

**Statement by the Delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan
at the UN Peacekeeping Ministerial Meeting, Accra, Ghana, 5-6 December 2023**

[Mr. Secretary General,]

Honorable Ministers,

Ladies, and Gentlemen,

I commence by aligning with previous speakers in commemorating the valorous peacekeepers who have sacrificed their lives for peace. We also extend our profound respect to all who have, and continue to, contribute in UN peacekeeping missions.

Our gratitude extends to the UN Secretary-General and the Government of Ghana for upholding this political initiative, which bolsters the peacekeeping endeavors of the United Nations during the past ten years.

The expansion of UN peacekeeping forces in recent decades and the broadening scope of their mandates reflect the growing complexities in international peace and security. This evolution not only highlights the scale of global threats but also underscores the trust Member States place in the United Nations as the primary facilitator for sustaining worldwide peace and security.

Nevertheless, peacekeeping, while crucial, is not a solitary solution for achieving global peace and security. Fundamentally, it is a reaction to situations typically stemming from disregard for international law. While acknowledging the pivotal role of peacekeeping, we must emphasize the primary necessity of ensuring compliance with international law, particularly in upholding political independence, sovereignty, sovereign equality, and territorial integrity of States.

Azerbaijan supports the United Nations' peacekeeping missions, recognizing them as important in preserving international peace and security. Since 1999, we have actively contributed military personnel to missions in Kosovo (KFOR), Afghanistan (ISAF, Resolute Support), and Iraq. Azerbaijan is currently contributing to the UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS), and we've marked a milestone by deploying our first female peacekeeper to that mission.

We eagerly anticipate further collaboration in UN peacekeeping efforts, including by sharing our experience for enhanced practical capabilities and greater political solidarity.

Thank you.