

**GEN Angus Campbell  
Chief of Defence Force**

**Address to United Nations Peacekeeping Ministerial on Uniformed  
Capabilities, Performance and Protection:  
Australia**

**United Nations Headquarters, New York  
29 March 2019**

It is my privilege to speak today on continuing Australia's support for United Nations peacekeeping.

From our first UN deployment in 1947, Australia has regarded peacekeeping as a key effort in our shared goal of global peace and security.

Australia will therefore continue to ensure that our contributions to UN peacekeeping remain relevant, and of the highest calibre.

Today, I am pleased to announce a number of pledges that will support enhanced peacekeeping capabilities and reaffirm our commitment to implementing the Secretary General's Action for Peacekeeping initiative.

Australia will continue to invest in force protection, an essential aspect of modern peacekeeping, as highlighted in the 2017 report on 'Improving the Security of UN Peacekeepers'.

Australia has previously demonstrated its commitment to the safety and security of peacekeepers through our support to develop the UN Improved Explosive Devices Handbook and disposal standards.

We will continue our support in this area by contributing funding towards establishing a mobile technical advisory team on explosive hazard threat mitigation that will deploy to the five highest risk missions in Africa.

We will continue our efforts to further mainstream Women, Peace and Security.

Last year, Australia's Major General Cheryl Pearce became only the second woman to serve as a UN Force Commander with her appointment to the UN Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus.

It is an honour for Australia to be part of such a significant milestone in UN history.

And we intend to maintain this momentum by pledging to increase our peacekeeping gender participation rate. As of January 2019, our female participation rate was 23.5 per cent. In line with the UN Gender Parity Strategy, we will increase our female participation rate in peacekeeping to 25 per cent by 2028.

We will also do our part to advance the global female participation rate. We will continue to pledge funds to facilitate attendance of

female military officers from the Global South to attend UN training courses, commencing with the next UN Military Experts' course in Finland.

Finally, I reaffirm Australia's commitment to providing strategic airlift support to the UN in crisis situations.

I thank you for the opportunity today to continue Australia's tradition of being an established and reliable supporter of UN peacekeeping.