



Egypt's Statement

Peacekeeping Ministerial Conference “Uniformed Capabilities, Protection and Performance”

29 March 2019

New York, United States of America

Please check against delivery

Unofficial translation

**Distinguished attendees,
Representatives of Member States,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

It gives me great pleasure to convey the greetings of H.E. the Egyptian Minister of Defense, and his best regards for a successful and fruitful conference.

Supporting UN Peacekeeping Operations stems from Egypt's belief in the leading role of these operations in achieving peace, security and stability. This also falls within the framework of its commitment towards Africa, the host-continent of most UN peacekeeping operations. Therefore, Egypt contributes with military troops, police units and civilian components to these operations.

In addition to these contributions, Egypt is a major supporter of the ongoing efforts aimed at enhancing the performance of UN peacekeeping operations to adapt to risky and challenging deployment environments, and enable the fulfilment of complex and multidimensional mandates, especially that peacekeeping operations are still the primary tool of the UN to resolve conflicts, support political solutions and help countries emerging from conflict to stabilize and build peace.

To that end, Egypt did not only endorse the "*Declaration of Shared Commitments*", a result from the Secretary-General's "*Action for Peacekeeping*" (A4P) initiative, but also contributed effectively to the implementation of that endeavour. Egypt organized a high-level regional conference on "*Enhancing the Performance of Peacekeeping Operations: From Mandate to Exit*" in November 2018 in Cairo. The conference provided a unique platform for top African and Arab troop contributing countries to share their views on this important issue. The discussions of the conference resulted in the

“Cairo Roadmap”, a joint implementation framework for the A4P initiative. The Roadmap places the issue of peacekeeping performance in a balanced, concurrent and comprehensive framework of shared responsibilities by all stakeholders, including the Security Council, the UN Secretariat, troop and police contributing countries, financial contributors and host nations, from the early stages of mandate design until the mission’s exit.

Furthermore, Egypt believes in the importance of reinforcing existing principles and guidelines of peacekeeping operations, especially the protection of civilians. It endorsed the “Kigali Principles” in November 2018, and signed the “Voluntary Compact on Preventing Sexual Exploitation and Abuse”.

Excellencies,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Egypt is very keen to harness the best of its abilities to serve the UN efforts in peacekeeping operations, including its military, police and civilian components, in addition to training and capacity-building. Therefore, Egypt was among the first countries that pledged units in the Peacekeeping Capability Readiness System (PCRS) since its establishment in 2015. These units are: a Mechanized Infantry Battalion, a Military Engineering Company and a field hospital. All of them meet the UN standards and the operational requirements of UN missions.

I would like to seize this opportunity to renew Egypt’s commitment to these pledges.

Egypt also pledges the following:

- 1) Equip the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) with an Aeromedical Evacuation Team (AMET), a Long Range Reconnaissance Unit, and a Monitoring, collecting and analysing unit,

- 2) Egypt also wishes to recommit to providing 110 Anti-mine Armoured Vehicles to enable peacekeepers to face high-risk peacekeeping environment.
- 3) A formed Police Unit (FPU) will be deployed in MINUSMA. We are now coordinating with the UN Secretariat on the exact date of deployment. An additional FPU will reach its full operational capability in May and ready for deployment within 60 days of a formal request from the Secretariat.
- 4) 20 corrections officers qualified at the highest level and ready for deployment in UN peacekeeping operations. We also affirm our willingness to deploy Egyptian FPUs with specialized expertise to build the capacity of local authorities in specific areas (e.g. Justice, Rule of Law and Corrections institutions).

With regards to women's participation in peacekeeping operations, Egypt pledges to reach 10% of women in each deployed FPU. 10 women have been already included in every deployed FPU.

The Cairo International Center for Conflict Resolution, Peacekeeping and Peacebuilding (CCCPA) pledges to provide mobile training teams and organize "in-mission training" on preventing sexual exploitation and abuse.

Furthermore, CCCPA is ready to translate the "Comprehensive Protection of Civilians" training materials into Arabic.

Moreover, with respect to training and capacity building, Egypt pledges to continue its role as a major regional centre to train contributing troops in UN peacekeeping operations, especially from African countries, through its military, police and civilian training centers. We provided the UN Secretariat with a detailed list of all courses that Egypt offers in the field of peacekeeping, especially in priority areas namely comprehensive protection of civilians and combating sexual exploitation and abuse.

Excellencies,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Building on the momentum created by the SG's initiative and ensuring that Member States are united around the goal of enhancing the performance of peacekeeping operations, and translating that into tangible outcomes, necessitates that we should work together along several paths:

Firstly:

Establishing and deepening a common understanding on peacekeeping operations and its role in supporting political solutions and helping conflict ridden states to make the precarious transition from conflict to peacebuilding. This should be reflected throughout the mission's lifecycle: from mandate to exit. Egypt has led the process leading to the adoption of Security Council Presidential Statement n° 27 (2017) - which offered clear guidelines on the contribution of peacekeeping operations to sustaining peace.

Secondly:

Operationalizing the coordination among T/PCCs so as to allow the for real partnership in the design and review mandates and tasks of peacekeeping operations. The Security Council's decision should be informed by the assessments and analyses submitted by the UN secretariat following consultations with troop and police contributing and host countries. In this regard, we call to revitalize and develop the mechanism adopted on the basis of UNSCR 1353 in order to render this consultative process more dynamic and effective.

Thirdly:

The enhancement of UN peacekeeping troop capacities requires a process leading to updating the PCRS framework, so as to establish a system that would guarantee that deployed troops are on one hand equipped with the highest training and readiness capabilities as per the UN standards. On the other hand, the updated framework

will allow for flexibility and rapid deployment of enlisted troops, who meets those standards. This should be done taking into account the burden endured by T/PCCs to maintain their registered units at the highest level of capability and readiness.

Excellencies,

Ladies and gentlemen,

As we all aspire to work together to develop and enhance the effectiveness of peacekeeping operations, we have to place emphasis on our collective ownership of the peacekeeping decision-making and policies. In this context, the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations (C-34) provides a broad-based platform to guarantee this ownership. Having said so, I do have to point out to the frustration and disappointment characterizing the negotiations and the outcome of this year's session of the committee. The committee will, however, remain the main intergovernmental platform for all stakeholders to make their contributions to the development and improvement of UN peacekeeping. The role of the C-34 will remain critical in drafting policies and providing a conducive environment for establishing partnerships in UN peacekeeping operations.

Finally, I would like to reiterate Egypt's full commitment to fulfilling all its regional and international responsibilities, while emphasizing Egypt's interest in offering all its capacities in the context of peacekeeping, to consolidate international peace, security and stability.

I thank you.
