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STATEMENT
BY
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PERMANENT MISSION OF UGANDA TO THE UN
AT THE
SPECIAL POLITICAL AND DECOLONIZATION COMMITTEE

ON AGENDA ITEM 53
COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF THE WHOLE QUESTION OF PEACEKEEPING
OPERATIONS IN ALL ASPECTS

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Mr. Chairman,

I wish to commend you and members of the Bureau for your able stewardship of the work of the Fourth Committee. We thank the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations and the Under-Secretary-General for Field Support for their insightful briefings, and for their assessment of the progress made in peacekeeping operations as well as efforts to strengthen the United Nations peacekeeping operations as crucial for the maintenance of international peace and security.

My delegation aligns itself with the Statement made by the distinguished representative of Egypt on behalf of Non- Aligned Movement (NAM). I wish therefore to make this statement in my national capacity.

Mr. Chairman,

Uganda wishes to stress the role played by Troop Contributing Countries (TCCs) in peacekeeping. It is evident that, TCCs need to have regular and timely consultations in matters regarding to peacekeeping with the UN relevant departments to avoid surprises and virulent criticisms in peacekeeping operations as well as duplication of efforts at large. While Uganda welcomes the briefings by the relevant departments, more consultative meetings are paramount to have smooth peacekeeping operations.

It's no doubt that, there should be "Right Sizing" or "Down-Sizing" of some of the Peacekeeping operations, its however prudent, to undertake concrete measures to ensure the TCCs are fully engaged before any action is prompted. We would like therefore to stress the need to adhere to the principle of transparency while "Right sizing" or "Down-sizing" Peacekeeping Missions.

Equally so, is the importance of Global Field Support Strategy (GFSS). Uganda welcomes the statement by the Under Secretary - General for Field Support for venerating the Regional Service Centre in Entebbe in supporting all UN operations in Eastern Africa.

Mr. Chairman,

The comparative advantage of Regional and Sub-Regional organizations must be emphasized, respected and taken into consideration while establishing and strengthening the Peacekeeping operations.

Chapter VIII in the Charter of the United Nations article 52 stipulates that, *“Nothing in the present Charter precludes the existence of regional arrangements or agencies for dealing with such matters relating to the maintenance of international peace and security as are appropriate for regional action, provided that such arrangements or agencies and their activities are consistent with the Purposes and Principles of the United Nations”*

It should always be noted that, the establishment of the Force Intervention Brigade (FIB) in DRC, was ipsofacto conceived from the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region’s the “Neutral International Force” and its Concept of Operations underscored by the UN to establish FIB.

Also, Uganda believes that, political solution lies in the peaceful settlement of disputes while not negating the military approach between DRC and M23 as important milestone has been so far achieved in Kampala Talks which must be supported by the international community and respected by the parties for a durable solution to the conflict. *In the Same vain Uganda wishes to join others in expressing deep condolences to the family of the Peacekeeper killed in the attack as well as to the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania and the loss of civilian life in DRC, and in Rwanda following shells landing on its territory.*

Mr, Chairman,

The role of AMISOM in pacifying Somalia is a great testimony to the envisaged importance of African Union and the apparent Troop Contributing Countries i.e, Uganda, Kenya, Djibouti, Sierra-Loene and Burundi. Some of these countries have paid heavily in the atrocities committed by Al-shabab.

On 11 July, 2010, the Suicide bombings in Uganda left 74 dead and 70 injured by Al-Shabaab. The Al-shababa which have ties to Al-Qaeda claimed responsibility for the attacks as retaliation for Ugandan support for AMISOM. The recent attack on Westgate Mall in Kenya clearly describes the asymmetrical warfare by the al-shababa. We have all made enormous sacrifices towards this course. We are determined that those sacrifices will not be in vain.

It suffices to say that, regional and sub-regional organizations complement the United Nations. Henceforth, the need for support to the regional arrangements in the maintenance of International peace and security. It's even timely when United Nations peacekeeping is at a crucial stage of increased demand, expansion and complexity of its tasks and mandates in dealing with peacekeeping challenges and new operational demands.

Mr. Chairman,

Uganda believes that, Re-hatting of AMISOM is very vital for sustainable and predictable financial and logistical support to the regional efforts. As earlier mentioned, AMISOM complements the UN in the maintenance of international peace and security. We therefore believe that, Re-hatting will strengthen the operational capacity and capabilities of AMISOM to confront and even more defeat the al-shababa from their hideouts.

Mr, Chairman,

In conclusion, there is a need to define and make clear some of the concepts such as "*peacekeeping where there is no peace*" It is also important that, the "robust" mandate should be enhanced by the United Nations while dealing with different types of conflicts.

I thank you for your attention.