

USG DPKO Statement to the Fourth Committee

30 October 2018

Key message of the statement: Action for Peacekeeping (AAP) has re-energised our collective commitment to peacekeeping. We must now focus on fulfilling our commitments in the context of a new Secretariat architecture.

2018: A Year of Renewal

Excellences, mesdames et messieurs les délégués, chers collègues,

C'est un grand plaisir pour moi d'être avec vous aujourd'hui pour l'ouverture de ce débat général de la Quatrième Commission de l'Assemblée générale consacré aux opérations du maintien de la paix. Un plaisir car ce débat fait suite à une année véritablement transformatrice – à la fois pour les Nations Unies que pour un de ses instruments phares : les opérations de maintien de la paix. L'année 2018 a en effet été marquée par des développements qui contribuent au renouveau de notre Organisation et en particulier du maintien de la paix. Je sais que le même élan qui nous a animés cette année ne cessera de continuer à nous inciter à l'action, et, dans cet esprit, je me réjouis de participer à cette discussion stimulante avec vous ce matin.

Au début de cette année, l'Assemblée générale a approuvé l'agenda de réforme du Secrétaire général. Lorsqu'il aura été mis en œuvre dans ses trois volets, cet agenda contribuera à la création d'un environnement propice au succès des opérations de maintien de la paix. Tout d'abord, la restructuration de l'architecture de paix et de sécurité nous aidera à

élaborer des réponses aux crises actuelles sur la base d'analyses plus intégrées et plus régionales. Elle nous permettra également de développer des réponses plus stratégiques alliant prévention des conflits, gestion des crises et consolidation de la paix. Ensuite, la réforme du pilier développement repositionnera le développement durable au cœur de l'Organisation. Enfin, la modification des pratiques de gestion favorisera l'épanouissement d'une culture de l'initiative et de la responsabilité à tous les échelons de l'Organisation.

Le maintien de la paix bénéficiera de ces réformes du Secrétaire général. La majeure partie du personnel du Secrétariat participe en effet à des opérations du maintien de la paix et s'acquitte de tâches de première ligne dans des circonstances difficiles. Les problèmes auxquels ils sont confrontés sont exacerbés par la nature changeante des conflits. Les conflits internes se conjuguent à la montée des mouvements transnationaux – des groupes armés, des nouvelles technologies – ce qui a créé de nouvelles formes de guerre et de violence. Une gouvernance faible et des réactions uniquement sécuritaires alimentent souvent le cycle de la violence et compliquent la recherche de la paix. Nous sommes aujourd'hui confrontés à des conflits de plus longue durée, pour lesquels l'instauration d'une paix durable dépend de la résolution de multiples dimensions du conflit. C'est ce que montrent les opérations au Mali, en RDC et en RCA. Trop souvent, les casques bleus ne sont plus protégés par le drapeau des Nations Unies. Trop d'entre eux sont tombés alors qu'ils portaient les couleurs des Nations Unies. Les attaques contre la MINUSMA à Tombouctou et Mopti samedi dernier sont un rappel brutal du fait que trop de nos casques bleus font le sacrifice ultime. Je tiens à saisir notre réunion aujourd'hui pour leur rendre à nouveau hommage.

Action for Peacekeeping

En respuesta a estos desafíos, el Secretario General lanzó la iniciativa “Acción para el mantenimiento de la paz” en marzo de este año. “A4P” como se conoce en sus siglas en inglés, tiene como objetivo recentrar las operaciones de mantenimiento de la paz en expectativas realistas; hacer nuestras operaciones más fuertes y más seguras; y movilizar más apoyo, tanto para la búsqueda de soluciones políticas en los conflictos donde actuamos, como para lograr fuerzas más estructuradas, además de mejor equipadas y entrenadas. La iniciativa ha demostrado que el mantenimiento de la paz goza de un apoyo político extraordinario a través de todas las regiones del mundo. A día de hoy, 150 estados miembros se han suscrito a la Declaración de Compromisos Compartidos, incluyendo todos miembros del Consejo de Seguridad, los veinte contribuyentes más grandes de tropas y de policía, y los diez contribuyentes financieros mas significativos. Durante la reunión de alto nivel que tuvo lugar el mes pasado, aproximadamente 50 estados miembros intervinieron para expresar su apoyo al mantenimiento de la paz. En un periodo de desafíos significativos en el sistema internacional, el apoyo político conseguido a través de la iniciativa “A4P” representa una afirmación positiva hacia el multilateralismo y del apreciado papel que juega el mantenimiento de la paz de las Naciones Unidas en el escenario internacional.

