations for the maintenance of international peace and security,

Recalling its previous relevant resolutions and presidential statements addressing issues of peacekeeping,

Reaffirming the basic principles of peacekeeping, such as consent of the parties, impartiality, and non-use of force, except in self-defence and defence of the mandate,

Underscoring the importance of peacekeeping as one of the most effective tools available to the United Nations in the promotion and maintenance of international peace and security, and affirming that lasting peace is not achieved nor sustained by military and technical engagements alone, but through political solutions and strongly convinced that they should guide the design and deployment of United Nations peacekeeping operations,

Noting with appreciation the progress made in efforts undertaken by the Secretary-General to mobilize all partners and stakeholders in support of more effective United Nations peacekeeping through the Secretary-General's "Action for Peacekeeping" initiative, which places high importance on the safety and security of peacekeepers alongside advancing political solutions, promoting the Women, Peace and Security agenda, strengthening protection of civilians, supporting effective performance and accountability, strengthening the impact of peacekeeping on peacebuilding and sustaining peace, improving peacekeeping partnerships, and strengthening the conduct of peacekeeping operations and personnel,

Expressing grave concern about the security threats and targeted attacks against United Nations peacekeepers in many peacekeeping missions, which constitute a major challenge to United Nations peacekeeping operations, including threats posed by landmines, explosive remnants of war and improvised explosive devices, recalling the sacrifices of uniformed and civilian personnel in implementing United Nations peacekeeping mandates in challenging environments, and condemning in the

strongest terms killing of and all acts of violence against United Nations peacekeeping personnel, which may constitute war crimes, and paying tribute to all peacekeepers, police and military as well as civilian ones, who lost their life while serving with the United Nations,

Underscoring the importance it places on the safety and security of peacekeepers in the field and the need for the Secretary-General and Troop-and Police-Contributing Countries and Member States to work together to ensure that missions are adequately resourced and all peacekeepers in the field are willing, capable and equipped effectively and safely to implement their mandate,

Condemning violations of status-of-forces agreements by any party to those agreements, recognizing the grave risks such violations can present to the safety and security of peacekeepers and affirming that the entry of personnel or equipment into the country and freedom of movement within the mandate should not be hindered,

Taking note of the measures taken and efforts made by the Secretariat and Member States in preventing and addressing illnesses including infectious diseases, among peacekeepers,

Noting that caveats not declared and not formally accepted by the Secretariat may adversely limit mandate implementation, and stresses the importance of avoiding caveats that may impinge upon the operational effectiveness of the mission and risk the safety and security of peacekeepers, in particular in hostile environments,

Recalling the report on “Improving Security of United Nations Peacekeepers”, the related Action Plan on improving safety and security, stressing that deficiencies in training, equipment, capacity, leadership at all levels, performance and accountability, and medical capacity in the missions can increase risks to the safety and security of peacekeepers, including leading to increased risk of fatalities,

Recalling its resolution 2436 (2018), underscoring the link between performance and safety and security of uniformed and civilian peacekeeping personnel, and recognizing that institutionalizing a culture of performance in United Nations peacekeeping will contribute to better delivery of peacekeeping mandates, as well as lead to improvements in the safety and security of peacekeepers,

Reaffirming the importance of full, effective and meaningful participation of women in peacekeeping operations and the importance of conducting and integrating a gender analysis and gender assessments when considering the safety and security of personnel,

Recognizing that possible adverse effects of environmental deterioration may, in the long run, aggravate certain existing threats to the stability of some host states which are particularly vulnerable to these adverse effects and which may influence the safety and security of peacekeepers, while respecting the respective mandates of all United Nations bodies in this regard,

Recognizing the critical role of United Nations peacekeepers in the promotion and maintenance of international peace and security in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, and that the primary responsibility for the safety and security of United Nations personnel and assets rests with the host state, recognizing further that efforts to enhance safety and improve security need to improve at all levels both at headquarters and in the field as a shared endeavour,

