



**Statement by the Permanent Mission
of the Kingdom of Morocco**

On behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement

**At the Opening of the 2018 Session of
the Special Committee on Peacekeeping operations
(C-34)**

New York, 11 February 2019

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Mr. Chairman,

I have the honor of delivering this statement on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

I would like to start by thanking the President of the General Assembly and the Secretary General for their efforts to strengthen the United Nations peacekeeping operations as an important tool in the maintenance of international peace and security, and helping peoples emerging from conflict to achieve stability.

We look forward to hearing the briefings from DPO and DOM on their activities related to the implementation of last years' report.

NAM welcomes the reforms in the Peace & Security architecture which are aimed at enhancing the performance of the Secretariat as well as the effectiveness and coherence of Peacekeeping Operations. We are confident that the new arrangements will break the silos within the Secretariat and enhance the overall performance of UN peacekeeping.

NAM also welcomes the Secretary-General's Action for Peacekeeping (A4P) initiative which is aimed at ensuring collective effort to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of United Nations Peacekeeping in order to address the changing realities. The Special Committee calls upon all relevant Stakeholders to double their efforts in translating these commitments into practices in the relevant UN bodies, including the General Assembly and the Security Council in their consideration of peacekeeping, and to meet periodically in relevant formats to review progress, including at field-level.

The movement takes note of various initiatives being undertaken to follow up the A4P initiatives. In this regard, we strongly call for a C-34 driven-process, duly incorporating the existing mechanisms within the Secretariat, in order to avoid any duplication of efforts.

These recent developments are to be discussed in the coming weeks in a comprehensive manner, and we look forward to contribute and engage in a constructive manner during this process. Indeed, a more active role of NAM is absolutely necessary and legitimate. In this regard, I would like to reiterate some statistics that should help to put the engagement of NAM in Peacekeeping in perspective: All top ten Troop and Police contributing countries are NAM members, 19 of the top 20 and 27 of the top 30 are NAM members as well. These figures are by themselves a clear sign of our commitment to UN peacekeeping, and it is only legitimate to translate this engagement in policy formulation as well.

Additionally, we are often referred to as Troop and Police Contributing Countries, as opposed to financial contributors. But if we look into our contribution more carefully, one would realize that TPCC's engage considerable resources, some to rotate every six

months, to train their troops to UN standards, and to cover for the many other expenses that are not reimbursed.

Despite the decrease in fatalities last year, NAM remains gravely concerned by the numerous attacks targeting UN staff in general and Peacekeepers in particular. We condemn, in the strongest terms, the killing of United Nations peacekeeping personnel and all acts of violence against such personnel and recognize that such attacks constitute a major challenge to the credibility of United Nations field operations and ability of peacekeepers to carry out their mandate.

The Movement calls upon all States hosting peacekeeping operations to promptly investigate and effectively prosecute those responsible for attacks against United Nations peacekeeping missions, and encourages the Secretariat, when mandated and requested, to provide appropriate technical assistance and capacity-building support to host States in order to facilitate prompt investigation and effective prosecution.

Taking note that a significant number of casualties are related to attacks on camps or positions, we call upon the Secretariat to ensure that adequate measures are taken to improve the physical security infrastructure of camps, prior and throughout deployment, including all medical related issues.

Also, NAM is of the view that any restriction, stipulation, condition, and limitations, which have a direct bearing on mandate implementation, performance and limit the Force Commander's ability to employ forces, should be considered as "Caveats". In this regard, NAM considers that caveats have a detrimental impact on safety and security in peacekeeping operations, and whether declared or undeclared, are against the basic principle of equality, putting peacekeepers on different levels and placing an additional burden on those peacekeepers who do not have any caveats.

As NAM, we expect the coming session of the C-34 to continue to work on streamlining the report and make it more user friendly. We hope that this new approach, aiming at strengthening the relevance of the annual report, will be supported by all the members of the Committee. It is a collective endeavor that should transcend any potential divergent views, with the objective of ensuring that all peacekeeping related personnel are fully conversant with the report and its recommendations.

In this regard, we would like to propose to the Secretariat to launch a promotional campaign on the C-34, on its mandate, objectives and recommendations, in order to guarantee adequate communication around its important role.

