

**STATEMENT**

**BY**

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MINISTER OF NATIONAL DEFENSE OF THE FEDERAL  
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF ETHIOPIA**

**At**

**THE UN PEACEKEEPING MINISTERIAL MEETING**

**ON**

**UNIFORMED CAPABILITIES, PERFORMANCE & PROTECTION**

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***Mr. António Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations,  
Distinguished Delegates,  
Ladies and gentlemen,***

Let me express my appreciation to the Secretary General for the warm reception we have received and for the organization of this important conference. Allow me also to offer my congratulations on the successful conclusion of three preparatory Ministerial meetings that were held in Montevideo, The Hague and Addis Ababa.

***Distinguished Delegates***

Ethiopia has been participating in the United Nations Peacekeeping Operations for seventy years. It is currently the leading Troop Contributing Country with varying levels of involvement in different Peacekeeping Missions, though with a special focus on the IGAD region, the Horn of Africa. Our troops are also diligently discharging their duties, paying the ultimate sacrifice in the cause of international peace and security. The promotion of global peace and security is a major political consideration in Ethiopia's commitment to UN and AU led peacekeeping operations.

In addition to being the leading Troop Contributing Country, with more than eight thousand troops, Ethiopia is proud of the fact, that it is also leading in women peacekeepers, with more than eight hundred deployed under Peacekeeping Missions. However, while it may be the highest number from a single country, it is still barely representative of the possibilities.

Certainly, in Ethiopia we are working to increase the number of uniformed women at national level in trainings, including preparation for Peacekeeping Missions. We did, I think, demonstrate our resolve in this respect when co-hosting with Canada the Ministerial Preparatory Meeting on Women, Peace and Security in Addis Ababa earlier this year. I would also like to underline mainstreaming of women's participation in peacekeeping missions requires effective coordination among all stakeholders.

***Mr. Secretary-General,***

We actively participated in the development of the September 2018 Action for Peacekeeping Declaration, and remain committed to pursue its *sustainable* implementation both in operational theatres and in policy making. The Declaration identified a number of priorities, including the primacy of politics, the role of women in peace and security, the importance of partnership as well as safety and security of people particularly women and children. These are all areas in which we can contribute substantially.

***Mr. Secretary-General, Distinguished delegates,***

Africa faces a heavy burden of inherited conflict, heavier perhaps than any other region. I don't need to go into the reasons for this, but they have certainly encouraged the African Union to prepare to overcome the challenges of the future through its own Peace and Security Architecture. We hope the Security Council and General Assembly will look carefully at Africa's dynamics and provide the necessary support for African-Led Peace Initiatives.

**Mr. Secretary-General,**

Ethiopia has already subscribed online to the registration platform, and declared to make available the following:

1. Two fully equipped battalions of uniformed peacekeepers to fill gaps identified in the current UN Peacekeeping Operations.
2. Under the UN-Peace-Keeping Readiness System, we have a standing commitment to provide eight Military officers to be deployed to Yemen.
3. We are prepared to accept other individual deployment requests of Military and Police officers to fill identified gaps. I am also confident that the discussions, including those we have started with Indonesia, will facilitate co-deployment of peacekeepers.

Let me conclude, by once again reaffirming our support to the UN Secretary-General's initiatives including the reform of the Security Pillar, which strengthens commitment to the primacy of politics and preventive diplomacy for promotion of sustainable peace in the world. We offer our fullest support for expanding the role of women in peacekeeping, peace and security; and I believe, the commitment here today can properly and seriously contribute to this endeavour.

***I thank you,***