

Mr. Secretary General,
Distinguished Colleagues,

Let me start by stressing that the UN will maintain its unique leading role in bringing peace and stability to different regions and tackling today's security challenges and problems. The ever-changing international security environment influences directly our Peacekeepers on the ground. They are facing the complex challenges like cross border terrorism but there are also new security dimensions, like cyber and hybrid threats. As we have witnessed numerous times in Mali, UN Peacekeepers often find themselves to be the target of aggression. In order to continue successfully implement its role, the UN needs to adapt to the changing security environment.

First, the UN Security Council mandates for peacekeeping operations should be more mission-specific and give greater delegation of power to the field commanders. It is also our - member nations - responsibility to well train and equip our forces for tasks on the ground in order to avoid unnecessary casualties.

Second, I would like to underline that creating security and stability requires efficient coordination and partnership with international, regional and sub-regional stakeholders in the field. That also demands our own effort, in particular, in improving our intelligence capacity and situational awareness for the operation areas. We as troop and/or police contributing countries should clearly communicate national caveats to help implement mandates in the best possible way.

Finally, let me emphasize Estonia's long-term commitment to peace and stabilization operations around the world. It is one of the main principles of our national security and defence policy.

In the coming year, Estonia will continue its contributions to three UN peacekeeping missions with personnel: to UNIFIL , MINUSMA and UNTSO . Furthermore, Estonia's biggest contribution in terms of military and peacekeeping operations will continue to be our engagement in the Sahel region through French led operation Takuba and the European Union Training Mission in Mali. Estonia is keeping a keen eye on the developments in the Sahel not only on the political front, but also by clearly contributing to global peacekeeping efforts.

Thank you!