

**Remarks of Mr. Jean-Pierre Lacroix**  
**Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations**  
**Fifth Committee**  
**11 May 2017**

Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates,

1. I am honoured to be here today to provide you with a short overview of the United Nations peacekeeping priorities for 2017/18 and the Department's efforts at reforming and revitalizing UN peacekeeping. At the outset, I would like to thank the Chairman of the Fifth Committee for agreeing that I could be here today. *[If the Chairman of ACABQ is present]* I would also to thank the Chairman of the ACABQ, Mr Carlos Ruiz Massieu. The Advisory Committee plays a crucial role in the management and oversight of peacekeeping operations, and we greatly value the guidance offered by the Committee's observations and recommendations.

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political processes. The closing of the missions in Côte d'Ivoire and Liberia and the transformation of the mission in Haiti into a smaller tailored operation are a significant reminder of the role that UN peacekeeping can play to address long-standing conflict and build peace.

5. My Department is mindful of the pressures that the current financial environment and the uncertainty of the global security landscape represent. We must rethink our approach and find new ways of planning, sourcing, conducting and transitioning UN peacekeeping operations to make them flexible, more effective and both responsive and accountable to the needs of the people they serve. This reality must, however, be balanced with the need to ensure that missions have the resources – human, financial and material – they need to deliver on their mandates. This is why we stepped up our efforts to improve

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7. All these efforts will be for naught, however, if the reputation of the United Nations continues to be stained by the shameful acts of a few. The Secretary-General's new strategy to combat Sexual Exploitation and Abuse as a system-wide malignancy presents an opportunity for all of us -- Secretariat and Member States -- to work in true partnership and turn a corner on this issue once and for all. The Secretary-General has made it abundantly clear that this is a top priority to which he is deeply committed. He has expressed in no uncertain terms his expectation that every single UN leader and UN staff member get personally engaged in our efforts to stamp out sexual exploitation and abuse from our ranks. I, from my part, will use all means at my disposal to support him and help further advance all the initiatives already underway. We need to