

Mr. Chair, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,

On behalf of the Royal Government of Bhutan and the Bhutanese delegation, we extend our sincere appreciation to the Federal Republic of Germany and the United Nations for convening this important Ministerial Conference on the Future of UN Peacekeeping. As we approach the 80th anniversary of the United Nations, this gathering offers a timely opportunity to reaffirm our collective resolve to strengthen peace operations in response to today's evolving global challenges.

Bhutan remains a steadfast supporter of multilateralism and of the United Nations' vital role in upholding international peace and security. Guided by our national values of compassion, discipline, and service - our engagement in UN peacekeeping reflects our deep commitment to shared global responsibility.

We take pride in being among the first countries to contribute to the UN Trust Fund in support of victims of sexual exploitation and abuse, underscoring our firm commitment to dignity, accountability, and justice in peacekeeping. Bhutan has also fulfilled its pledges made at the Vancouver and Seoul Ministerials by adopting solar energy solutions in our deployments - an important step towards reducing our environmental footprint.

Mr. Chair,

Looking ahead, and in line with Bhutan's enduring commitment to peace, equity, and sustainability, we are pleased to announce the following pledges in support of UN peacekeeping:

1. **Deployment of a Quick Light Reaction Force** – Bhutan will contribute a unit of highly trained and rapidly deployable personnel, equipped to respond swiftly to crisis situations in line with UN operational standards.
2. **Capacity-building Partnerships** – We will host training and capacity development programs in collaboration with the UN and Member States, fostering shared learning and enhancing peacekeeping readiness and cooperation.
3. **Enhanced Support for Peacekeepers** – Bhutan will strengthen the safety and wellbeing of our peacekeepers through improved protective training, greater access to medical and mental health services, and enhanced field medical preparedness.
4. **Environmentally Responsible Deployments** – We will continue to minimize the environmental impact of our operations through the use of renewable energy, sustainable waste management, and environmentally responsible practices—contributing to greener, safer peacekeeping.

5. **Zero Tolerance Policy on Sexual Exploitation and Abuse** – Bhutan reaffirms its unwavering commitment to zero tolerance to sexual exploitation and abuse in peacekeeping operations. All our peacekeepers undergo mandatory pre-deployment training on ethics and gender sensitivity, supported by robust oversight and accountability mechanisms.
6. **Gender Parity and Inclusion** – Bhutan also remains committed to increasing the meaningful participation of women in peacekeeping and will promote gender parity at all levels of planning and operations.
7. **Integration of Appropriate Technologies** – We will incorporate digital tools to enhance communication, situational awareness, and environmental monitoring, thereby improving both operational efficiency and safety.

Mr. Chair,

These pledges reflect Bhutan's belief that peacekeeping must be agile, inclusive, accountable, and environmentally sustainable. We stand ready to partner with fellow Member States and the United Nations to build a more resilient and responsive peacekeeping architecture for the future.

We offer these commitments not merely as promises, but as part of our shared responsibility and enduring belief that lasting peace is built on trust, professionalism, and a collective commitment to peace.

Thank you.