

**Statement of His Excellency General Banh Tea, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defense of the Kingdom of Cambodia, on the occasion of UN Peacekeeping Ministerial
New York, 29 March 2019**

- Excellency Under Secretary-General!
- Excellency, Ladies and Gentlemen!

As a special representative of Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo HUN SEN, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, I am delighted and honored to be present at this Ministerial meeting on uniformed capability, performance and protection. This meeting continues to show the progress made in implementing the commitments made at the September 25, 2018 peacekeeping summit, peacekeeping meetings in London and Vancouver, especially the launching of the "Action for Peace" guided by the UN Secretary General in March 2018 for effective operations and safety for all peacekeeping forces. I believe that the effectiveness of the UN peace operations depends on the strong commitment of the leadership, the determination from each member state, and the dedication of all peacekeepers from all troop contributing countries for the cause of peace.

Just more than 20 years ago, Cambodia used to receive UN peacekeepers to assist in finding peace and safety for Cambodian citizen and each had made a priceless sacrifice.

Cambodia is proud to have contributed, since 2006 to present, the blue helmets under the United Nations framework in Sudan, South Sudan, Chad, Lebanon, Mali, Central African Republic, Syria and Cyprus. Currently, Cambodian forces are present in the mission areas in Central African Republic, Lebanon, South Sudan and Mali.

Cambodia determines to support "Action for Peace" through:

(1) Strengthening professional skills prior to the deployment based on the new UN reform and engaging in protecting civilians, combat against violence and sexual trafficking in response to the existing complex situation in order to minimize any possible risk.

(2) Increase communication with other troop contributing countries to achieve common goals of peace and security.

(3) Increase women's participation in all peacekeeping operations at Force HQ such as military observers and staff officers.

Cambodia has always promoted freedom of expression, freedom of human rights and democracy through regular election planning, and recently celebrating the 20th anniversary of achieving full peace in Cambodia after the end of the civil war that has made it clearer of the commitment in safeguarding peace, security, and affirming evidence for the proper policies of Cambodia historically. Therefore, any attempt to find any excuse for reasoning in the process of this kind of punishment or any criticism is definitely affecting the progress and effort. Despite the limited resources and defense resources available, Cambodia still can respond to the need to express strong will and firm commitment for contributing to peace, stability and humanitarian work at the international level. For this reason, Cambodia should be given more justice and greater support without having to discourage development processes and commitments.

Thank You!