



**Statement of the Republic of Cyprus in the Fourth Committee of the
United Nations General Assembly at its 74th session on agenda item 52:
Comprehensive Review of the whole question of peacekeeping
operations in all their aspects,
New York, 6 November 2019**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman,

In addition to the statement of the European Union, my delegation would like to make some specific remarks, as the host country of a UN peacekeeping operation.

Peacekeeping operations remain the most potent tool of the United Nations in managing conflict; they have a vital role to play in preventing the escalation of conflict, diffusing tensions, promoting stability and creating environments that enable peace processes.

Cyprus has supported the Action for Peacekeeping initiative because we acknowledge the need to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of peacekeeping operations, to ensure that they are fit for purpose and fully capable of fulfilling their mandate, and to enable them to address challenges, such as violations of the military status quo.

Cyprus also shares the Secretary General's vision for reforming the peace and security pillar with the aim of improving the UN peacekeeping operations' ability to deliver on their mandates with a stronger focus on performance. In this vein, we welcome the progress achieved so far, including the development of a comprehensive performance policy on peacekeeping.

While the focus on improving the performance of PKOs is strategically essential in making them more effective, it is equally important for operations to be provided with clear strategic guidance, adequate funding, appropriate equipment – in keeping also with technological advances – as well as proper training to peacekeepers.

One of the cornerstones of the UN operations' performance policy and effectiveness is reassuring the meaningful participation of women in peacekeeping. In this context, Cyprus welcomes the increasing efforts for greater deployment of women in UN peacekeeping operations.

UNFICYP has been a pioneer in implementing these and other new policies, and we are proud to recall that it was the first UN peacekeeping operation to appoint a woman as its Force Commander, and that the Force is now led by its second female Force Commander.

Mr. Chairman,

Cyprus has benefitted from a UN PKO since 1964, whose deployment was requested by my government in order to restore law and order and prevent the recurrence of fighting. We consider this operation to be a success story, as it has managed to effectively fulfill its mandate thus far, preventing the recurrence of fighting and ensuring a stable environment. It remains indispensable in this regard, taking into account that the situation on the ground is unaltered. I take this opportunity to reiterate my government's gratitude to the Member States that have contributed military and police personnel to UNFICYP over the years. UNFICYP has undergone repeated reviews, the recommendations of which have been fully implemented.

In this context, I cannot overstate the importance of making decisions with regard to all aspects of PKOs on the basis of peacekeeping expertise, the situation on the ground, and the anticipated developments if a PKO is not deployed or is withdrawn prematurely. The existence, mandate, configuration, and capabilities of a PKO cannot be determined by political expediencies or financial constraints. This can be done while aiming to contain the peacekeeping budget by rationalizing costs, reviewing peacekeeping operations, and promoting prudent spending and implementing the aforementioned performance-centered approach. Our efforts to cover the cost of peacekeeping should not be at the expense of its optimal functioning.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.