Indeed, the C-34 is the only United Nations forum mandated to review comprehensively the whole question of Peacekeeping operations in all its aspects, including measures aimed at enhancing the capacity of the organization to conduct its

Peacekeeping operations. This should therefore be known by all stakeholders working on Peacekeeping.

Mr. Chairman

Accordingly, the NAM reemphasizes its commitment to support all efforts aimed at achieving the effectiveness of peacekeeping operations, and reiterates the following:

1/ NAM emphasizes that the establishment of any peacekeeping operation or extension of mandate of existing operations should strictly observe the purposes and principles of the UN Charter, and those principles that have evolved to govern such operations and have become basic principles thereof, namely the consent of the parties, impartiality and the non-use of force except in self-defense and defense of the mandate. NAM will continue to strongly support those principles that allowed the success of UN Peacekeeping since its inception. Also, NAM stresses that the respect for the principles of sovereign equality, political independence, territorial integrity of all States and non-intervention in matters that are essentially within their domestic jurisdiction should equally be upheld in this regard.

2/ NAM calls for a strong and clear Security Council commitment to draft clear and achievable mandates, in consultation with Troop and Police contributing countries, as well as with the concerned Member States, based on an objective assessment, and without rushing into adopting mandates that lack political basis, sufficient resources or that are not practically achievable. Beyond the duty to achieve the mandate, these elements have a serious impact on the Safety and Security of our peacekeepers. The development of integrated planning to achieve the link between policy formulation and implementation on the ground is paramount to achieving success. In this context, it is also necessary to avoid changing the mandated tasks of peacekeeping missions without prior consultations with Troop and Police Contributing Countries. Boots on the ground are the guarantors of the successful implementation of mandates, their advice is required for any change in mandates.

3/NAM Emphasizes the importance of full participation of Troop and Police Contributing Countries in policy formulation and decision-making, to achieve the partnership and effectiveness required for the success of United Nations peacekeeping missions. NAM underlines the need for an effective triangular cooperation between Troop and Police Contributing Countries, the Secretariat and the Security Council. NAM is strongly supporting a complete reshuffling of the current modalities of the triangular cooperation, in order to make it more result oriented and beneficial to all. We are currently engaging with the Secretariat, the Security Council as well as members of the C-34 in this regard. We also proposed a series of measures to be discussed during the upcoming negotiations in order to fashion new modalities for the triangular cooperation, which will allow all the concerned stakeholders, and UN peacekeeping itself, to benefit from a renewed and revitalized partnership.

4/ NAM strongly condemns all forms of sexual exploitation and abuse committed by UN personnel in peacekeeping operations and reiterate its support for the SG's zero tolerance policy, while reaffirming that investigation and prosecution for the uniformed personnel should lie within the purview of national jurisdictions of the concerned states.

Regarding this important issue, we are pleased to note the commitment of TPCC's and of the SG to fight this unacceptable situation, where the soldiers deployed to protect the populations are responsible for despicable acts, that betray the confidence reposed on them. NAM is of the view that the fight against SEA is a collective responsibility that must be dealt with in a comprehensive manner, involving all concerned stakeholders. In this regard, NAM would like to reiterate its support to the initiatives taken by the SG such as the voluntary Compact and the Circle of Leaders.

5/ NAM stresses that providing all necessary support, including financial and human resources, as well as military and civilian capabilities to peacekeeping missions, is essential to achieve its tasks within a framework of full respect for the host country, its laws and regulations. NAM welcomes the last increase of rate of the troop reimbursement costs and would like to be informed on the preparations regarding the next increase. Apart from the troop costs, the budget of Peacekeeping Missions should be aligned with the mandate. Since it's not the case today, in a context of budget cuts, expectations should also be managed accordingly. TPCC's cannot be held responsible for a partial implementation of a given mandate if they are not appropriately resourced.

6/ NAM notes the growing role and increased responsibilities of the police in United Nations peacekeeping operations, as well as the need to avoid duplication of tasks between the military and the police components.

7/ NAM takes notes of the resolutions adopted by the Security Council S/RES/2282 and the General Assembly A/RES/70/262 which underscored the contribution of peacekeeping operations to a comprehensive strategy for sustaining peace and acknowledges the importance of the Review of the United Nations Peacebuilding Architecture and its definition of "sustaining peace". NAM further underscores that the Peacebuilding Commission and its Country Specific Configurations as well as the Peacebuilding Fund have a significant role to play in enhancing integration between peacekeeping and peacebuilding, so that peacekeeping efforts are accompanied by economic recovery and capacity building efforts, on the basis of national ownership. In this regard, the Movement calls for an enhanced cooperation between the Peacebuilding Commission and all relevant bodies dealing with Peacekeeping, in particular with the Security Council, in order to promote coherence, coordination and to avoid duplication of efforts.