The A4P Declaration represents an agenda for peacekeeping operations that is designed to maximize the ability of our operations to contribute to durable peace. The commitments build on a baseline of existing General Assembly and Security Council resolutions. Recognizing that peacekeeping depends on the engagement of a wide range of stakeholders, the Declaration’s commitments are respective and mutual. They are shared between the Secretariat and Member States, whether as

host governments, donors, troop as well as police contributors and members of the Security Council and General Assembly.

We, in the Secretariat, have begun to take action. But to make the Declaration's vision reality, we need you to do your part. I believe this is an opportunity for all the organs involved in peacekeeping – the Security Council, the Fourth Committee's Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations and the Fifth Committee – to translate the political momentum on A4P into concrete action. Action that will make a real difference to our peacekeepers – and to the people they serve and support. This is the most significant opportunity to bring meaningful change to peacekeeping in a long time – and we cannot let it pass.

Political Role of Peacekeeping

Allow me now to highlight a few of the areas covered by the A4P commitments. First, to enhance the political impact of peacekeeping.

Since late 2017, eight independent, externally-led reviews of peacekeeping have been conducted, including of our largest operations such as UNMISS, MINUSCA and MINUSMA. We went back to square one to assess these missions' mandates and whether we have the appropriate strategies and resources to keep or restore the peace. We did so to ensure that the missions are carrying out their mandates efficiently and effectively, using all the tools available to modern peacekeeping. We are already beginning to learn lessons from this series of reviews. Not surprisingly, we have found that there is no silver bullet for peacekeeping success. That political will and support is vital to unlocking blockages. That there is intrinsic value in the presence of peacekeepers to prevent, manage and contain violence from spreading.

Going forward, we will continue working towards developing commonly-agreed political roadmaps for multidimensional settings. We will strengthen information gathering, management and analysis within the new peace and security pillar. We will make full use of the new peace and security architecture to define new regional political strategies within which to situate peacekeeping operations, to facilitate smoother, more effective transitions and to integrate a peacebuilding perspective throughout the life cycle of a mission.

A4P calls for all of us to commit to strengthening protection as both a priority task of peacekeeping and a vital component of peacekeepers' efforts to establish political settlements and support and sustain peace. To better implement our commitment to tailored, context-specific protection, our missions continue to innovate, deploying new approaches such as a more mobile posture to respond to emerging hotspots in MONUSCO or targeted support from MINUSCA for community dialogue and reconciliation.

As we implement our commitments, we look to you – our partners – to also take up your commitments. Running through the findings of each independent review is the need for robust support from Member States, coupled with a unity of efforts across the Security Council, regional actors and the UN System. The role of the host state is critical. We look to the Security Council and the General Assembly to make decisions to take forward A4P commitments in tangible terms. We look to Member States to develop concrete measures to address the gap between mandate and resources. We also look to Member States to align policies with Security Council resolutions and to foster more meaningful triangular consultations.

Safety, Security and Performance

A key priority for peacekeeping, and one at the core of the Secretary-General's motivation for A4P, is the safety and security of our peacekeepers. Peacekeeping fatalities have reached the highest level in a generation. The death of even one peacekeepers is far too many, and the current situation is simply unacceptable. We mourn the lives of the fallen, and are reminded that we must collectively do more to strengthen the safety and security of peacekeepers.

