

Under Secretary-General Khare
Statement to the Fourth Committee, 30 October 2018

[Following to be delivered in French]

[Begin French]

[Thank you president, ambassadors, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen and dear colleagues.

Let me begin by thanking all Member States here today for your continued commitment to UN peacekeeping. Each of you, in your various capacities, has a vital role to play in this partnership, as highlighted by the Action for Peacekeeping initiative.

In particular, I would like to recognize the important role that troop and police contributors play in upholding UN ideals, as well as the sacrifices of peacekeepers working in challenging and dangerous environments. We thank them for their service and we honour and mourn all peacekeepers who gave their lives in the service of peace.

Ladies and gentlemen, A4P has brought together the peacekeeping community in a remarkable way over the past months. I want to thank all of you who have endorsed the Declaration and shown your willingness to support and implement it. My department is also making efforts to implement our A4P commitments and I look forward to discussing these efforts with you today.]

[End French]

SECRETARY-GENERAL'S REFORM EFFORTS

But first, let me share with you our ongoing efforts to implement the Secretary-General's management reforms.

The Secretary-General's vision for the UN is of a field-focused organization, something A4P also emphasizes. His new management paradigm is based on three principles: simplification of policy frameworks, decentralization of decision-making authority and policy to the point of delivery, and enhanced accountability and transparency. We are fully committed to implementing his vision.

The reorganization of responsibilities and resourcing at Headquarters from the existing Departments of Management and Field Support to the new Department of Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance (DMSPC) and the new Department of Operational Support (DOS) will help to shift the focus from process to results, eliminate duplicative functions, establish a clearer division of roles and responsibilities, and ensure that checks and balances are in place.

The new Department of Operational Support promises to strengthen our work in the field, as well as our ability to deliver on the expectations of TCC/PCCs. It will provide a broad

spectrum of guidance and operational support, across the global Secretariat, on supply chain management, personnel matters and training, ICT requirements, and support for uniformed capabilities, as well as support to UNHQ departments. Planning is already well underway, with nine core working groups busy ensuring that we will be ready to launch on 1 January 2019.

I want to briefly highlight the key features of the Department of Operational Support to you.

First, in response to the fragmentation that currently exists in Secretariat support, we are establishing a “one-stop-shop” for troop- and police-contributing countries. This will provide a single point of contact to enable faster processing for all administrative and logistical issues related to force generation, memorandums of understanding, contingent-owned equipment and reimbursement. A new Uniformed Capabilities Division will consolidate capacities currently spread across three divisions, in two departments, to improve performance and capability, as well as the safety and security of peacekeepers.

Second, a new Special Activities Division will focus on the sensitive needs of surge, transition and downsizing missions, as well as contain capacity for analysis and operational and resource planning. The Support Partnerships Service will provide an entry point for external partners for situations in which the Organization requires bilateral support from donors, or where we provide support to non-UN activities, particularly African peace support operations.

Third, I am pleased that, with the new reorganization at Headquarters, we can take end-to-end supply chain further with the consolidation of logistics and procurement functions in one department, with full respect for the integrity of each area. This approach will eliminate lengthy bureaucratic delays caused by the many inter-departmental hand-offs in acquisitions.

Fourth, we are already working to develop our relationship with the future Department of Peace Operations. The close relationship with the new DPO will ensure a common approach to knowledge management, guidance and training for all personnel serving in peace operations, including those in leadership positions. This is essential to enable mobility across functions and missions while maintaining commonality of doctrine and standards.

Finally, empowering the field is central to the Secretary-General’s vision. While I have never hesitated to delegate authority deriving from my office, the reforms will better align decision-making authority in human resources, finance, procurement and property management through direct delegations of authority to Heads of Missions. The new Department of Operational Support will focus on backstopping operations with required assistance, for example, ensuring that missions have access to well-populated personnel rosters with increasing geographic diversity.

But we, of course, still have more work to do. In response to the General Assembly’s request for a rethinking of the Global Service Delivery Model, we are preparing a new proposal for

your review in March. In the interim, the Regional Service Centre at Entebbe and the Kuwait Joint Support Office will continue to provide and improve transactional administrative services.

IMPLEMENTING THE DECLARATION OF SHARED COMMITMENTS

Distinguished delegates, I will now share with you our efforts to implement our commitments in the A4P Declaration, as well as several ways in which we call on you, as Member States, to implement your commitments.

