

Speech at the 4th UN Peacekeeping Ministerial

General Wei Fenghe, State Councilor and Minister of National Defense
of the People's Republic of China

Your Excellency Secretary-General Antonio Guterres,

Your Excellency ROK Minister of Foreign Affairs Chung Eui-yong
and Minister of National Defense Suh Wook,

Dear Colleagues and friends,

It's a great pleasure to join you on video at the 4th UN Peacekeeping Ministerial. I want to first thank Minister Chung Eui-yong and Minister Suh Wook for inviting me to the conference. UN peacekeeping, as an instrument developed for peace, practices true multilateralism and is a great cause and a reflection of global unity. As one of the most important international conferences on UN peacekeeping, the Ministerial plays a significant role in implementing the consensus of our heads of state and advancing the reform and development of UN peacekeeping. I wish the Ministerial a complete success.

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the restoration of the lawful seat of the PRC in the UN. In the past five decades, China has upheld the authority and sanctity of the UN, practiced multilateralism and steadily deepened cooperation with the UN. China has faithfully fulfilled its responsibility and mission as a permanent member of the UN Security Council, stayed true to the

purposes and principles of the UN Charter, and upheld the central role of the UN in international affairs. China has stood actively for political settlement of disputes through peaceful means. It has sent over 50,000 Chinese peacekeepers to UNPKOs, and is now the second largest financial contributor to both the UN and UNPKOs. In the past years, the Chinese government and military have comprehensively implemented the pledges by President Xi Jinping at the UN Leaders' Summit on Peacekeeping and achieved important outcomes.

As we speak, the world is experiencing the combined impact of major changes and a pandemic both unseen in a century. The international landscape keeps evolving in profound ways. We need stronger global response to address the common risks and challenges facing humanity. This requires us to build consensus on the UN platform to address challenges together and build a community with a shared future for mankind. Peacekeeping operations serve as an important instrument for the UN to maintain global peace and security. Following the UN Charter and the three basic principles of UN peacekeeping put forward by Dag Hammarskjold, we should continue to summarize past experience and improve UNPKOs. To do that, the Chinese side suggests the following:

Promoting peace and development. We should respect the central role of the host nations and take a comprehensive approach

to eradicate the root cause of conflicts. We need to invest more in development and improve the host nations' own capacity of development to realize sustainable peace and development.

Strengthening peacekeeping capacity. We should give full play to the Peacekeeping Capability Readiness System (PCRS) and prioritize the units of the standby forces, especially units of high PCRS levels, for UNPKOs. We should provide more assistance to support peacekeeping capacity building of African and other developing countries, put more emphasis on the utilization of technology in peacekeeping operations and continuously improve the capacity of peacekeeping operations to fulfill their mandate.

Observing disciplines in peacekeeping operations. Troop-contributing countries (TCCs) should take the responsibility in disciplining their troops and jointly safeguarding the good image of the blue helmets. Relevant parties should strengthen cooperation with TCCs through bilateral or multilateral channels and provide more personnel training and technological assistance to help TCCs improve the quality and management of personnel and ensure the discipline and competence of UN peacekeepers.

Protecting the safety and security of peacekeepers. The safety and security of peacekeepers are critical. Troops in mission areas should enhance situational awareness, information gathering and analysis, and improve contingency plans. The global spread of the pandemic has posed new challenges to the safety and security of

peacekeepers. We should take the safety and security of peacekeepers as a priority in applying new technologies and improve security protection and medical capacity of peacekeeping troops to ensure the safety and health of peacekeepers. We should conduct UNPKOs as mandated by the UN Security Council, and not carry out tasks beyond the mandate such as counter-terrorism, so as to avoid being dragged into conflicts and suffering losses.

The ROK has put forward the Seoul Initiative on Technology and Medical Capacity Building in Peacekeeping during this ministerial. It is a meaningful step to promote technological innovation and build capacity in management, training and medical support in the UNPKOs. China appreciates the effort and supports this initiative.

Colleagues and friends,

This year, China has hosted the *Shared Destiny-2021* practical force joint exercise on international peacekeeping and the *Shared Mission-2021* joint command post exercise for UN peacekeeping missions. Peacekeeping units from relevant countries and representatives from the UN participated in the exercises at the invitation of the Chinese side. These are solid actions taken by the Chinese military to safeguard and practice multilateralism and serve the building of a community with a shared future for mankind. They have fully demonstrated the good faith and responsibility of the Chinese side in protecting world peace and played a positive role

in helping countries improve the mission capabilities of their peacekeeping units. China will continue to work together with other countries to provide solid support for UNPKOs. In this regard, the Chinese side pledges the following:

First, the China-UN Peace and Development Fund will provide necessary finance to support a successful UN Chiefs of Defence Conference 2022.

Second, China is willing to send more troops for UNPKOs. The 8,000 strong Chinese peacekeeping standby force that consists of 10 categories of units can be deployed at any time in accordance with the requirements of UNPKOs.

Third, China will host a peacekeeping medical training course. The course is aimed at improving medical support and rescue capabilities in mission areas, sharing experience in fighting the Covid-19 pandemic and contributing to the health of peacekeepers.

Fourth, China will host an international forum on peacekeeping. Experts and scholars from the UN and foreign countries are welcomed to participate in the forum to pool wisdom for innovative development of UNPKOs.

Colleagues and friends,

Over the past 30-odd years, the Chinese military has shed blood and sweat to honor its lofty mission and solemn commitment to world peace. China will always strive to maintain world peace, promote global growth, uphold international order, and provide

public goods. The Chinese military will always be a force of justice for world peace and development. We will continue to strengthen exchange and cooperation on peacekeeping with all parties to make new and greater contributions to world peace.

Thank you!