

**United Nations Peacekeeping Ministerial
Session 2 on Capacity Building and Training**

Austrian Statement

Undersecretary General Atul Khare,

[President of the Republic of Ghana],

[Minister of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration],

[Minister of Defence],

Dear Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me start by expressing Austria's **gratitude** to Ghana for hosting this year's UN Peacekeeping Ministerial in close cooperation with the United Nations.

More than 60 years ago, the first **Austrian peacekeepers** were deployed to the United Nations Operation in the Congo. Since then, and without interruption, more than 100.000 Austrians have served in UN Peacekeeping Operations. We will continue to uphold our strong commitment.

Following the **pledging guide** and the areas formulated therein in support of the Action for Peacekeeping and the Action for Peacekeeping+ **key priorities**, it is my privilege to announce the following **pledges** on behalf of the Republic of Austria:

- With the aim of strengthening partnerships and multilateralism, Austria pledges to continue the joint project of Austria and the UN Department of Peace Operations on "Networked Multilateralism: Upgrading Partnerships" to build stronger and efficient partnerships between the United Nations, Regional Organizations and Member States.

- Austria reaffirms its commitment to UN peacekeeping by contributing military and police capabilities as well as individual personnel to UNIFIL, UNMIK, UNFICYP, UNTSO, and MINURSO.
- We are further pledging to register additional uniformed military capabilities in the PCRS, inter alia a Quick Reaction Force, a Long Range Reconnaissance/Surveillance Unit, a Military Combat Transport Unit, and a Military Police Unit as well as a modular rapidly deployable capability to respond to natural disasters in UN Peacekeeping Mission areas.
- With the aim of enhancing peacekeeping capabilities and to support missions and host countries, Austria pledges to form a national pool of both justice experts, focusing on bringing perpetrators of crimes against peacekeepers to justice, and correction experts, focusing on training in prison security and treatment of prisoners as well as prison engineering.
- Austria also stands ready to support efforts of developing peacekeeping doctrines and policy as host country for “Writing Workshops” in 2024 and 2025. We pledging to support the UN as host nation for a Training of Trainer course (ToT) on Mis- and Disinformation, covering all expenses.
- Within the framework of the “Light Coordination Mechanism”, Austria pledges to expand its course offers to contribute to bilateral training and capacity-building efforts. We will further grant full sponsorship to selected international participants.

- Meeting the UN specific needs in the field of peacekeeping intelligence, Austria will continue providing subject-matter experts for the Human Peacekeeping Intelligence Courses in support of the Peacekeeping Intelligence Academy.
- With the aim of further strengthening women’s participation in peace processes, and to increase the number of female peacekeepers, Austria will designate slots for our international courses exclusively for female participants. Austria will continue to conduct the “SaferGuard Training for Women Ammunition Technical Experts on International Ammunition Technical Guidelines” in 2024, with full sponsorship for selected international participants and we will continue to fund one position within the “Junior Professional Officer” (JPO) Programme in support of UN Women.
- In support of the “Strategy for the Digital Transformation of UN Peacekeeping”, Austria pledges to provide experts and expertise to help design a future-proof information system concept, tailored to the user’s specific needs.
- In support of the UN’s efforts to reduce the environmental footprint in peacekeeping operations, and in line with our national ambitions to transform our armed forces towards sustainability, Austria pledges to work in cooperation with the UN on a possible project to transform our UNIFIL compound into a “green camp”, piloting innovative solutions, including renewable energy systems, the reduction of water consumption as well as improving wastewater, waste and energy management. This project aims at fostering the exchange of best practice models and achieving synergies between existing efforts, by

serving as a model facility for other troop contribution countries as well as for the Armed Forces of the host nation.

In closing, let me reiterate that Austria will remain a reliable partner for the UN Peacekeeping agenda. I am very proud to point out that our pledges have significantly increased in terms of quality and quantity. Austria hereby reaffirms its longstanding support for UN Peacekeeping Operations in the years to come!

Thank you!