To strengthen the impact of peacekeeping on sustaining peace

A key area of the Declaration is peacekeeping's impact on sustaining peace. We are not measured solely by our actions while we are deployed, but also by the condition of the country when we leave. Our mission in Haiti, MINUJUSTH, is anticipated to close by October 2019, when a six-month logistics and administrative wrap-up period will follow. DFS is supporting planning for a gradual transition of programmatic activities from the mission to the UN Country Team. A key focus during this time will be ensuring the responsible handover of remaining sites, in line with environmental standards.

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[Begin Arabic]

[Our mission in Darfur is due to close by 30 June 2020, if certain benchmarks are met. During my visits to El Fasher, Zalingei, Golo and Nyala in July, I witnessed UNAMID's efforts to reconfigure in response to the new mandate. A central purpose of my visit was to assess progress towards handing over UN facilities to the UN Country Team or Government following mission closure, with the assurance that facilities will be used for the social, economic, cultural and development benefit of local communities. In all my engagement with Sudanese authorities, I urged the Government to consider the valuable skills and experience of UNAMID national staff for future employment. Host governments, all but one of which have endorsed the Declaration, have committed to build and sustain peace and cooperate with our operations, and I am heartened by the Sudanese Government's promises in this regard.]

[End Arabic]

Mr. President.

We call upon Member States to support transitions, particularly by supporting UN Country Teams. Support should also extend to ensuring sufficient resources for responsible environmental management as the mission draws-down.

In the DRC, we continue to prepare the groundwork for sustainable peace. We have developed a plan to optimize the use of mission resources and expertise to effectively support the upcoming elections and to distribute electoral material, including through contracted air

assets. MONUSCO, our mission, has also played an important role in responding to the ongoing Ebola crisis in the Beni area. MONUSCO helped set up an Emergency Operations Centre and is providing significant logistical support, including through an air bridge to transport personnel and supplies to the area.

To support effective performance and accountability by all peacekeeping components

Distinguished delegates, as the Declaration highlights, civilian and uniformed peacekeepers, particularly leadership, must be held accountable for effective performance under common parameters. DFS is making strong efforts to implement our commitments in this regard, including by reviewing missions and drawing on performance data, as well as by improving medical care.

In Somalia, we are grateful for the signing of the Tripartite Agreement with all T/PCCs of AMISOM, and we continue to work with them to enhance the possibilities of country-provided assets. Our recently completed strategic review of UNSOS, reiterated the mission's important role as a strategic enabler for AMISOM and UNSOM. The report emphasized that effective support by UNSOS requires a clear shared understanding and unity of purpose between the United Nations, the African Union and other stakeholders; improved visibility of AMISOM operations; and closer coordination regarding accountability and compliance with international human rights law and international humanitarian law.

We continue to work to strengthen acute medical care for peacekeepers confronted by serious illness or injury. The Cruz report called for adoption of the 10-1-2 principle, which refers to the goal of ensuring access to skilled first aid within 10 minutes, providing advanced life support within 1 hour, and access to surgery within 2 hours of an incident. To help ensure that all missions meet the "10-1-2" standard for all personnel, missions have been asked to carry out Health Risk Assessments. We also plan to undertake casualty evacuation stress-testing in high-risk missions to identify gaps and guide potential redeployment of medical resources.

We believe strongly in using performance data to inform planning, evaluation, deployment decisions and reporting, as called for in the Declaration. To help measure progress in strengthening performance, last year we introduced a new performance management framework for field support, which seeks to help increase transparency, comparability, and accountability by laying out 12 standard indicators in nine service areas for all missions.

Not only is DFS tracking the performance of support to peace operations, we are monitoring our performance closely in our services and payments to you, the Member States. Last year, we paid out \$6.2 million for an extremely unfortunate 253 death and disability claims. And apart from the payment, I want to honour those who gave their lives for peace. We are making progress towards handling all these claims in a timely and transparent manner, with half of claims for deaths paid within 90 days.

We have also seen progress implementing the new payment provisions from the last Contingent-Owned Equipment Working Group. This year, more than \$8 million has been processed or paid for equipment damaged due to hostile action, and an additional \$13 million of such claims are in processing. We project paying \$2.4 million in 2018-19 in reimbursements for units pledged at rapid deployment levels of the Peacekeeping Capability Readiness System. Finally, we also issued \$7.5 million of risk premiums for contingents deployed in MINUSMA and UNMIL between 2014 and 2016. These premiums reflect a rigorous process initiated by the Force Commander or Police Commissioner and involve strict criteria to ensure that contingents receiving risk premiums represent exceptional behaviour in extremely challenging circumstances.

To improve peacekeeping partnerships

Ladies and gentlemen, effective partnerships are essential, as highlighted in the Declaration.