1. *Stresses* the importance of supporting United Nations peacekeeping operations, recognizes the crucial role peacekeeping plays in achieving conditions for stability and a lasting peace, and emphasizes the importance of enhancing the safety and security of peacekeepers;

2. *Requests* the host states to fulfil their obligations to facilitate access and freedom of movement for United Nations peacekeepers and their equipment consistent with the mandate, including for casualty and medical evacuation, and requests the Secretariat to instruct all peacekeeping missions to systematically document violations of status-of-forces agreements and that Mission leadership should use this information to monitor and resolve risks to the safety and security of peacekeepers as necessary;

3. *Calls* on all Member States hosting peacekeeping operations to promptly investigate and effectively prosecute those responsible for attacks on United Nations personnel, and to keep the relevant Troop-and Police-Contributing Countries informed of the progress of such investigations and prosecutions;

4. *Notes* that peacekeepers are deployed in deteriorating and complex political and security environments, and face asymmetrical and complex threats, underscores the importance of ensuring that peacekeeping missions evolve their capacities and systems to remain agile and effective in implementing their mandates in specific operating contexts to enhance safety and security of peacekeepers and mission protection, including through the provision of adequate medical facilities and critical capabilities;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to take all appropriate measures to enhance the safety and security of peacekeeping personnel, including by strengthening, where necessary, peacekeeping missions' situational awareness through measures to improve their information acquisition and analysis capacities, including surveillance and monitoring capacities, within the limits of their mandate and area of operation;

6. *Calls* upon Member States and the United Nations to ensure safe, enabling and gender-sensitive working environments for women in peacekeeping operations and to address threats and violence against them;

7. *Reaffirms* its determination to take effective steps to further enhance the partnership between the United Nations and regional as well as sub-regional organizations in relation to safety and security of peacekeepers. Encourages partnerships to support the African Union's efforts to continue to develop policy, guidance and training to ensure the safety and security of its peacekeepers;

8. *Requests* United Nations peacekeeping operations to enhance engagements and communications with the host governments, the local authorities and the population to build trust and mutual understanding and improve safety and security;

9. *Calls* for measures to enhance operational health support, including to establish well-defined and practical medical standards for peacekeeping operations, accelerate the ongoing efforts to improve the system of medical support and casualty evacuation for injured peacekeepers, ensure adequate medical facilities and qualified personnel are deployed to provide the essential 10-1-2 response at all times, within the mission area and as close to deployment of Troop-and Police-Contributing Countries as possible through the life of the mission;

10. Requests the Secretary-General to review and ensure uniformity of United Nations standards on training and performance, thereby improving safety and security of peacekeepers, and calls upon Member States to take action to help enhance training for United Nations peacekeepers, including but not limited to countering improvised explosive devices, mitigating threats from improvised explosive devices, health, and basic first aid, with the support of the Secretariat as appropriate;

11. Reaffirms the critical link between safety and security and the performance of civilian and uniformed peacekeeping personnel, and in that regard welcomes the initiatives undertaken by the Secretary-General to standardize a culture of performance in UN peacekeeping, recalls its requests in its resolution 2378 (2017) and resolution 2436 (2018) that the Secretary-General ensure that performance data related to the effectiveness of peacekeeping operations is used to improve mission operations, including decisions such as those regarding deployment, remediation, repatriation and incentives, reaffirms its support for the development of a comprehensive and integrated performance policy framework that identifies clear standards of performance for evaluating all United Nations civilian and uniformed personnel working in and supporting peacekeeping operations that facilitates effective and full implementation of mandates, and includes comprehensive and objective methodologies based on clear and well-defined benchmarks to ensure accountability for underperformance and incentives and recognition for outstanding performance;

12. Calls on the United Nations to further operationalize the Light Coordination Mechanism, to facilitate and further coordinate improved training and capacity building activities between Member States to include Troop-and Police-Contributing Countries, providers of training and capacity building, and the United Nations, and encourages Member States to engage with this mechanism, with the aim of improving training on safety and security;

