

5th Committee statement on Agenda item 149: Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations: Cross-cutting issues – Israel.

Mr. Chairman,

I would like to speak on Agenda item 149: Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations: Cross-cutting issues.

At the outset, I would like to thank the Assistant Secretary-General, Controller, Ms. Bettina Tucci Bartsiotas for introducing the report of the Secretary-General as well as Chair of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, Mr Carlos Ruiz Massieu, for introducing the related report of the ACABQ.

I also wish to thank Under Secretary-General for Field Support, Mr. Khare, Assistans Secretary-General for Internal Oversight Services, Mr. Kanja, Director of Learning, Development & Human Resources Division, Mr. Kisob and Special Coordinator on improving UN response to Sexual Explotation and Absue, Ms. Lute for their presentations.

Mr. Chairman,

Israel believes that the cross-cutting resolution is of great importance in many respects. Unfortunately, last year the 5th committee did not adopt a cross-cutting resolution. This year we believe such a resolution is as important as ever if not more so due to the significant changes in situations on the ground:

- The necessity for peacekeeping missions to adjust their mindsets and improve the protection of the peacekeepers, as highlighted by the Cruz report;
- The need to standardize Medical Care in peacekeeping missions so as to better protect and preserve the lives of these brave men and women, especially given the increasing security challenges;
- The need for new technologies and innovative solutions to assist peacekeepers to carry out their mandates more efficiently and effectively;
- The aspiration to improve the Peacekeeping Operations' environmental footprint in light of the fast progression of climate change and all the challenges in presents to the global community, including threats to international peace and security;
- The continual fight to combat Sexual Exploitation and Abuse which is harming the local populations the UN is meant to protect and assist, as well as damaging the UN's reputation;

- The endeavor to increase participation of women in peacekeeping;
- The moral obligation to put an end to sexual harassment and assault in the field which is both harming people, with an emphasis on woman, and compromising the work and integrity of the UN and its peacekeeping missions;

All these are extremely important elements of peacekeeping that deserve our attention in the context of the cross-cutting resolution.

Mr. Chairman,

We are encouraged to see the efforts made so far in the medical field as stated in the Secretary General's report. This must continue as the UN looks to enhance its efforts to safeguard the health and well-being of peacekeepers. In this regard, we look forward to hearing more details during the informal consultations about the implementation of the 10-1-2 casualty response principle across all field missions, as well as the health-care quality and patient safety standards in level I, level II and level III facilities and procedures for casualty evacuation (CASEVAC).

Mr. Chairman,

I wish to focus for a moment specifically of the issues of SEA and sexual harassment:

Preventing Sexual Exploitation and Abuse, As well as Sexual harassment in the workplace is a moral responsibility and are vital elements in achieving our goal of incorporating more women in peacekeeping. They are also necessary for the effective work of our peacekeeping operations and the implementation of their mandates.

Israel applauds the Secretary-General's efforts to combat both these phenomena within the United Nations as a whole. The Zero Tolerance Policy, the appointment of the Special Coordinator to Improve UN response to SEA and the Victims' Rights Advocate, the gradual implementation of community-based reporting of SEA along with mandatory training of peacekeeping troops in matters relating to SEA and sexual harassment are extremely important steps. As such, they could, and should, benefit from our political support in the context of the cross-cutting resolution this year.

Israel believes there is room to address the issue of sexual harassment in the workplace within UN peacekeeping missions specifically, not just in the UN as a whole, due to the nature of the work in the field and the composition and gender-ratios of most peacekeeping missions today.

Mr. Chairman,

Israel looks forward to engaging with all delegations and working together towards adopting a meaningful and comprehensive cross-cutting resolution during this session.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.