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STATEMENT by Mr. Md. Mustafizur Rahman, Deputy Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Bangladesh to the United Nations, New York ON AGENDA ITEM 146: ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY ASPECTS OF THE FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS: CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES, AT THE SECOND PART OF THE RESUMED SIXTY-SIXTH SESSION OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY (New York, 9 May 2012).

Mr. Chairman,

Let me begin by thanking you for your able leadership in guiding the work of the Fifth Committee. We express the hope that your prodigious stewardship will guide the process of this session to a successful and timely conclusion.

Our appreciations are also owed to the Acting Head of the Department of Field Support, the Controller, the Chief of Human Resources Policy Service, the USG for OIOS and the Chair of the ACABQ, for introducing their respective reports.

My delegation aligns itself with the statement made by the distinguished representative of Algeria on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. I however, would like to touch upon the following points at my national capacity:

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation attaches special emphasis on the cross cutting issues that provide overall administrative, budgetary and policy directives to the peacekeeping missions.

Peacekeeping is a broader partnership among all stakeholders. This partnership is meant for achieving international peace and security, to help fellow human being coming out of the trap of conflicts. Peacekeepers are the principal instrumentality in achieving these objectives.

Over passes of times, the UN peacekeeping has been proved more effective, cost efficient vis-à-vis other similar operations. The demand for UN peacekeeping has increased so does the resources requirements for their effective delivery of mandates. We have noted the recent trend in attempting to exercise arbitrary budget cut subjecting peacekeeping mandates to implementation risk. We need to carefully distinguish between under implementation of the GA mandates vis-à-vis so called over estimation of budget.

Mr. Chairman,

Peacekeepers perform their duties in a volatile, hostile, unpredictable and challenging environment. Number of fatalities that happen so far amply

demonstrates the depth and dimension of challenges they face. Until now, a total of 2989 fatalities occurred; out of which 2463 were uniformed personnel and remaining 526 were civilian, local or other personalities. Taking these into account, we stress that utmost safety and security arrangement must be made for UN peacekeepers.

Partnership of peacekeeping must be cemented through consultation with TCCs. This consultation should be inclusive and reflective of their views. Any change in mandates has direct bearing on their effective implementation. Therefore, TCCs must be consulted at the time of drafting mandates, during their implementation as well as at the time of planning any change to the same. Any proposal to change in the terms and conditions of MoU should be floated with prior consent and concurrence of the TCCs directly involved.

Mr. Chairman,

The General Assembly, through its various resolutions has been requesting the Secretariat to ensure proper representation of TCCs in relevant departments such as DPKO and DFS. We are yet to see its proper implementation. We would therefore, urge on the Secretariat for full implementation of those provisions in an appropriate manner. My delegation will engage on this issue during forthcoming informal consultations.

Bangladesh delegation strongly supports the full implementation of zero tolerance policy in case of sexual exploitation and abuse. In this regard, we have noted that the number of allegation received decreased from 116 in 2010 to 102 in 2011. We have also noted that the number of allegations reported for the year under review is the lowest since data on sexual exploitation and abuse were first collected and compiled. We emphasize on continued joint efforts of all relevant actors to bring the number allegations at zero. We however, stress on the need to prevent unsubstantiated allegations that may damage the credibility of peacekeeping personnel or Missions or sending states.

Mr. Chairman,

We have noted with concern that the long-pending issue of troop costs were addressed by the General Assembly on sporadic manner since 1992. The last interim arrangement on this issue was made in 2011. We are now heading back to square one. We fully concur with the views of the G77 and China that the issue of review of rates of reimbursement on account of troop cost continues to pose a serious threat to the sustainability of peacekeeping operations and therefore, we are committed to engage constructively to address the issue at the current session.

Mr. Chairman,

Our partnership in peacekeeping emanates from our constitutional commitment of pursuing peaceful settlement of international disputes and respect for international law, and in fulfilling its UN Charter mandated responsibility. In our humble capacity, Bangladesh has contributed thousands of peacekeepers in different missions across the continents. At present, more than 10 thousand peacekeepers are working in the field. In doing so, more than 100 valiant peacekeepers have sacrificed their lives while performing their duties under the blue helmet. Fellow troop contributing countries have made similar sacrifices for the cause of maintaining international peace and security. I take this opportunity to pay special tribute to them. I also convey our full appreciation to the work of those who are risking their lives in various peacekeeping missions under the umbrella of the United Nations.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, we reiterate our commitment to offer our best efforts for the cause of maintenance of international peace and security. We also reiterate our commitment for constructive engagement in successful conclusion of this Second Resumed Session of the Fifth Committee.

I thank you Mr. Chairman.