13. Takes note of the ongoing work of the Secretariat in developing a strategy to better integrate the use of new technologies for the purposes of increasing safety and security, improving situational awareness, enhancing field support and facilitating substantive mandate implementation. Encourages Troop-and Police-Contributing Countries and Field-Missions to support field-focused, reliable and cost-effective new technologies that are driven by the practical needs of end users on the ground and in this regard stresses the need for consultations with Member States and host countries, as appropriate;

14. Requests the Secretary-General to report progress on improving safety and security of peacekeepers, including on the issues set out in this resolution in his comprehensive annual briefing mandated by its resolution 2378 (2017);

15. Decides to remain seized of the matter.

Annex II

Letter dated 27 March 2020 from the Permanent Representative of Belgium to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I refer to the letter dated 27 March 2020 by the President of the Security Council relating to the draft resolution on the safety and security of peacekeepers (S/2020/240).

In accordance with the procedure set forth for the adoption of draft resolutions under the current extraordinary circumstance caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, I am pleased to indicate that Belgium votes in favour of this draft resolution. At this stage, my delegation does not intend to deliver an explanation of vote.

(Signed) Marc **Pecsteen de Buytsverve**
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative
of Belgium to the United Nations

Annex III

Letter dated 27 March 2020 from the Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I would like to thank you and your team for the strong support in facilitating the voting procedure.

Please be kindly informed that China votes in favour of the draft resolution (S/2020/240) submitted by the People's Republic of China on the safety and security of peacekeepers. Attached herewith is the explanation of vote.

(Signed) **Zhang Jun**
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative
of the People's Republic of China to the United Nations

Annex IV

Letter dated 27 March 2020 from the Representative of the Dominican Republic to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

According to the letter dated 27 March 2020 from the President of the Security Council for the month of March, in which it is informed on the agreement among Council members, amid the current extraordinary circumstances caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, to provide our vote in writing within a non-extendable period of 24 hours, and to the letter dated 27 March 2020 in which the President of the Security Council is putting the draft resolution on the safety and security of peacekeepers to a vote now (S/2020/240), the Dominican Republic would like to submit its vote.

In this regard, upon instructions from my Government, the Dominican Republic votes in favour of the draft resolution on the safety and security of peacekeepers.

(Signed) José Singer Weisinger
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Special Envoy to the Security Council of the Dominican Republic

Annex V

Letter dated 27 March 2020 from the Permanent Representative of Estonia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to inform, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter of the United Nations, that my delegation votes in favour of Security Council draft resolution S/2020/240, on the safety and security of peacekeepers.

(Signed) **Sven Jürgenson**
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative of Estonia to the United Nations

Annex VI

[Original: French]

Letter dated 30 March 2020 from the Permanent Representative of France to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I refer to the letter dated 27 March 2020 from the President of the Security Council in which he called upon the members of the Council to vote on the draft resolution presented by China relating to the safety and security of peacekeepers (S/2020/240).

France votes in favour of the draft resolution.

(Signed) Nicolas **de Rivière**
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative of France to the United Nations

Annex VII

Letter dated 30 March 2020 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Germany to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

It is my honour to write to you in response to your letter dated 27 March 2020 initiating a written voting procedure in line with the agreement reached between members of the Security Council, which is to be assessed at the end of the month of April 2020.

The vote of the Federal Republic of Germany on the draft resolution submitted by the People's Republic of China on the safety and security of peacekeepers (S/2020/240) is as follows:

The Federal Republic of Germany votes in favour of the above-mentioned draft resolution.

(Signed) Jürgen **Schulz**
Ambassador

Deputy Permanent Representative of the Permanent Mission of Germany to
the United Nations

Annex VIII

Letter dated 29 March 2020 from the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Indonesia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I write in reference to the letter by the Permanent Representative of the People's Republic of China to the United Nations, in his capacity as the President of the Security Council, dated 27 March 2020, regarding the draft resolution on the safety and security of peacekeepers (S/2020/240).