The African Union remains our most vital partner, and at its request, my Department has implemented a two-year pilot partnership programme to enhance cooperation in peace operation support matters. Initiatives include staff exchanges and the inclusion of AU personnel in UN managerial and support trainings. The programmes have been so successful that we, both the AU and us, have recently agreed to institutionalize them.

Effective African capacities are increasingly important, both for stability on the continent and our collective security. I also call upon Member States to consider practical steps to establish a mechanism through which peace support operations led by the African Union could be partly financed through UN assessed contributions, as laid out in Security Council resolution 2378 of last year.

Mr. president. Distinguished delegates. the A4P Declaration describes triangular partnerships as an innovative approach to training and equipping uniformed personnel. Under the Triangular Partnership Project, DFS has made notable progress in enhancing women's participation in peacekeeping and strengthening peacekeeping engineering, signals and command and control communication capacities of uniformed peacekeepers. This year, we trained 144 African TCC engineers and conducted training for 323 signals and ICT uniformed personnel. Thirteen female graduates from the signals course have been deployed so far to peacekeeping missions.

As encouraged by the Special Committee last year, DFS is taking concrete measures to expand triangular partnership arrangements to include new geographic areas – such as Asia and the French-speaking countries – and additional enabling capacities – such as frontline medical training for African TCC/PCCs.

Without the support of Member States, the triangular partnership project would not exist. Support for triangular partnerships can take many forms, such as funding, in-kind contributions, and training and equipping initiatives, including through the light coordination

mechanism, as well as support for regional partners. We are grateful for all contributions distinguished delegates, and I encourage you all to join this initiative.

To strengthen the conduct of peacekeeping operations and personnel

Mr. president, the Declaration highlighted two other priority areas of work for DFS: proper conduct and sound environmental management.

This month, we finalized our first set of environmental scorecard results, which will be included in this year's budget performance reports, allowing us to more easily prioritize challenges and celebrate successes. Ongoing efforts to strengthen data measurement and improve processes, should result in a robust baseline established by June 2020. Nevertheless, this reflects considerable advancement in completing a detailed assessment underpinned by data.

While the scorecard is derived from mission-reported data on risk, performance and process, I encourage you to focus on the narrative, and not solely on the numbers. Also, when our framework on wastewater management and final waste disposal identifies significant risk level, this system nullifies the mission's overall score that is reported to you, and triggers a risk mitigation plan approved at the USG-level, which impacts both immediate priorities and the subsequent budgetary cycle. Two years into the six-year implementation of the Environment Strategy, we now have a clear picture of what is achievable by June 2023 within our limited means, through constant innovation. But we need your help in this, and I call upon all Member States to fulfil the commitment to employ environmentally responsible solutions for all operations and mandate delivery and I look forward to continuing to work in partnership with all countries to achieve our common goals.

We also continue to make strenuous efforts to ensure that personnel conduct themselves in accordance with the highest standards of conduct. Every case of sexual exploitation and abuse is a contravention of our highest values.

We have seen a slight decline in the numbers of allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse reported this year, with 42 allegations recorded so far. For all other allegations of misconduct, we had received 455 reports by the beginning of October, up slightly from last year. I encourage you to review the conduct website for the latest statistics on misconduct, including sexual exploitation and abuse.

To fulfil our Declaration commitment to hold personnel and leadership accountable, we have strengthened our monitoring and improved reporting. In addition, we recently launched a Risk Management Toolkit for sexual exploitation and abuse that promises to help address other types of misconduct as well.

I urge all Member States to join the 100 Member States that have signed the Secretary-General's voluntary Compact for preventing sexual exploitation and abuse. In addition, I call

upon Member States in line with your commitment in the Declaration to formally commit to the Compact and strengthen your efforts to certify that personnel meet UN standards for service, to encourage good conduct and, when the situation requires it, to ensure accountability for proper conduct.

CONCLUSION

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Ladies and gentlemen, A4P is a call for every member of the peacekeeping partnership to deliver on their responsibilities. We in the Secretariat, no less, I am sure, than all of you, are striving with all our energy to fulfil our commitments. With reformed management structures for the UN Secretariat, the UN will be better able to deliver on mission mandates, uphold conduct and discipline standards and ensure that personnel are properly equipped and protected.

At the same time, however, we need your support. We need your engagement to implement the A4P Declaration. We call for your assistance in providing better trained troops and equipment. And we request your engagement in UN reforms. Together, we can, and will, assist the host countries of our operations, in their efforts for peace, security and development.

Thank you Mr. president and my apologies for speaking longer than anticipated.

[End French]