

73rd UNGA Session

High-Level Event on Action for Peacekeeping (A4P)

Trusteeship Council Chamber

25 September 2018

INDIA STATEMENT

Under Secretary General for Peacekeeping Operations, Mr Jean- Pierre Lacroix,

Under Secretary General for Field Support, Mr. Atul Khare,

We commend Secretary General's initiatives to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of UN peacekeeping to address the changing realities based on the lessons learnt. We are happy to endorse the Declaration of Shared Commitments on Peacekeeping.

There is no substitute to professional competence. Indian peacekeepers have been at the forefront in setting the highest standards in peacekeeping in their longstanding contribution to nearly 50 UN missions since peacekeeping operations began.

We welcome the development of the 'Integrated Performance Policy Framework', covering all the stakeholders. At the same time, we need to address the insistence by some on caveats in deployment. We see this as unfair and placing different peacekeepers on different levels.

Excellencies,

We see partnerships as a useful tool to build capacities of Troop and Police Contributing Countries. As a tangible demonstration of this, India will co-deploy Kazakhstan troops as part of our own contingent in UNIFIL (Lebanon) in the coming month.

The Center for UN Peacekeeping (CUNPK) in New Delhi contributes to training and capacity building efforts of peacekeepers worldwide, especially for our African partners and women peacekeepers.

Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi joined Secretary-General's Circle of Leadership last year and we also signed the SG's Voluntary Compact last year as part of our commitment to preventing Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA). India was the first country to extend financial support for the Trust Fund set up in support of victims of SEA. We are now contributing to the development of a learning programme by the Secretariat on conduct and discipline issues with emphasis on preventing SEA.

India is proud to have deployed the first ever all-women formed police unit in Liberia, whose professionalism has inspired many Liberian women. India had reached the target of contributing 15% women military observers last year. We believe in the important role of women peacekeepers. This needs to be incentivized to encourage a much greater participation of women in peacekeeping.

Excellencies,

Secretary-General has rightly identified that the success of any peacekeeping reform initiative is dependent on all stakeholders playing their respective roles. We should all now strive to translate the shared commitments into action.

Thank you.