



**The Speech of the Albanian Deputy Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs,
Megi Fino in the plenary session of 2021 Seoul Peacekeeping Ministerial**

7-8 December 2021

(Statement Note)

Dear Mr. Chair,

Distinguished colleagues and participants,

I am delighted to address the UN Peacekeeping Ministerial Meeting on behalf of Albania - although I must admit that I was looking forward to meeting everyone in person and seeing the beautiful city of Seoul. However, this was not possible due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

On this occasion, I would like to thank the Republic of Korea for their initiative in convening us in this meeting to speak about peace during such challenging times.

As you are all well aware, we are currently facing a multitude of challenges in both a global and regional dimension. Traditional and new challenges have made conflicts more complex and difficult to be addressed. But despite the changes in nature and features of conflict, UN peacekeeping operations continue to play a crucial role in advancing peace and security in the world.

As one of the countries that have endorsed the Declaration of Shared Commitments on Peacekeeping Operations, Albania strongly supports the peacekeeping reform initiatives like A4P and the A4P+ priorities.

Today, I would like to briefly focus on four main areas, which we believe can increase the efficiency and performance of Peacekeeping Missions and their ability to respond to the challenges they currently face:

- 1) The first area is supporting the peacebuilding priorities of UN peacekeeping operations – As a crucial part of the humanitarian-development-peace nexus, UN Peacekeeping Operations are well versed to lay the foundations for sustaining peace, especially during the transitioning phase of the Peacekeeping Missions. In this spirit, Albania will double its contribution to the UN Peacebuilding Fund, convinced that the Fund plays a crucial role in supporting the peacebuilding and development priorities of UN Missions, especially in transition settings.
- 2) The 2nd is to Ensure the necessary logistics, medical support and equipment for all UN Peacekeeping Missions based on the tasks they have and the environment where they operate - U.N. peacekeepers are confronted with greater threats today because conflicts have become more complex, due to conflict enhancers such as digital technologies, the impact of fake news, misinformation and the usage of sophisticated means by armed groups.
- 3) The third area is Improving accountability – Member States should support the efforts to increase accountability, including on issues related to conduct and discipline, as well as accountability for mandate implementation and operations.
- 4) Last but not least, Increasing the number and quality of trainings for the UN Peacekeepers – Trainings are an essential contributor to the performance of peacekeepers, especially regarding the protection of vulnerable groups, civilians, women and children. Thus, we need to encourage and increase the number of gender-sensitive trainings for all UN Peacekeeping mission components, to create a friendly environment for women and mitigate the occurrence of gender-based violence and sexual exploitation acts against women.

As an incoming non-permanent member of the Security Council for the period 2022-23, Albania will engage to improve the mandates of the Peacekeeping Operations making them more robust. Fully aware of the responsibilities trusted upon us by the United Nations family, we look forward

to bringing to the Security Council the perspective of a small country, with a constructive foreign policy and a consistent commitment to multilateralism.

Kamsahamnida!