Mr President,

Thank you for organizing this thematic debate. With over 100,000 peacekeepers, a US$ 8 billion budget and expanded mandates, Peacekeeping remains at the heart of the activities of the United Nations.

India aligns itself with the statement by Morocco on behalf of NAM.

Mr President,

India has been an active participant in peacekeeping since the word itself was invented in 1956. We have, over the past five decades, contributed more than 100,000 peacekeepers to 40 UN operations. We continue to provide troops and policemen to the most difficult operations that the UN conducts.

India sends these soldiers and policemen under the flag of the United Nations because it is steadfast in its commitment to the Charter of the United Nations, and because it believes in the principles for which the United Nations stands for.

Mr President,

Let me put things in perspective with an example. Even as I speak to you, more than 5000 Indian soldiers and policemen are deployed in MONUC. They are the cutting edge in translating this Council’s words into deeds. And, they do so in exceedingly challenging circumstances.

I would also like to point out India is amongst the largest contributor of air assets to UN operations.
We have also, in a practical demonstration of our progressive record on gender issues, deployed an all-women Formed Police Unit in Liberia – the first and only such unit.

We, therefore, bring to this table an unique combination of commitment to peacekeeping and of knowledge and of experience of peacekeeping of which we are very proud.

Mr President,
The world of peacekeeping today is very different from what it was two decades ago. In 1986, one Under Secretary General, an ASG, 3 D-2 level officers and 3 professional officers with, a budget of approximately US$ 240 million managed about 10,000 peacekeepers. The number of peacekeepers is now about 140,000; the budget for the present year is US$ 8 billion; and the Under Secretary General and his staff have become the DPKO, DFS and PBSO with the 1300 jobs being sought for peacekeeping on the support account last year.

Mr President,
The talk of a crisis in peacekeeping has been present throughout this period of expansion and refuses to go away. Be that as it may, let us examine what the main elements of this crisis are.

In his statement to the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations made on January 23, 2009, the Under Secretary General for Peacekeeping, Mr Alain Le Roy highlighted a number of them. These include “sheer overstretch”; a “wide gap” between supply and demand for the numbers and types of personnel; and, the absence of critical enabling capacities such as air assets.

Mr President,
It is a self-evident truth that there is no scarcity of the personnel and capacities of the type that the United Nations requires. There are enough troops, enough policemen, enough civilian experts, enough capacities and enough helicopters available to the international community. That is not the problem. The problem is that there is reluctance on the part of Member States to make these available to the United Nations.

We need to carefully examine the reasons behind this state of affairs and collectively take the steps that are required to rectify matters.

Mr President,
A major issue that we all must tackle is the nature of the Security Council’s mandates and the manner in which they are generated. Related to this is the question of whether the mandates have any correlation to the ability of the organization to deliver. Mandates are increasingly “robust” and place peacekeepers, most of whom come from Member States not represented in this Council, in non-permissive environments. They are faced with situations where they are more frequently being called upon to use force not just to defend but to enforce mandates. We fully endorse Under Secretary General Le Roy’s statement
that peacekeeping mandates have become too broad and too all encompassing. We also agree that the limits of “robust” peacekeeping are not properly defined.

For a country like India which has thousands of troops and policemen on the ground, the lack of clarity in mandates has practical repercussions. We have been receiving feedback from our personnel on the ground that questions of substantive interpretation of the mandates - with repercussions beyond the immediate - are often left to the judgment of mission personnel in the ground. This is a difficult situation, particularly for military officers, who operate best when there are unambiguous instructions and objectives. Unrealistic mandates have led to situations where mission personnel are forced to ask national contingents to undertake tasks and utilize COE in a manner that is inconsistent with the legal framework under which they are deployed.

We reiterate the Brahimi recommendation that mandates be clear and achievable. We also reiterate that this will not be possible without substantively involving countries who contribute manpower and resources to Peacekeeping Operations.

Consultations with and briefings for TCCs and PCCs do take place more frequently but they are *pro forma* in nature and skirt around substantive issues with little or no scope for meaningful discussion. The most recent change in the Rules of Engagement and Concept of Operations in case of MONUC was communicated to the TCCs *after* they had been notified by the Under Secretary General during a consultation meeting.

**Mr President**

You will agree that being informed is not the same as being consulted.

This exemplifies the manner in which the spirit of UNSC Resolution 1353 is being systematically undermined and raises doubts about the seriousness of the Security Council about addressing the reasons behind the crisis.

**Mr President**

We reiterate the imperative of involving TCCs and PCCs both early and fully in all aspects and stages of mission planning. This should include the stage of preparation and planning of the operation, in the monitoring and conduct of an operation, and finally, in the evaluation of an operation. This should feed into a process where the views of TCCs and PCCs feed into the generation of mandates.

It is only by doing so that Article 44 of the Charter will be obeyed in letter and spirit.

**Mr President**

The operating environment for Peacekeeping has changed. The conventional wisdom that Peacekeepers must be drawn from the ranks of the military is an idea whose time is past. India believes that the future of Peacekeeping, and at least a part of Peacebuilding, lies in the development of Police and Rule of Law capacities in UN missions.
The development of these capacities must be relevant to the situations where they are to be applied. India strongly believes that the most relevant capacities in this regard are present in Member States that have gone through successful post-colonial nation building exercises. The experience that these nations have in building and nurturing institutions, particularly those relating to the development of robust security mechanisms that operate in visible, open and democratic environments, need to be taken into account as the DPKO develops its capabilities in this area.

A peacekeeping operation is effective when it succeeds in enabling national capacities. Training national security personnel is a key determinant of success in this area. This issue, which is sometimes dealt with in the discourse on “Security Sector Reform” needs greater attention. My delegation is of the view that training capabilities need to be inbuilt in the Force Generation process by which contingents are raised.

Mr President
My delegation believes that mission support is another area that requires sustained attention. One of the principal objectives behind the realignment of DPKO and creation of the DFS was the improvement of mission support. We reiterate, in the context of this realignment, the imperative requirement of unity of effort and the need to establish clear command and control structures, coherence in policy and strategy, effective coordination and integration, as well the preservation of unity of command from Headquarters to the field.

We would also like to draw your attention to the importance of a lean and efficient support operation. UN Peacekeeping Operations are essentially military operations. As a general principle we believe that the DFS needs to model itself on well run, simple and efficient military logistical operations.

Mr President
We have taken note of the New Horizons report. We would like it be an exercise that takes a clear, hard look at where the DPKO and DFS require to focus. We have engaged with the DPKO on the study and are looking forward to continuing this engagement in a constructive manner during the process of generating the report. It is not, however, our impression that the product of this study will influence the manner in which the fundamental issues raised above are being addressed.

Mr President,
The statement made on behalf of NAM raises a number of pertinent issues including the importance of developed countries sharing the burden of peacekeeping. NAM, which contributes 80% of UN Peacekeeping personnel, expects that its concerns inter alia including those relating to security of personnel, reimbursements and selection procedures will be taken into account in the deliberations amongst Member States.

Mr President
I would also like to take this opportunity to salute the peacekeepers from India and from other nations who laid down their lives while serving in UN missions.

Mr President,
In concluding, I reiterate India’s commitment to work with the UN in the maintenance of international peace and security including through the mechanism of Peacekeeping. We further reiterate our commitment to participating in the process of strengthening Peacekeeping in order to increase its relevance and effectiveness. We will also, where we deem it necessary and relevant, be willing to consider the deployment the capacities that are required by Peacekeeping operations in the years to come.

We look forward to continuing our engagement with other stakeholders in this process.

Thank You.