

Mr. Chair,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Entrusted by General Wei Fenghe, State Councilor and Minister of Defense of the People's Republic of China, I am pleased to join you at the headquarters of the United Nations for this ministerial meeting of the UN to exchange views on the question of peacekeeping.

74 years ago, our forefathers, with vision and insight, founded the United Nations, an international organization that is the most universal, representative and authoritative. They pooled their wisdoms to formulate the UN Charter, lay the foundation of the modern international order, and frame the basic norms governing contemporary international relations.

The UN has played an important role in the maintenance of world peace and enhancement of common development.

At present, the international situation is undergoing profound changes at an ever faster pace. With growing uncertainty, instability, unilateralism and protectionism, the international multilateral order and global governance are being challenged. The world is at a critical crossroad.

Cognizant of human development and the future of the world, and mindful of the common fundamental interests of the peoples around the globe, President Xi Jinping put forward the important proposition on building a new type of international relations featuring mutual respect, fairness, justice and win-win cooperation as well as building a community of shared future for mankind, which has been widely recognized by the international community.

As a founding member of the Organization and a permanent member of the Security Council, China firmly upholds the international system with the UN at its core, firmly upholds the basic norms governing international relations based on the purposes and principles of the UN Charter, firmly upholds the authority and status of the UN, and firmly upholds the central role by the UN in international affairs.

China has all along played its part in promoting world peace, facilitating development and maintaining the international order.

It was for the purpose of securing peace that the UN peacekeeping operations came into being. They have served as an important tool for maintaining world peace and security.

Last month, China hosted an exhibition at the UNHQ with the theme "CPLA: a force for world peace", showcasing the active role played by China and other UN Member States in their joint efforts to safeguard world peace.

A firm supporter of UN peacekeeping operations, China faithfully fulfills the UN peacekeeping mandates and actively contributes to the UN peacekeeping cause.

President Xi Jinping, at the 2015 UN peacekeeping summit, made a six-point commitment which China has been earnestly translating into concrete action. To date:

- A peacekeeping standby force of 8,000 troops and a permanent peacekeeping police unit have been generated, with the registration completed and readiness level upgraded;
- The first peacekeeping helicopter squad has been deployed to Africa;
- China has trained more than 1,800 peacekeepers from other countries, provided demining equipment to Cambodia, Laos, Egypt and the ASEAN and trained more than 200 demining personnel;
- China has worked hard to build the capacity of its peacekeeping standby force and is ready to send more engineering, transport and medical capacity to serve peacekeeping operations at the request of the UN.
- China is steadily pressing ahead with military assistances to the AU. In the wake of the delivery of equipment and supplies for the first phase, both sides are now discussing the assistance details of the second phase.
- The US\$1 billion China-UN Peacekeeping Fund has identified peacekeeping capacity building as a priority direction and will be used to assist UN in enhancing safety and security of peacekeepers and support developing countries, especially African countries, in peacekeeping capacity building.

Dear colleagues,

In recent years, UN peacekeeping operations have made progress in areas such as strategic assessment, comprehensive reform and the development of standby mechanism. But as the international situation evolves, UN peacekeeping operations face multiple new challenges.

With his earnest commitment to the reform of the UN peace and security sector, Secretary-General Antonio Guterres proposed the Action for Peacekeeping (A4P) initiative. China supports this. To build the necessary specialized force and capacity for UN peacekeeping, China would like to make the following proposals.

First, firmly support the reform measures and scale up the ability to jointly respond to challenges. 2019 is the first year in the implementation of the reform of the UN peace and security sector. China supports bolstering preventive diplomacy, good offices and mediation, and sound coordination between the measures in conflict prevention, peacekeeping and sustainable development. China stands ready to work with all parties to enable UN peacekeeping operations to progress with the times and play a bigger role in the peace and security sector.

Second, focus on capacity building and fully leverage the role of the standby forces. Given the diversity of peacekeeping missions currently under way, it is very important to rapidly deploy well-trained peacekeeping troops. The UN, when dispatching peace-keepers, should make the

selection mainly from the standby forces and give priority to those troops with high readiness levels. The Chinese military is willing and ready to engage with all other parties to strengthen the building of the peacekeeping standby forces and improve the capacity of the peacekeeping missions.

Third, undertake extensive pragmatic cooperations and make efforts to share experience in peacekeeping operations. The Chinese military has carried out peacekeeping exchanges and cooperations with more than 80 countries and a dozen international and regional organizations. In the future, it will do so in an even more active manner and share the experience and practice with all parties in respect to the training of peacekeeping standby forces. China is planning to organize a joint exercise and training event for peacekeeping standby forces in 2020. We look forward to welcoming the participation from countries around the world as well as the participants from international and regional organizations.

Dear colleagues,

A Chinese peacekeeper laid down his life while serving on a mission at the Iraqi-Kuwaiti border. His son, a 13-year-old boy at the time, sent a letter to the UN Secretary-General, in which he wrote: "We want peace, not war. Let the world of tomorrow truly become a habitat for all humanity, a home full of sunshine, flowers and love."

It is the aspiration of children, the next generation. It is incumbent upon us to assume our responsibility of this generation to make it happen. Let us continue with our concerted efforts to tackle the challenges and work together to create a better future!

Thank you!