Mr. President,

I thank you for convening this open debate on a topic of paramount importance for the United Nations, in general, and the Security Council, in particular. UN members need to be fully aware of the constant evolution of peacekeeping operations in practical and conceptual terms, and it is appropriate, in this sense, that Security Council members maintain a regular exchange of views with the broader membership on a matter of such strategic importance.

I also thank the Secretary-General for his briefing.

Brazil renews its strong commitment to UN peacekeeping operations and its readiness to work with a view to their improvement. In Haiti, Lebanon, in the DRC and in many other locations Brazilian military and police uphold the noble principles that continue to preside over UNPKOs.

Mr. President,

War between states continues to be the most dangerous and potentially destructive form of conflict, as we can observe from the widespread resurgence of geopolitical tensions in sensitive regions of the world. This new "old" trend is all the more worrisome when we consider that many countries continue to stockpile weapons of mass destruction.

Civilians are the main victims of conflicts today. They are victims not only of the collapse of state structures and ensuing violence, but also of the unauthorised use of force or the provision of weapons by third parties. As a result, we bear witness to
the proliferation of cases of humanitarian emergencies with a corresponding increase in the demand for institutional building of capacities, which in the absence of other capable institutions, must be provided by peacekeeping missions - particularly in the domains of security and justice.

Mr. President,

Peacekeeping is destined to remain one of the main tools at the disposal of the international community to address international threats to peace and security. UN peacekeeping has become more complex and dangerous. Nowadays, there is more to peacekeeping than military patrols along a cease-fire line or observation of the parties to ensure separation and compliance with agreements. UN PKOs have recently been deployed in areas where no peace agreements are in place and where government authority is weak or non-existent.

The implications of being a troop or police contributing country, therefore, have been changing quickly. The evolution of peacekeeping missions entailed a renewed commitment of TCCs in deploying their citizens in riskier and more demanding operations. Enhanced efforts in pre-deployment training, high standards for equipment and the contribution of a large array of specialized units are nowadays common features.

In keeping with these developments, this strengthened peacekeeping partnership will only be possible if we adopt a fair reimbursement rate. As discussions on this issue take place at the UN Fifth Committee, we expect all partners to adopt a responsible position regarding this matter.

Mr. President,

There can be no question that UN peacekeeping efforts are cost-effective and that, despite constraints, the UN does a lot with little. For evidence, one needs to look no further than to the stark contrast between UN peacekeeping budget, around USD 8 billion a year, and nuclear powers’ defense expenditure in 2013, USD 991 billion according to Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI).

In spite of that, regrettably DPKO has been grappling with the contradictory dynamics of ever more complex mandates, on the one hand, and increasing pressure for budget reductions, on the other. Whereas there is no contradiction in trying to ensure that all resources in any given mission are spent in the most effective manner, efforts to impose artificial caps to overall expenditures in PKOs will turn out to be detrimental to our collective efforts to fulfill our responsibilities under the Charter.
At the same time, Special Political Missions are increasingly acquiring characteristics akin to multidimensional peacekeeping operations, even though they are funded by the regular budget of the Organization. It is a classic case of taxation without representation, considering that the Security Council determines the establishment of a Special Political Mission, but the costs are spread as if it were a decision by the General Assembly. Let us not forget that more than 20% of UN's regular budget is currently destined to the maintenance of Special Political Missions, negatively impacting the capacity of the UN to adequately carry out mandates in other areas, in particular as regards development assistance.

Mr. President,

If resources are scarce when it comes to PKOs, they are blatantly insufficient to assure development assistance and post-conflict peacebuilding. In certain parts of the world, international challenges to peace and security find their root causes in poverty, social exclusion, discrimination and impunity before the law. Without addressing these root causes, there can be little hope that a stable and peaceful situation will arise.

The integration of peacekeeping and peacebuilding initiatives is therefore crucial for the long-standing stabilization of states emerging from conflict. It would be a serious setback if new PKO trends in an environment of resource constraints lead to the prevalence of military solutions, in detriment to multidimensional mandates that include parallel, effective peacebuilding efforts.

Whenever it is requested to deal with a situation, the Security Council should, since the earliest possible stages of the peacekeeping mandate drafting, look beyond the immediate horizon of events, into the root causes of conflicts, and develop long-lasting strategies for peace. Improved interaction between the Security Council and Peacebuilding Commission is of the essence in this regard.

Mr. President,

Let me touch upon recent trends in peacekeeping operations. The first is the growing use of inter-mission cooperation (IMC). Brazil recognizes the potential benefits of inter-mission cooperation, especially as a tool to quickly respond to crisis. However, IMC cannot be envisaged as a cost-reduction instrument. Operational, administrative and financial arrangements related to IMC cannot result in actions that fill a gap while opening another.

The second aspect is the deployment of modern technological resources. Brazil views the incorporation of technology in PKOs as an inevitable development.
However, technical means such as Unmanned Unarmed Aerial Systems (UUAS) may have their potential usefulness negated if their use results in a smaller number of well equipped and trained soldiers on the ground. The investment in new technologies will only be effective if paralleled by investment in the necessary human resources.

Another aspect worth examining is the collaboration between the Security Council and regional organizations. This is most visible with regard to the commendable role assumed by the African Union in peacekeeping efforts in Africa. Surely, regional appropriation of regional issues is a development we must applaud, on the understanding that applicable Charter provisions are being strictly observed.

At the same time, one should not overlook the need for international assistance in support of those initiatives. It is unfair to assume that the AU will be able to provide, alone, the resources indispensable for the adequate fulfillment of missions whose mandates are ever more complex and ambitious. As a rule, neither regional organizations nor the UN should outsource their respective responsibilities in the provision of international peace and security.

Mr. President,

PKOs concern all Member States and need to be thoroughly and democratically discussed. A reformed Security Council, one that is more representative of the contemporary world, would have the increased legitimacy needed to craft demanding peacekeeping operations' mandates; mandates that are attuned to the aspirations of the wider membership and can therefore enlist the support of a greater number of troop contributing countries towards the achievement of common goals.

I thank you.