9/ It is the view of NAM that peacekeeping operations should neither be used as an alternative to addressing root causes of conflicts, nor for managing the conflicts themselves. Conflict management must be based on, and implemented through, political,

social and developmental tools, that seek to achieve a smooth transition to lasting peace, security and sustainable development. We must add that exit strategies should always be agreed upon at the early stages of Mission planning and reviewed periodically.

10/ NAM reiterates that the use of force in a peacekeeping context predates the discussions on “effective peacekeeping”. NAM reiterates its position on the use of force by Peacekeeping Operations and emphasizes the need for further consultations with Member States on ways and means of protecting peacekeeping missions’ personnel and facilities from any breaches of safety.

11/ NAM emphasizes the importance of Protection of Civilians, where mandated, and the need for peacekeeping to support national efforts, taking due consideration of the fact that the primary responsibility for protection lies with the Host State. This protection should not be used as a sole basis for military intervention by the United Nations in conflicts. The current lack of resources for peacekeeping operations and the difficulty of providing troops and equipment for military operations to carry out this extraordinary difficult task should be particularly addressed. NAM emphasizes that effective implementation of protection of civilian mandates critically depends on sufficient resources (financial, personnel and assets), clear and achievable mandates. NAM recognizes that some expectations concerning the Peacekeeping mission’s ability to protect civilians are often unrealistic.

12/ NAM strongly believes that the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security rests with the UN and that the role of regional arrangements should be in accordance with Chapter VIII of the Charter, and that possibilities exists for cooperation and collaboration between the UN and regional organizations in this respect.

13/ NAM calls for United Nations intensified support for African Union’s peace operations by ensuring predictable and sustainable funding to AU-led Peacekeeping operations authorized by the Security Council, including, on a case by case basis, through access to United Nations assessed contribution. In this regard, NAM welcomes several new developments witnessed recently, such as the operationalization of the AU Peace Fund and the appointment of the Board of Trustees, which is a key pillar of financial transparency. NAM further welcomes the significant increase of the contributions to the AU Peace Fund to the highest level in its history, as an illustration of Africa’s commitment to financial burden-sharing and ownership of prevention and resolution of conflict in the continent.

14/ NAM commends the adoption of the AU Policy on Conduct and Discipline for Peace Support Operations (PSOs) and the Policy for Prevention and Response to Sexual Exploitation and Abuse for PSOs in November 2018, which demonstrates AU’s commitment to continue enhancing its existing framework for compliance and accountability to International Humanitarian Law (IHL) and International Human Rights

Law (IHRL), with the view to further enrich the AU Peace Support Operations doctrine, and looks forward to these developments being taken in to account in the upcoming discussions on AU financing. Furthermore, NAM expresses its support for the ongoing efforts to strengthen the strategic partnership between the United Nations and the African Union, in the area of peacekeeping, and welcomes in this regard the signing of the Joint UN-AU Framework for Enhancing Partnership on Peace and Security.

Mr. Chairman,

Before concluding, it is important to shed some light on an important issue that will be discussed during the upcoming discussions: Performance. When we talk about performance, it is the Mission's performance as a whole that need to be assessed, and not only the performance of contingents. We need a systemic approach, encompassing the civilian and military leadership, Command and Control, Statements of Unit Requirement, Memorandum of Understanding, and training, among others.

A contingent cannot be blamed for not having the appropriate equipment if the UN does not include it in the Statement of Unit Requirement. Equally, it cannot be blamed for not being adequately trained if the modules provided by the UN are not updated or Mission specific. Caveats are also a serious impediment for a fair assessment of performance. These are only a few examples but NAM stands ready to further exchange views on this critical issue during the upcoming session.

I would like to conclude by paying tribute to the men and women of the United Nations who are carrying out their tasks to implement peacekeeping activities, as well as to those peacekeepers who have lost their lives in field operations while defending the flag of the UN and defending the cause of peace.

We wish all members of the Committee fruitful and successful negotiations, that will help reinforce our collective support to UN peacekeeping.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman