



UGANDA

**Permanent Mission of Uganda
To the United Nations
New York**

Tel : (212) 949 – 0110

Fax : (212) 687 - 4517

STATEMENT BY

**THE DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF UGANDA, AMBASSADOR
PATRICK MUGOYA,**

**SECURITY COUNCIL DEBATE
ON UNITED NATIONS PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS**

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Mr. President,

Uganda congratulates you upon your assumption of the office of the President of Security Council for the month of August, 2009. We thank you for organizing this important debate and welcome the presence of the UN Force Commanders. The timing could not have been better.

I wish to thank the Under Secretary General, Mr. Alain Le Roy, and Under Secretary General, Ms Susana Malcorra, for their very informative briefings to the Council. I also thank General Agwai, Force Commander/UNAMID for sharing his experience with the Council.

Mr. President,

Since the year began we have witnessed a number of initiatives undertaken to improve UN peacekeeping operations. We commend all these efforts because they have facilitated greater interaction between the different stakeholders at different levels which will further enhance practical progress in UN peacekeeping. It is necessary that we sustain these efforts.

This debate comes at a time when UN efforts to resolve conflicts by peaceful means are being put to test by new threats to global peace and security. Impunity, terrorism, piracy and other forms of social injustices meted by non state actors are on the rise in the theaters of peacekeeping operations. The humanitarian consequences of their actions on innocent civilian populations including women and children are alarming.

Therefore, Uganda considers the following as key; first, it is important to recognize that an ineffective UN peacekeeping capability anywhere around the world greatly undermines the credibility of the UN in the eyes of the population. It is imperative that UN peacekeeping is adaptable to emerging challenges, such as in Somalia. A shift to more robust and comprehensive U.N. peacekeeping such as we have seen in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) can yield positive results.

Robust peace keeping is what the UN requires to ensure the protection of civilians, UN personnel and humanitarian aid workers. But to do this, it requires a clear understanding of the situation on the ground and the missions provided with the necessary capabilities to effectively carry out their mandate.

Mr. President

Second, the relationship between the Security Council and troop contributing countries is crucial and there is need to strengthen the existing mechanism for engagement. It is crucial because it is they that implement the mandates on the ground, where they often face considerable risk.

It is fundamental that political objectives and peacekeeping mandates for missions are clear and credible. A stronger understanding between troop, police and financial contributor countries and the Council as to what is expected of Peacekeeping Missions to fulfill these objectives can greatly facilitate the achievement of Mission objectives. Uganda therefore supports the Security Council efforts to strengthen cooperation and interaction amongst stakeholders in Peacekeeping Operations.

Mr. President

Third, the challenges of modern peacekeeping, as we have seen in recent times, clearly indicate that not even the United Nations is capable of tackling the challenges on its own. The UN should fast track its efforts in broadening the contributor base by working with partners at regional and sub-regional levels. It should take advantages of these capacities and we welcome the efforts so far taken in this regard.

The UN should take maximum advantage of the strengths and roles that regional organizations such as the African Union and sub-regional organizations such as; SADC, ECOWAS and IGAD can play.

However, this requires a deliberate and conscious effort to establish strategic relationships with these organizations in order to strengthen their capacity to contribute to UN efforts in the maintenance of international peace and security.

Mr. President

Fourth, early consideration of peace building activities, during peacekeeping stages is critical for successful peacekeeping mission. Without tangible peace dividends such as provision of basic services like health, education, shelter and improvement of the standard of living for a population affected by conflict, the chances of peace are slim. There is therefore an urgent need for the United Nations system to ensure greater coherence in peacemaking, peacekeeping, peace building, and development activities. Uganda therefore supports efforts aimed at more comprehensive U.N. peacekeeping.

Mr. President

Uganda pays tribute to the men and women of the United Nations for their tireless sacrifice. They serve in some of the most dangerous and hostile places but continue to keep many people safe and give them hope. We especially remember and honor those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice in the service of peace.

Finally, we thank the delegation of the United Kingdom for the draft Presidential Statement which Uganda fully supports.

I thank you