

ASEAN REGIONAL FORUM  
SECURITY POLICY CONFERENCE

Session Two Peacekeeping Operations

CHINA

As the old Chinese saying goes, peace is most precious. China has suffered untold pains from wars and turbulence in its long history, the Chinese people therefore is keenly aware of the treasure of peace. We appreciate the UN's efforts for world and regional peace and have actively participated in UN peacekeeping operations. We support the resumption of security and stability in conflicting regions, welcome the realization of national reconciliation, and wish its people live and work in peace and contentment. The Chinese side believes that the UN peacekeeping operations have played an important role in easing tension and resolving regional disputes. Practices over the past years have proved that the UN peacekeeping operations have developed into an effective means for safeguarding international peace and security. Moreover, various regional organizations have played an important role in peacekeeping operations as well. We uphold that the UN should enhance its cooperation with other regional organizations to compliment each other and give full play to their distinctive strengths. The UN, however, should play its leading role in peacekeeping operations, while relevant regional organizations should timely communicate with the UN and keep it well-informed. The UN should have priority in receiving manpower and resources contributed by all countries.

China has always actively participated in the UN peacekeeping operations. Since its first dispatch of military observers to the UN peacekeeping operations in 1990, China has sent 5380 military personnel to 15 UN peacekeeping operations, including 911 military observers and staff officers, 800 engineering personnel to Cambodia, 1090 engineering and medical personnel to Congo (Kinshasa), 2232 personnel in transportation, engineering and medical units to Liberia. In the past 16 years, 7 Chinese servicemen lost their lives and dozens wounded in UN peacekeeping operations.

Hereby, I would like to inform you that the Chinese peacekeeping force of 135

military personnel to Sudan arrived there on May 16, and has started its mission. At present, 1123 PLA personnel are working in 9 UN peacekeeping task areas. They include 93 military observers and staff officers, an engineering unit of 175 personnel and a medical unit of 43 personnel in Congo (Kinshasa), an engineering unit of 275 personnel, a transportation unit of 240 personnel and a medical unit of 43 personnel in Liberia, an engineering, transportation and medical unit of 165 personnel in Sudan, an engineering unit of 182 personnel in Lebanon, and 3 staff officers at the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations. Besides, China has sent hundreds of civil police and other peacekeeping personnel to the UN.

It is worthy noting that China contributes most personnel to the UN peacekeeping operations among the permanent members of the UN Security Council. The Chinese military will as always contribute its due part to world peace and common development.