

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

**Statement by H.E., Mr. Charalambos Petrides
Minister of Defence of the Republic of Cyprus
at the
UN PEACEKEEPING MINISTERIAL MEETING
Session 2 on Partnership, Training and Capacity Building
7 December 2021**

Chairperson,

Excellencies,

Distinguished Delegates,

It is a distinct honour representing the Republic of Cyprus at this year's UN Peacekeeping Ministerial Meeting in Seoul. I extend my sincere appreciation to the UN Secretariat and to the Republic of Korea for hosting this esteemed gathering. Action for Peacekeeping Plus (A4P+) is an invaluable tool and initiative for bolstering our peace keeping capabilities and future proof their operational needs, performance, resilience and accountability.

While we are still in the midst of the global health pandemic, allow me to pay tribute to all UN service personnel and our collective armed forces for their efforts to mitigate the effects of this unprecedented situation, especially in conflict and crisis areas.

Cyprus is very well aware of the importance and significant contribution of the UN for keeping and preserving peace. As the host country of a long-running United Nations peacekeeping operation, Cyprus holds that the mandates of Peacekeeping Operations must be clear and simple, no matter how complex a conflict is. UNFICYP is a case in point; the Force's mandate has proven flexible enough to see the Force through very significant changes on the ground, throughout its decade's long presence.

In line with the pledging guide, it is my pleasure to present today our pledges, aiming to enrich and ameliorate training capacities for UN personnel. In specific we pledge to host and organize, on an annual basis, three different training courses, on Emerging Technologies, Intelligent Critical Infrastructures and Digital Transformation, on Women, Peace and Security and on Search and Rescue including Casualty Evacuation (CASEVAC) Operations.

Our pledges are in line with training gaps and requirements provided to member states as well as can contribute to the Seoul Initiative on Technology and Medical Capacity Building in Peacekeeping which we welcome.

In addition, the Republic of Cyprus, renews its commitment and readiness to provide access to our facilities and infrastructures for facilitating any sort of acclimatization pre-deployment training for UN personnel or facilitating military mobility in support of UN peacekeeping operations. I also like to underline that we remain steadfast in providing facilities for humanitarian or evacuation operations for UN Staff and personnel from the wider region in case of emergencies and crises. We will also continue our close and excellent cooperation with UNIFIL's maritime task force for providing, in case needed, any sort of logistical support and assistance.

Before closing, Mr. Chairman, allow me to express my country's deep appreciation to all UN Member States which have contributed financial, troop and police forces to UNFICYP over the years and to recall that my government covers a third of UNFICYP's budget through voluntary contributions and will continue to do so.

UNFICYP is an effective UN peacekeeping operation, which also sets an example for the high level participation of women, at the level of its Force Commander. UNFICYP's presence in Cyprus remains, without a shadow of doubt, indispensable until such time as to ensure the end of the illegal Turkish military occupation and the restoration of peace, stability and international legality.

Thank you for your kind attention.