

Statement by Ambassador Nelson Antônio Tabajara de Oliveira, Undersecretary General for Multilateral Political Affairs, Europe and North America, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Brazil

Mr. António Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations;
Ladies and Gentlemen Heads of State, Government and Delegations;

Brazil's participation in peacekeeping operations reflects our foreign policy's commitment to multilateralism and to the United Nations collective security system. In addition to being a peaceful country, Brazil demonstrates its willingness and capacity to be a provider of international peace and security.

Brazil's engagement has always been rooted in the professionalism and the discipline of our contingents, in line with the basic principles of peacekeeping operations: the consent of the parties, impartiality and non-use of force, except in self-defense and in defense of the mandate, as a last resort.

We are proud to have co-chaired the thematic group on peacebuilding in the context of this Action for Peacekeeping initiative, led by the Secretary-General. We endorse the Declaration of Shared Commitments as a normative horizon to be sought in order to increase the efficiency of peacekeeping missions and to adapt them to contemporary challenges.

As a participant in peacekeeping operations since its creation, and as a founding member of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations, C-34, Brazil regards the missions as the United Nations main platform for promoting peacebuilding efforts. More than 55,000 Brazilian civilian, police and military personnel have participated, over the last 70 years, in about fifty peacekeeping operations, under UN mandate, deployed to four continents.

The role of peacekeeping operations has evolved significantly over the past decades. While they are endowed with increasingly ambitious mandates, and surrounded by higher expectations, missions are also faced with increasing humanitarian, political and security challenges on the ground. As the Brazilian General Santos Cruz has pointed out in his "Cruz Report", frequently they are left without adequate equipment, budget and training while facing such complex reality. In this context, we note with concern the growing number of deliberate attacks on civilian and military components of peacekeeping missions. It is therefore vital to ensure the necessary means for the missions to fulfill their role.

We believe that peace imposed by a military solution lacks self-sustaining bases. Brazil favors an integrated approach to peacekeeping operations, one that promotes stabilization, national reconciliation and long-term development, guided by the primacy of political solutions to conflict. Emphasis on the use of force should never replace the political process of peace, which must be integrated, locally owned and supported by long term efforts of the international community.

Thank you.