I hereby indicate that Indonesia votes in favour of the draft resolution.

(Signed) Dian Triansyah **Djani**
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Indonesia to the United Nations

Annex IX

Note verbale dated 28 March 2020 from the Permanent Mission of the Niger to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

The Permanent Mission of the Niger to the United Nations in New York has the honour to refer to the letter dated 27 March 2020 from the President of the Security Council for the month of March, enunciating the agreed provisional procedure for the adoption of draft resolutions during the COVID-19 pandemic.

On the draft resolution submitted by the People's Republic of China on the safety and security of peacekeepers (S/2020/240), the Republic of the Niger votes in favour.

Annex X

Letter dated 27 March 2020 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter of 27 March 2020 on the beginning of the voting procedure for the draft resolution on the safety and security of peacekeepers (S/2020/240).

In accordance with the procedure for the adoption of draft resolutions of the Security Council being in place during the duration of the restrictions on movement in New York due to the COVID-19 pandemic outlined in your letter of 27 March 2020, I have the honour to inform you that the Russian Federation votes in favour of the draft resolution.

(Signed) **Vassily Nebenzia**
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations

Annex XI

Letter dated 30 March 2020 from the Permanent Representative of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to refer to the draft resolution submitted by the People's Republic of China on the safety and security of peacekeepers (S/2020/240).

In this respect, I wish to inform that Saint Vincent and the Grenadines votes in favour of the above-mentioned draft resolution.

(Signed) Inga Rhonda **King**
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines to the United
Nations

Annex XII

Letter dated 27 March 2020 from the Permanent Representative of South Africa to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I refer to your letter dated 27 March 2020 regarding the Security Council draft resolution submitted by the People's Republic of China on the safety and security of peacekeepers (S/2020/240).

The delegation of the Republic of South Africa votes in favour of the above-mentioned draft resolution.

(Signed) Jerry Matthews **Matjila**
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative of the
Republic of South Africa to the United Nations

Annex XIII

Letter dated 28 March 2020 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Tunisia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

With reference to the letter dated 27 March 2020 from the Permanent Representative of China, in his capacity as President of the Security Council, regarding the draft resolution on the safety and security of peacekeepers introduced by the People's Republic of China under (S/2020/240), I would like to inform you that Tunisia votes in favour of the draft resolution.

(Signed) Tarek **Ladeb**
Ambassador

Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Tunisia to the United Nations

Annex XIV

Letter dated 30 March 2020 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

With reference to the letter from the President of the Security Council of 27 March 2020, the United Kingdom votes in favour on the draft resolution (S/2020/240) for safety and security of peacekeepers.

(Signed) Jonathan **Allen**
Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the United Kingdom of
Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations

Annex XV

Letter dated 27 March 2020 from the Permanent Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

On the draft resolution submitted by the People's Republic of China on the safety and security of peacekeepers (S/2020/240), the United States of America votes in favour.

(Signed) Kelly **Craft**
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative of the United States of America to the United
Nation

Annex XVI

Letter dated 30 March 2020 from the Permanent Representative of Viet Nam to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I refer to the letter dated 27 March 2020 from the President of the Security Council relating to the draft resolution on the safety and security of peacekeepers submitted by the People's Republic of China (S/2020/240).

In accordance with the understanding and procedure for the consideration of draft resolutions agreed upon by the members of the Security Council during the extraordinary circumstances caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, as reflected in the letter dated 27 March 2020 by the President of the Security Council, I would like to hereby inform you that Viet Nam has decided to vote in favour of the above-mentioned draft resolution and does not intend to make any statement on this matter at this stage.