To address this the Secretariat developed an Action Plan based on the findings of the report on "Improving the Security of UN Peacekeepers." This Action Plan is ultimately about performance, and it includes the requisite elements to strengthen it. Through its implementation, we are trying to change mindset, strengthening our operational readiness, providing better tailored training and doing our utmost to make sure that peacekeepers have the equipment they need. We are also strengthening accountability and ensuring that if an incident occurs, our peacekeepers receive the best care possible as soon as possible.

To carry it out, I've requested the Office of Peacekeeping Strategic Partnership (OPSP), in cooperation with offices across DPKO and DFS, as well as other partners, to steer and coordinate implementation of the Action Plan. We've also established an interdisciplinary Implementation Support Team (IST) here at Headquarters to spearhead implementation. The IST is mirrored in the five peacekeeping missions with the highest fatality rates since 2013 – MINUSCA, MINUSMA, MONUSCO, UNAMID and UNMISS – each of which have also developed mission-specific action plans and implementation teams to ensure that the steps they take are tailored to their respective circumstances.

While work remains to be done, we are beginning to see the effects of our efforts. From 1st January to 30th September of this year, 17 peacekeepers died from acts of violence, compared to 30 over the same period in 2017. This represents a 43 per cent decrease. In mentioning these figures, I want to remain cautious because threats against our peacekeepers remain. Each and every peacekeeper killed is one too many.

As part of our effort to strengthen safety, security as well as performance we are also taking forward a number of initiatives to bolster our training and capacity-building effort, both in pre-deployment and in-mission settings. We are implementing the 2018 training plan, which remains a key tool to strengthen training impact. Starting 1 January, we will work closely with the Department of Operational Support to ensure that there is a common approach to the training provided to uniformed and civilian personnel. Training is also a key element in our shared work to eliminate sexual exploitation and abuse: we will work closely with the new Department of Management, Strategy, Policy and Compliance to develop training initiatives in this area.

We are also pursuing triangular initiatives to build TCC/PCC capacity, including through the “light coordination mechanism”. The Secretariat will continue to develop peacekeeping capabilities in areas such as enhanced medical standards, air assets and technology. Performance in dangerous operating environments, however, requires more than optimal training and hardware. That is why we are working on strengthening mission leadership, as well as on developing a framework for the responsible use and management of peacekeeping intelligence.

Greater accountability remains central to our effort to strengthen peacekeeping performance, and we are enhancing accountability,

including through better investigations of incidents and identification of remedial measures, where needed. In some cases, we are preventing the redeployment of units until we can confirm that they meet relevant standards and requirements.

Performance is a collective, whole of mission responsibility involving all actors, including every civilian and uniformed peacekeeper, especially leadership. We have scaled up our efforts to systematically assess performance to enable us to better address gaps and weaknesses where they exist as well as to learn from and reward good performance. Going forward, we will continue to work on the integrated performance policy framework requested by the Special Committee and the Security Council, and to develop the Comprehensive Performance Assessment System (CPAS). In parallel, we will also continue to evaluate uniformed personnel performance through performance standards, pre-deployment evaluations and assessment visits, integrated performance assessments and the independent investigations of OPSP. We will also continue to work with TCC/PCCs to address shortfalls and clarify the causes and circumstances of major incidents.

My colleague and brother Atul will speak to this in greater detail, but I would like to stress that we continue to do our utmost to counter sexual exploitation and abuse and to uphold the Secretary-General Zero Tolerance Policy on SEA.

As we tackle our performance commitments, we count on Member States to do their part. I want to express our thanks to the many of you, our Member States, who provide voluntary support to our efforts through innovative means such as financial contributions, joint training initiatives or other in-kind support. I encourage all Member States who have the

capacity to provide training and equipment to TCCs and PCCs to step up their efforts to respond to current needs. We request your voluntary contributions for our training plan and also look to Member States to identify and clearly communicate any caveats or change in caveats to bring clarity to mission commanders.

