

Peacekeeping Ministerial 29th March 2019

Statement AUSTRIA

Mr. Under-Secretary-General,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It has been almost ten years since Austria started its work on Protection of Civilians.

In November 2009, when Austria held the rotating Presidency of the UN Security Council, during our time as non-permanent member, Resolution 1894 was passed. The resolution called on all parties to conflicts to strengthen the protection of civilians through heightened awareness at all levels, particularly through the training, orders and instructions issued to armed forces. The resolution provided the ground for the creation of an operational concept on Protection of Civilians to provide comprehensive guidance in carrying out protection mandates.

Mr. Under-Secretary-General,

In the ten years that followed Resolution 1894, Austria, as a staunch supporter of Protection of Civilians, has conducted ten UN-certified Protection of Civilians operational-level courses. Similarly, Austria has been the host for a number of UN Trainer-of-the-Trainer courses and developed a tactical-level course on Protection of Civilians.

Nevertheless, ten years after Resolution 1894 and after the conduct of many courses on the topic we saw, most recently during our preparatory meetings to this year's UN Peacekeeping Ministerial, that Protection of Civilians needs a mission wide approach – military, police as well as civilians have their share in protecting civilians. Next to PoC policies and guidelines drafted by the UN, mission PoC strategies need to come into place and translate into the required action in the field. For this to happen, any UN mission's leadership needs to offer clear instructions to its respective contingents. Austria believes training, especially for UN mission

leadership, to be key in order to make PoC a reality.

Mr. Under-Secretary-General,

This high-level meeting provides an excellent opportunity to renew the commitment of UN Troop- and Police Contributing Countries to the Protection of Civilians agenda and to announce new pledges.

In this regard, Austria will continue its support to the UN in the field of training in the area of Protection of Civilians:

- 1) First, the Austrian Ministry of Defence pledges to maintain the increase of its international course offers by conducting two UN-certified Protection of Civilians operational-level courses during 2019 and 2020.
- 2) Second, Austria considers further supporting the UN by pledging to host an additional UN training activity, such as an UN Trainer-of-the-Trainer Course.

Mr. Under-Secretary-General,

As Protection of Civilians interlinks with the UN Security Council Resolution 1325, the offered courses on Protection of Civilians also aim to support implementing the Women, Peace and Security agenda. Following the UN Comprehensive PoC concept, all Austrian PoC courses include the topics of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA) and Conflict-Related-Sexual-Violence (CRSV). Similarly, the Austrian PoC courses aim to transmit to the course participants the importance of mission leadership and accountability.

Austria hopes that with these new pledges the UN's overall training, capacity development and ultimately performance regarding the Protection of Civilians will continue to increase in the future.

Thank you.