

STATEMENT BY HIS EXCELLENCY AMBASSADOR DR. AUGUSTINE P. MAHIGA, MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND EAST AFRICAN COOPERATION OF THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA, AT THE HIGH-LEVEL MEETING ON ACTION FOR PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS, NEW YORK, 25 SEPTEMBER 2018

Your Excellency, Ms. María Fernanda Espinosa Garcés, President of the General Assembly;

Your Excellency António Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations;

Your Excellencies Heads of State and Government;

Mr. Secretary General;

Excellencies;

Distinguished Delegates;

Ladies and Gentlemen.

On behalf of Tanzania I add my voice to the previous speakers to congratulate you for the commendable efforts and initiatives on peacekeeping reforms including Action for Peacekeeping Operations which are aimed at improving and achieving more effective and accountable Peacekeeping Operations.

Excellencies,

The world continues to be threatened by new security challenges globally and regionally. Our duty as members of the United Nations, is to strive to prevent the occurrence of such violent conflicts and to protect vulnerable persons when peace is threatened. The United Nations Peacekeeping Operations have so far served well to keep the peace where there is peace to keep and to protect civilians where their safety and security is threatened. Peacekeeping Operations have also helped in

helped in peacebuilding in reconstruction of war-torn communities with commendable performance.

Excellencies,

Recently, we have experienced that sometimes the peace keepers may be attacked and become victims of violence from rebel groups. It is in this regard that the mandate of peacekeeping operations must take into consideration case-by-case peacekeeping challenges in order to ensure the safety of peacekeepers and effective protection of innocent civilians in such situations.

Excellencies,

Tanzania is one of the major Troop Contributing countries. To date, we have contributed 2,687 troops to 6 peacekeeping operations around the world. Protecting civilians and at the same time ensuring safety of our troops is one of our key concerns and priorities. On this note, we wish to extend our gratitude for the manner in which the United Nations has responded in the aftermath of the attacks of our troops in some of the peacekeeping missions.

We are encouraged that the recommendations made by the special investigation on the Simulike Attack in the DRC, have been featured in this political declaration that we are about to adopt, which will, I believe

improve the performance of all UN Peacekeeping operations at large. We hope that the endorsement of this Declaration will provide more room to the United Nations to accommodate the evolution of the Peacekeeping Operations, its changing tactics and accordingly strategize on the best way forward.

It is in this context that, Tanzania wishes to reiterate its readiness to participate and contribute troops to UN peacekeeping operations.

Excellencies,

Given the nature and changing dynamics of the rebel groups particularly the use of asymmetric warfare tactics, Tanzania fully supports the United Nations ongoing initiatives to improve peacekeeping operations which are aimed to ensuring peacekeeping troops are robustly equipped and trained in order to effectively implement and defend their mandate.

We welcome the initiative of the Secretary General and his recommendations to address new emerging challenges in peacekeeping operations. We appeal to all member states and international community to support and enhance the efforts of the Secretary General and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations under the banner of the United Nations.

I thank you for listening!

