

(Check against delivery)

**STATEMENT OF AMBASSADOR GERT ROSENTHAL
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF GUATEMALA TO THE UNITED NATIONS
SECURITY COUNCIL OPEN DEBATE ON UNITED NATIONS PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS:
A MULTIDIMENSIONAL APPROACH
21 JANUARY 2013**

Mr. President,

We welcome His Excellency Jalil Abbas Jilani, Foreign Secretary of Pakistan. We want to thank you for the preparation of this open debate, and for the concept note that was prepared for this occasion. This note aims to introduce the discussion on one of the most important issues in the work carried out by this Organization, which are the peacekeeping operations. We believe that after more than ten years since the adoption by the Security Council of its last resolution on this specific topic, it is appropriate to analyze and discuss their development in light of recent developments and the status of these missions.

We appreciate the statement made by the Secretary-General, Mr. Ban Ki-Moon.

Also, Guatemala would like to join itself to the statement that will be delivered by Ambassador Mootaz Ahmadein Khalil, Permanent Representative of Egypt, on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM).

Mr. President,

Guatemala is a country that has benefited from United Nations peacekeeping, especially in the areas of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, after the signing of our Peace Accords in late 1996. Subsequently, we started our own active participation in peacekeeping operations as a Troop-Contributing Country. In other words, our particular interest in the subject comes from our dual status of beneficiary and provider for peacekeeping operations.

In all this time, we have seen the adaptation of peacekeeping operations to each of the changing and unique challenges that are present in the field. Thus, in many of these operations multidimensional mandates have been adopted in order to be able to implement key elements for achieving sustainable peace during their lifecycle. We share this view, as we believe that peacekeeping operations, in some cases, must be complemented with activities that contribute to achieve real improvements in the living conditions of the affected populations.

As a corollary, we believe that one of the fundamental issues for the proper working of multidimensional peacekeeping operations is that they must have clear mandates, achievable, verifiable and adapted to the particular situation of each case. For this reason, we consider it important that in the establishment and review of the mandates the Security Council takes into account all the tools at its disposal, according to the needs and situation of each case. We also believe that to successfully implement these mandates one must address the issue of the gaps that still exist in terms of capabilities, resources and training, through greater coordination between the Security Council, the Secretariat and Troop-Contributing Countries. Additionally, we believe that any periodic evaluation by the Secretary on any peacekeeping operation must be shared with Troop-Contributing Countries.

Mr. President,

In all peacekeeping operations each country brings a unique contribution. The peculiar features that each Troop-Contributing Country can provide must be recognized and encouraged. Likewise, it is also important to further improve the triangular cooperation between the Security Council, the Secretariat and Troop-Contributing Countries in the decision-making process and during the implementation of mandates. This would include consultations in all aspects and stages of peacekeeping operations, particularly when it comes to the adjustments in the mandates, periodic mission assessments, or changes in the number of troops.

In our view, peacekeeping operations should not be understood as an outsourcing exercise, whereby developed countries employ the troops of developing countries to carry out this difficult and dangerous task based on an estimate of cost per person. Among other things, this is offensive to all Troop-Contributing Countries and for all those people who risk their lives for the purposes of this organization. For Guatemala, these operations do not represent a paid service, but the fulfillment of an ideal, to participate under the banner of the United Nations in order to maintain international peace and security. Therefore, what motivates my country to participate in peacekeeping operations is the pride and professionalization of our armed forces, as well as a sense of commitment with the highest ideals of the United Nations. For these reasons, Guatemala will continue to provide staff members with the highest standards of efficiency, competence and integrity to peacekeeping operations.

Finally, we emphasize once again the importance and role of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations (C-34) as the only forum with the mandate to comprehensively review the whole question of the maintenance of peace in the United Nations, in all its aspects. While we consider it appropriate and useful to discuss the topic of Peacekeeping Operations within the Security Council, we believe that the

Council should not fall into an exercise in micromanagement of specific aspects thereof.

Thank you.