## THE HONOURABLE PAM DAMOFF

## PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY TO THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

## CANADIAN INTERVENTION - PLEDGES UNITED NATIONS PEACEKEEPING MINISTERIAL DECEMBER 5-6, 2023

Good afternoon,

We thank Ghana for hosting this UNPKM and for convening us today.

At this important juncture in the history of peacekeeping – as we face new threats and opportunities – Canada remains steadfast in our commitment to work with partners to revitalize our collective global peace and security architecture, multilateralism, and the rules-based order.

Canada has supported UN peacekeeping since its inception. Over 125,000 Canadians have donned the blue helmet since 1948, and 123 have paid the ultimate sacrifice in the service of peace.

As we gather here in Ghana, I want to reaffirm that Canada is ready to advance the Action for Peacekeeping agenda and help the UN respond to the priorities identified.

We pledge to continue implementing the **Women**, **Peace**, and **Security** agenda to increase the meaningful participation of women in peacekeeping, and we are determined to support the protection of civilians, the safety and security of peacekeepers, and specialized training to increase the effectiveness of peacekeeping operations.

We will continue to deploy Canadian expertise and capabilities in support of global peace operations. Canada currently has more than 100 personnel deployed to international peace missions around the world, both UN-led operations and others – like the Multinational Force and Observers in Egypt.

Since 2019, we have provided **Tactical Airlift of necessary goods and equipment to UN peace operations** in Uganda, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and in South Sudan. I am pleased to announce today that we will be renewing this support until 2025.

Our financial and training support for peace operations will continue. Canada is the 8<sup>th</sup> largest financial contributor to UN peacekeeping and the third largest provider of voluntary funding, contributing **\$90M** Canadian dollars in extra-budgetary funds to support peacekeeping operations since 2017.

We are proud to be contributing \$70M over three years to the UN Peacebuilding Fund, and we are pleased to pledge more than \$26M, today, in additional funding support to international partners, including the UN Department of Peace Operations and the UN Department of Operational Support.

This includes:

- \$9.2M to support the WPS agenda and the *Elsie Initiative*. Women's meaningful participation in peace operations and the achievement of long-term, sustainable security go hand-in-hand. Canada is committed to making UN peace operations more inclusive by supporting gender-responsive leadership and environments within UN peace operations, and through policing training, in an effort to overcome systemic barriers in peacekeeping operations.
- Up to \$7.4 M in new support for implementation of the Vancouver Principles, and capacity-building with a focus on child protection, human rights, and strengthening accountability for SEA, including ongoing work with the Child Protection Team in the UN Department of Peace Operations to mainstream the Vancouver Principles.
- **-\$2.1M** to support the safety and security of peacekeepers, including support for the creation of an **Emergency Response Team** to enable humanitarian aid delivery in the most complex contexts, in addition to multi-year support towards explosive threat mitigation.
- -\$7.8M for specialized military and police **training and capacity building** initiatives, with a focus on the protection of civilians, leadership training, uniformed women's outreach courses, and countering misinformation and disinformation in peace operations.

Mis-and disinformation makes it harder for peacekeeping operations to implement their mandates and has put the safety of peacekeepers at risk. Canada's commitment in this area is anchored in its broader efforts to protect information integrity.

The erosion of information integrity, including disinformation, weakens democracy by hindering public debate on important issues. In response, Canada and the Netherlands recently launched the Global Declaration on Information Integrity Online to develop international norms to protect information. 34 countries have endorsed the Declaration to date.

With these commitments, Canada is proud to continue investing in peacekeeping capacity and specialized capabilities at this important juncture. We look forward to working with partners to face new challenges, and embrace new opportunities, together.

Thank you.