

UN's DPKO Must Prepare Report On How Best To Ensure Safety Of Personnel On Missions
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KUALA LUMPUR, June 4 (Bernama) -- Malaysia is of the view that the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) must undertake studies and prepare a report on how best to ensure the safety and security of United Nations (UN) personnel on missions.

A case in point is the deployment of the Intervention Brigade in the United Nations Organisation Stabilisation Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (Monusco) where the robust peacekeeping actions are taken, aimed to neutralise the armed groups in the Kivus.

Malaysia's permanent representative to the UN in New York, Datuk Hussein Haniff said Malaysia was worried that these robust actions might create a war within a war, involving UN peacekeepers.

"To avoid these possibilities, the UN should go back to the basic role of peacekeeping and not get embroiled in local conflicts, as by doing so, we lose our legitimacy as a neutral organisation," he said in his statement on Safety and Security of Peacekeeping Missions at the Security Council Working Group meeting in New York yesterday.

The statement was faxed to Bernama, here, today.

Hussein said Malaysia supported the central role of the UN in the maintenance of international peace and security as well as the promotion of a more equitable international political and economic order.

He said Malaysia opined that the UN, and the UN Security Council in particular, must continue to shoulder the responsibilities in the maintenance of international peace and security in accordance with the principles and purposes enshrined in the Charter of the UN and the relevant international laws.

"Although we have our reservations on the Intervention Brigade and the extent of robust peacekeeping, Malaysia wishes to reaffirm its commitment to continuously support various UN efforts and measures to strengthen and improve the safety and security of all UN personnel.

"As a member-state that supports the peacekeeping work of the UN, Malaysia reaffirms its commitment on the continuous efforts for a transparent triangular cooperation between the UN Security Council, the Secretariat and the troop and police contributing countries to further foster the spirit of partnership, cooperation and confidence.

"We are now in interesting times where peacekeeping efforts are concerned. While wanting our role to evolve with the new challenges that we face, we should not forget that we, the UN, are guardians of international peace and security, and not party to conflicts worldwide," he added.

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