

**Swedish Statement by State Secretary Eva Svedling at the High Level Event on UN Peacekeeping (Action for Peace) on the 25th of September (As delivered)**

At the outset, let me thank the Secretary-General both for convening this meeting, and for your keen efforts, through the A4P initiative, to renew our collective engagement in making UN peacekeeping the vital instrument for peace the world needs it to be. Sweden has endorsed the Declaration of Shared Commitments on UN Peacekeeping Operations and we are encouraged to see so many other UN Member States doing the same. Immense challenges remain. The peacekeeping environment today is more complex and high-risk than ever before.

We are pleased to note that the fatalities among UN-peacekeepers are, so far, fewer this year. However, every attack on a peacekeeper is a crime. We encourage the Secretary-General, host nations and all member states to pursue accountability for perpetrators of attacks against UN-personnel and end the impunity.

These challenges require strong and collective action from all of us: this Assembly, the Security Council, the Secretariat, troop- and police contributors as well as host countries. It [Peacekeeping] is our joint responsibility, since effective and efficient peacekeeping reduces the costs of human suffering – and saves resources in the long run.

Sweden has an unbroken record of contributing to UN peacekeeping since 1956. Our most recent troop contribution, to MINUSMA, is about to enter its sixth year. Drawing on this history, I would like to raise

three points, which we believe would contribute to more effective peacekeeping.

**Firstly**, peacekeeping missions never operate in a political vacuum. Any effective action therefore needs to be preceded by thorough conflict analysis, including with a gender perspective, putting the support of political solutions, conflict prevention and sustaining peace at the heart of our efforts. We also need to remember that UN Peacekeeping *in itself* is a tool for prevention of violent conflict. This entails coordinated implementation with all relevant actors and ensuring the full, equal and active participation, also of women, in UN peacekeeping as well as in peace processes.

**Secondly**, visions and mandates need to be translated into results on the ground. Three aspects are particularly important in this regard: situational awareness, adequate leadership and the performance of peacekeepers. We need to ensure that every peacekeeper and every peacekeeping operation do all they can when civilians are under imminent threat. Monitoring, investigating and reporting on human rights violations and abuses and violations of international humanitarian law are critical tasks. We would like to see a strengthened role for peacekeeping operations in protecting medical facilities and personnel as well as ensuring safe delivery of medical care in armed conflicts. The UN's zero tolerance policy with respect to sexual exploitation and abuse needs to be fully respected. Based on our own experiences, intelligence and information is a prerequisite to protect UN peacekeepers as well as civilians, and to underpin informed and strategic decisions. In an

environment marked by dwindling resources, we also need to work smartly to pool our resources.

**Thirdly**, peace is best pursued in partnership. With regional organisations such as the AU and the EU actively engaged in political processes and security efforts in UN mission settings, strategic coherence and complementarity are prerequisites for success. In this context, we welcome the enhanced partnership between the UN and the African Union. If we want this partnership to reach its full potential, we must allow for sustainable and predictable financing as well as clear and clever cooperation on the ground.

To Mr. Secretary-General,

You have shown great leadership in your resolve to continue reforming UN Peacekeeping to make this important tool better fit to meet current challenges. Sweden fully supports these efforts,

Thank you.

*As delivered*