

**Statement given by H.E. Mr. Paul Heinbecker
before the U.N. Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations
March 8, 2001**

Mr. Chairman,

I would like to welcome Under-Secretary-General Jean-Marie Guéhenno to the Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations and extend my delegation's thanks to him for a very worthwhile and valuable briefing.

His presence here and these kinds of information briefings are most welcome in this Committee.

We can only encourage this kind of openness and express our hope it continues in the future.

Under-Secretary-General Guéhenno's briefing was valuable because it provided Member States with a clear picture of how the Secretariat has responded so far to the first phase of the implementation of the Brahimi Report and their future plans to maintain this momentum.

In particular, we would like to recognize and commend their efforts to move quickly to fill posts provided by the General Assembly last December.

It is imperative that these posts are filled as quickly as possible to enable the Secretariat to continue to implement the Brahimi Report.

However, we recognize that staffing these posts will not take place overnight.

The time involved to recruit these new posts should not be viewed by Member States as a reason for the Special Committee to delay its consideration of the comprehensive review.

Under-Secretary-General Guéhenno has also provided useful information to the Committee on the comprehensive review.

We commend his efforts and leadership to give priority to this long-overdue initiative.

He has taken courageous steps to move a complex, difficult but necessary reform process forward.

As members of this Committee are well aware, on several occasions, the Special Committee has called for such a review.

We are pleased to hear that it is well underway.

The core of the review, as U-S-G Guéhenno has said, will be the recommendations of an independent audit - an idea that my delegation has advocated in the past and continues to strongly support.

This audit will be used as a management tool to review how the Secretariat supports peace-keeping operations; the audit is a technical not a political instrument.

It demonstrates in a significant way the Secretariat's willingness to be open and self-critical about what it does and how it does it.

The audit, along with a newly-created advisory board, will add transparency and objectivity to the review.

The advisory board also has the important advantage of bringing a field perspective to the review.

We believe that the input of the audit and the advisory board into the review will provide the right balance between the practicalities of the field and the necessary headquarters support.

We welcome these efforts to move forward with the comprehensive review, not only because such a review is necessary, but also because these efforts reflect the Secretariat's willingness to move forward with reforms.

We also welcome these efforts as a sign of goodwill in responding to the request of the Special Committee.

We look forward to seeing the results of the review and working with other Member States to ensure its full and timely consideration.

We encourage the Secretariat to ensure that this Committee receives the comprehensive review as soon as possible for study and reflection.

Thank you.