I would also like to take this opportunity to call on all Member States, particularly those with the most advanced military capabilities, to contribute more troops and police to UN peacekeeping. We still have an ongoing need for critical capabilities, including helicopters, counter-IED capacities, rapid reaction forces, situational awareness, and medical support. We welcome all contributions in these areas. Member States have the authority to hold all categories of personnel accountable for criminal conduct, and we look forward to further action in this regard. I also want to encourage all Member States to go out themselves to assess the performance of UN peacekeeping operations, including through visiting them on the ground and sharing your conclusions with us.

Partnerships

Another central focus for A4P Declaration is partnerships, the cornerstone for peacekeeping success at a time where local conflicts have regional and global dimensions. The Secretariat will continue to strengthen our partnerships with key regional organizations, based on the principles of complementarity, comparative advantage, burden-sharing and collective responsibility. With the African Union (AU), we have conducted joint field visits to the Central African Republic, the Sudan and South Sudan to coordinate our collective efforts in these countries. I will discuss the mission to South Sudan in greater detail shortly.

We are also working with the AU to strengthen its compliance frameworks in priority areas, such as international humanitarian law and human rights, conduct and discipline and financial accountability frameworks, to advocate for sustainable, predictable and flexible funding for AU peace operations. We will also strengthen and enhance triangular capacity-building for AU operations, as well as deepen partnerships in the field.

The UN-EU shared priorities on peace operations and crisis management for 2019-2021 are a clear expression how the organizations can deliver together on the partnership priority set out in the Declaration.

We also look forward to your support for deepening our collaboration with other regional and sub-regional organizations.

Women, Peace and Security

Allow me to close with another central element of the A4P Declaration: the essential role of women in peacekeeping. Eighteen years after the landmark UNSC resolution 1325, there is still much work to be done to enhance the role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts. As a signal of our commitment to prioritising these efforts, earlier this month, we undertook a joint mission with the African Union and UN Women – the first of its kind – to South Sudan, where together we reiterated our support for a truly inclusive peace process. A peace process that would honour the revitalized agreement’s commitments to women’s participation and enable a more protective environment for women. In 2018, DPKO and DFS endorsed and is taking forward a new gender policy to operationalise women, peace and security mandates in peacekeeping.

Alongside our work to enhance our ability to deliver on women, peace and security mandates, we are also striving to do more to increase the role of women in peacekeeping as these two lines of effort are closely linked. However, today, women are only 21 per cent of our civilian and uniformed personnel. We must do better, particularly because more female peacekeepers results in more effective peacekeeping operations. To that end, the Secretariat is doubling its efforts to increase the number of women in key positions. Through our common work, we have seen some improvements. At headquarters, women officers now represent 18 per cent of all officers in the Office of Military Affairs, and we are committed to raising this proportion further.

Member States have a vital role to play in this endeavour. Your support of Secretariat efforts to boost women, peace and security is essential. Member States can also lead by example, encouraging women's participation in peacekeeping within national contingents and promoting women to leadership positions. I call on all of you to further these initiatives and significantly increase your contributions of women peacekeepers.

Conclusion

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, dear colleagues,

2018 marks the 70th anniversary of peacekeeping. And while the international system and conflict have changed dramatically since 1948, peacekeeping's vital role remains. This unique, shared instrument continues to contribute to global peace and security. Its future, however, depends on collective action. That is the principle at the heart of A4P. The Declaration provides us with a clear vision to strengthen

peacekeeping, one that has the political support of 150 Member States. I invite those who have not yet endorsed the Declaration to do so and to support efforts to implement it. As we turn to implementation, I know the Secretariat can count on the support of General Assembly members – in both the Fourth and Fifth committees – to take forward A4P.

Pour conclure, le Secrétariat s'engage à honorer ses engagements et espère pouvoir bientôt collaborer avec vous, alors que vous œuvrez également pour remplir votre rôle en cette année cruciale. Avec mon ami Atul, l'intention de vous rencontrer séparément pour présenter notre plan de mise en œuvre est là. Ensemble, nous pouvons nous assurer que les opérations du maintien de la paix onusiennes resteront ancrées dans leurs principes, à la hauteur de nos idéaux communs et marquées par un profond respect pour les sacrifices consentis dans la poursuite pour la paix.

Je vous remercie.