(Signed) **Dang Dinh Quy**
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative of Viet Nam
to the United Nations

Annex XVII

[Original: Chinese and English]

Statement by Mr. Zhang Jun, Permanent Representative of the People's Republic of China to the United Nations

China thanks members of the Security Council for their active participation in the consultations on the draft resolution, which reflects the importance they attach to the safety of peacekeepers, and for their spirit of compromise. China hopes that the Security Council will unanimously adopt the resolution on the safety of peacekeepers and send out a positive message in unity. As this will be the first resolution on the safety of peacekeepers adopted by the Council, we believe that it will be of great significance for improving peacekeeping operations and ensuring effectively the safety of peacekeepers.

This year marks the 75th anniversary of the United Nations. The implementation of Secretary-General Guterres' Action for Peacekeeping initiative has entered a critical stage, and peacekeeping operations are at a new starting point. At the same time, peacekeeping operations are faced with more complex and dangerous environment and challenges. After all, peacekeeping mandates must be implemented by peacekeepers, and the safety and security of peacekeepers should be treated with greater urgency. This is our shared responsibility.

China promotes the adoption by the Council of the resolution on the safety of peacekeepers in order to forge consensus and urge the international community to scale up input in peacekeeping operations, take practical measures to improve the safety of peacekeepers and enhance capacity-building, so that mandates can be better fulfilled, peacekeeping operations can be improved and a greater role can be played in resolving hotspot issues by political means. The resolution covers multiple aspects, including training, medical care, partnerships, women and technology, among others. We call on all parties to take practical measures to effectively safeguard the safety of peacekeepers. The sooner we act, the better the safety of peacekeepers can be guaranteed and the more hopeful regional peace processes are.

China is a major financial and troop contributor to the United Nations peacekeeping operations. It is a firm supporter of, and participant in, United Nations peacekeeping operations. The six-point commitment made by President Xi Jinping at the 2015 United Nations Peacekeeping Summit has been followed through. Moving forward, China will continue to adopt a responsible attitude and work with all parties in delivering our commitment to multilateralism and improving peacekeeping operations.

Annex XVIII

Statement by Mr. Dian Triansyah Djani, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Indonesia to the United Nations

Indonesia welcomes today's adoption of resolution 2518 (2020) on the safety and security of peacekeepers. We appreciate China's efforts in facilitating the negotiations, and we thank the members of the Council for their constructive engagement despite the difficult situation related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Indonesia voted in favour of the resolution. For us, the safety and security of the Blue Helmets will always be a top priority.

Peacekeepers are operating in increasingly complex and dangerous security environments, which put their lives at risk. Just recently, Indonesia lost one of its soldiers who was serving in the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. While acknowledging some progress in reducing the number of peacekeeping fatalities, Indonesia is of the view that much more remains to be done. Indeed, one peacekeeper lost is still one too many.

This resolution is an important step towards enhancing the safety and security of peacekeepers. It calls for measures to enhance operational health support and to ensure adequate medical facilities and qualified personnel, including for casualty evacuation.

Indonesia also welcomes the resolution's appropriate recognition of the importance of training and capacity-building in the area of safety and security. We believe that well-trained and well-equipped peacekeepers will be in a better position to carry out their tasks professionally and safely.

The resolution also highlights the importance of avoiding caveats, promoting community engagement, improving situational awareness, and the use of technology to enhance the safety and security of peacekeepers.

Indonesia believes that, in adopting this resolution, the Security Council is sending a strong and clear message to all of our peacekeepers that we care and are fully committed to improving their safety and security.

In conclusion, we salute the peacekeepers for their invaluable work in pursuing peace while risking their lives. Let us honour their dedication and sacrifices by ensuring improvement in safety and security for them.

Annex XIX

Statement by Mr. Vassily A. Nebenzia, Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations

I have the honour to address you, Sir, in your capacity as the President of the Security Council for the month of March 2020, on your initiative on resolution 2518 (2020), on the safety and security of peacekeepers, and to assure you of the support of the Russian Federation in this regard.

