

STATEMENT

BY

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MINISTRY OF DEFENSE OF

THE FEDERAL DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF ETHIOPIA

AT

THE 2023 UNITED NATIONS PEACEKEEPING MINISTERIAL

MEETING

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**Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

At the outset, I wish to express my gratitude to the Government of the Republic of Ghana for the successful organization of the 2023 United Nations Peacekeeping Ministerial Meeting, which is taking place in Africa for the first time. I would also like to recognize the commendable work of those member states that hosted preparatory meetings culminating in this ministerial meeting.

Madam Chairperson,

Ethiopia hopes that this meeting will contribute to the multiple efforts designed to improve the efficiency and capability of peacekeeping operations. In this regard, Ethiopia once again reaffirms its commitment to the successful implementation of the Secretary General's Action for Peacekeeping and Action for peacekeeping plus agendas, which are indispensable in making peacekeeping operations fit for today's purpose.

Ethiopia has always been among the top troop contributing countries to peacekeeping missions. Since its first participation in UN peacekeeping mission in 1951, over 180,000 thousand Ethiopian peacekeepers were involved to date. Embracing peacekeeping as one of the four pillars and constitutional mandates of the National Armed Forces, Ethiopia has a distinguished track record in the maintenance of global peace and security. Our troops have made the ultimate sacrifice in implementing the UN mission's mandate of keeping and sustaining the peace in collaboration with their host communities. Ethiopia's longstanding

commitment to peacekeeping emanates from its enduring belief in collective security.

Despite the unfair and unjustified vetting mechanism imposed in 2021, Ethiopia has never backed down from its unconditional commitment to UN Peacekeeping efforts. Ethiopia once again is ready to play a more robust peacekeeping role as it has overcome its own internal and external challenges.

Madam Chairperson,

Challenges we face today in the field of peacekeeping are, in one way or another, related to the global security architecture. Hence, Ethiopia reiterates its call for a global collective security system that fully respects the sovereignty of Member States and is capable of preventing conflicts.

The critical role of national and continental ownership of security responsibilities in ensuring sustainable peace needs to be recognized. In this regard, the decision to effect the drawdown of ATMIS without creating a security vacuum should be properly evaluated in real-time. A rush decision could jeopardize the gains the African Union has made thus far at a huge cost.

The international community also needs to take note of the acute shortage of resources for AU-mandated peace support operations. Predictable, flexible, adequate and sustainable funding is the major challenge facing missions like ATMIS. Within this context, Ethiopia commends the efforts of the UN Secretary-General to make the case for the financing of the African Union peace support operations from the UN-assessed contributions. We also commend

Ghana for its leadership in the negotiations for a Security Council resolution calling for the same.

Madam Chairperson,

Protection of civilians is the primary goal of peacekeeping. Ethiopian peacekeepers are known for their success stories in their commitment to protecting civilians sometimes at the cost of their own life. However, ensuring the safety and security of both host communities and peacekeepers requires rethinking. In this regard, the use of new technologies and their implication to the relationship of missions with the host governments and communities, as well as on sovereignty of the host countries should be properly studied.

The success of a peacekeeping mission should be evaluated among others based on its contribution towards realizing sustainable political solutions. Thus, peacekeeping missions must reinforce the national efforts to build national security and governance institutions. Reinforcing the efforts of regional and sub regional organizations also has crucial role considering their comparative advantage in conflict prevention, and peacekeeping and peace reinforcement.

The women, peace and security agenda is another top priority of both Action for Peace and Action for Peace plus agendas. In this context, Ethiopia is proud of being one of the leading nation in women peacekeepers, even though it is still barely representative. In its effort to empower female military personnel, our National Defense Force has recently promoted one female to Major General and four female personnels to Brigader General ranks. These

high ranking military leaders are assigned at top level leadership positions. As of October 2023, out of 1490 Ethiopian peacekeepers deployed to UNMISS 256 (17.18 per cent of the contingent) are women. The Ethiopian Peacekeeping Center is developing a project with our partners to develop a special training package designed only for the potential women peacekeepers in order to support their meaningful participation and ensure their full range of occupational positions.

Moving forward, Ethiopia will continue to be committed to playing a robust peacekeeping role, motivated by its desire to see a more secure and safer world. Thus, it pledges to avail the following to UN peacekeeping missions:

- One Infantry Battalion
- One Infantry Company
- One Special Force Company
- One Force Protection Company
- One Quick Reaction Force Company
- One Utility Helicopter Unit with all the required major equipment and self-sustainment

In conclusion, I would like to thank the Republic of Ghana for hosting this meeting, the outcome of which I hope will enhance our collaborative efforts to improve efficiency and capability of UN peacekeeping operations.

Thank you!