

STATEMENT

BY

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MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF
THE FEDERAL DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF ETHIOPIA**

AT

**THESEOUL UNITED NATIONS PEACEKEEPING
MINISTERIAL MEETING**

07 DECEMBER 2021

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen.

At the outset, I wish to express my appreciation to the Government of the Republic of Korea for convening this Ministerial Meeting. We commend the Korean team for their tireless efforts that they have put into organizing this meeting in the midst of trying circumstances which had prolonged this peacekeeping ministerial as well as its preparatory meetings.

Mr. Chairman,

Ethiopia considers this ministerial meeting a valuable opportunity to reassess our performance and renew our shared commitments in the field of peacekeeping.

The meeting is also a culmination of several preparatory conferences that evaluated implementation of Action for Peacekeeping (A4P) and Action for peacekeeping plus (A4P+). We thank all the co-chairs including Japan

and Indonesia with whom we had the great pleasure of co-hosting the preparatory meeting on the topic of “partnership for training and capacity building”. We believe, the outcome of these deliberations is a critical input for this Ministerial meeting and the actual work on the ground.

Mr. Chairman,

My country has been at the forefront in its contribution to peacekeeping missions. Our troops have paid the ultimate price in keeping the peace, and shared many good practices in community engagement and self-initiated local efforts to sustain peace and reestablish social infrastructure.

Ethiopia’s commitment to peacekeeping is driven by an overarching commitment in maintaining regional and global peace and security. The sacrifices we pay for the peace of our region, Africa, is a sacrifice we pay for our own

peace. In this regard, we are very much encouraged by the efforts towards Africa's self-sustenance in peace and financial support to its peace and security infrastructure. Peacekeeping will experience radical shift when this effort bears fruit and goes fully operational. In the meantime, it is of paramount importance that the global community continues to support peacekeeping missions with the necessary finance and political backing.

This being said, Mr. Chairman, it will be remiss of me if I fail to mention the existing challenge, we have faced in Ethiopia's peace keeping deployment. Since the beginning of 2021, Ethiopia has been subjected to a vetting mechanism without any explanation and based on a baseless and politically motivated petition from an individual and single UN Member State. This is obviously a violation of the United Nations Charter and the rules and working methods of the Organization. We demand the United Nations to lift this additional requirement effective

immediately. We also implore fellow Member States to stand in unison against such unfettered maneuvering of the UN system by individual Member State.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to reiterate the commitment of Ethiopia to continue to contribute its part whenever it sees an opportunity and circumstances for its troops to support the maintenance of international peace and security.

Mr. Chairman,

Another point of great importance is the safety and security of peacekeepers and peacekeeping missions. We are losing our men and women in uniform for preventable causes and egregious attacks. In this regard, I would like to flag the increasing trend whereby informal and out of the radar military deployment especially in Africa. This needs to be curbed before it takes further root. It is not only threatening the sovereignty of states and security of the

region but also tarnishing the reputation of peacekeeping missions. This has a direct underpinning on safety and security of peacekeepers that are facing increasing hostility from host communities.

In the coming years, Ethiopia will augment its principled stance and continue its contributions to international peace and security. In this regard, we plan to carry out the following specific activities:

- We will avail our bilateral agreements with other countries to prepare capacity building opportunities for other peacekeeping contributing countries especially in our region;
- We will redouble the existing training and capacity building programmes for troops and law enforcement officials of neighboring and other countries to facilitate proper transitions from peacekeeping missions. In this regard, we will

enhance our support to South Sudan and the Federal Government of Somalia;

- Through Ethiopia's International Peace Support Training Institute, we will host different levels of training in the field of peacekeeping, with particular focus on women peacekeepers;

Finally, Mr. Chair, on behalf of the Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, I convey our thanks for the Republic of Korea for hosting this meeting the outcome of which will enhance our collaborative efforts to strengthen peacekeeping role in the maintenance of international peace and security.

I thank you