I also have the honour to inform you, Sir, about the decision of the Russian Federation to co-sponsor the resolution. Let me express our profound gratitude for this important and timely initiative. We are grateful that the provisions of the resolution correspond to the comprehensive approach agreed during the latest session of the General Assembly Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations in March. We highly appreciate your constructive role during the negotiation process and your efforts to take into account key concerns of all members of the Security Council, including the references to the Basic Principles of Peacekeeping as well as the primacy of political solutions in conflict settlement, which remain imperative for the United Nations peacekeeping.

We also support your approach, Sir, to highlight the importance of taking all the appropriate measures to enhance the safety and security of peacekeeping personnel. The resolution also calls for further enhancing the partnership between the United Nations and regional as well as subregional organizations in relation to the safety and security of peacekeepers. We are convinced that this resolution will make a significant contribution to improving the safety and security of peacekeepers as well as the overall effectiveness of United Nations peacekeeping operations.

Annex XX**Statement by Ms. Inga Rhonda King, Permanent Representative of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines to the United Nations**

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines voted in favour of resolution 2518 (2020), on the safety and security of peacekeepers. Admittedly, we are neither a troop- nor a police-contributing country. However, we acknowledge that peacekeeping remains a central instrument in our collective struggle against the scourge of war. We wish to reiterate that, while peacekeeping operations may facilitate a cessation of hostilities in the short or medium term, moving from a ceasefire towards a lasting and sustainable peace requires a multidimensional approach that addresses the root causes of conflict. To that end, peacekeeping operations must always form part of a broader, nationally led and inclusive political process in order to achieve those desired outcomes. Uniformed and civilian personnel in the employ of these stabilization missions must always be provided with adequate training to allow them to carry out their mandates in accordance with these broader political objectives.

Peacekeeping engagements have become increasingly complicated as modern globalization has produced an uncertain security landscape that continues to evolve. The rise of non-traditional threats including, but not limited to, cross-border terrorism, mass displacement of persons, epidemics, climate change and other forms of human insecurity, add to this complex security landscape, while escalating tensions are serving as key triggers for conflict.

Meanwhile, peacekeepers are tasked with carrying out their mandates in these increasingly harsh political, security and environmental contexts. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines extends its gratitude to all troop- and police-contributing countries and to their uniformed personnel for their ongoing commitments and sacrifices. We welcome any initiative designed to improve the safety and security of peacekeepers by ensuring they have access to the necessary operational, logistical, medical, financial and personal support.

A central aspect of promoting the safety and security of peacekeepers is ensuring that they have the right mindset to carry out complex tasks under difficult conditions. To that end, we welcome the ongoing thrust to improve performance and accountability under the Secretary-General's Action for Peacekeeping initiative. We furthermore welcome the range of tools and instruments that are being progressively rolled out under the initiative, such as the Comprehensive Performance Assessment System and the Peacekeeping Capability Readiness System. Our delegation emphasizes, however, that peacekeepers themselves must be provided with the requisite guarantees that they will be rewarded for their hard work and commitment. That means that all Member States must make good on their obligations to provide the necessary funding to the United Nations system through their assessed contributions. Without those contributions, shortfalls emerge in the peacekeeping budget that may hinder the delivery of mandates by creating delays in reimbursing troop- and police-contributing countries, generating a lack of necessary equipment and producing low morale among uniformed personnel.

The environmental conditions under which peacekeepers are asked to carry out their mandated tasks are increasingly impacted by climate change phenomena. Unpredictable weather patterns, such as erratic precipitation and flooding, serve to add further complexity to the navigational and logistical challenges facing peacekeeping

missions and their personnel. Those factors also exacerbate the political and security landscapes in many host States, putting further strain on peacekeeping operations, while creating personal risks for peacekeepers themselves. We therefore consider it absolutely necessary for the international community to mobilize sufficient financial support to assist countries that are affected by climate change. From the Sahel to the Horn of Africa, strategies to build resilience and mitigate the hazards of climate change must be developed and implemented in order to strengthen our efforts to achieve lasting peace and security.
