



**Intervention on behalf of the European Union**  
**by**  
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**United Nations Peacekeeping Defence Ministerial**  
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*Check against delivery*

Chairperson,  
Excellencies,  
Distinguished Delegates,

On behalf of the EU, I would like to thank the UN Department of Peace Operations for hosting this timely meeting.

It is my honour and privilege to be here today, to confirm the EU's firm and longstanding commitment to UN peacekeeping, and to the UN system as a whole.

As the European Union High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Federica Mogherini, stressed in a recent speech made in the UN Security Council (12 March 2019), the EU's support to the United Nations, and to multilateralism, is a choice that is made, based on values, but also, based on pragmatism.

In the European Union, there is no doubt that working with, and supporting the United Nations, is the best way to serve our collective interests of peace, security and global progress. And peacekeeping is a clear case in point, where partnerships are more important than ever.

We therefore regret that the Special Committee on Peacekeeping (C-34) was not able to express Member States' support for these ambitions through the adoption of a substantive report and expect that it will agree on an outcome next year.

When the UNSG last year, asked for a renewed commitment to UN peacekeeping, the EU and all our Member States joined the Action for Peacekeeping (A4P) initiative. This illustrates our collective commitment to providing support and continued political backing to UN peacekeeping, as well as to the UN's reform agenda for a joint-up response to global challenges.

At the heart of A4P is a comprehensive ambition to adapt to the new challenges, and to enhance the efficiency and impact of UN peacekeeping; notably through improving performance. The EU welcomes the implementation of Security Council Resolution 2436(2018) on peacekeeping performance, and in this context, I would like to highlight the importance of Women, Peace and Security.

The EU welcomes the emphasis that the Declaration of Shared Commitments on UN Peacekeeping Operations puts on systematically integrating a gender perspective into all stages of the mission cycle – from analysis, to planning, deployment and reporting. This is central to further improving the performance of peacekeeping.

We encourage all signatories to fulfil their commitments to increasing the number of civilian and uniformed women in peacekeeping, at all levels and in key positions, and to ensuring full, equal and meaningful participation of women in all stages of the peace process.

When the EU and the UN last year, during the UN General Assembly week in New York, agreed to reinforce our longstanding partnership on peacekeeping and crisis management, we made Women, Peace and Security the first, of eight, joint priorities for the three coming years.

Our missions and operations, are already working together on the ground to enhance the integration of a gender perspective throughout their activities. But these efforts are being stepped up.

We are also planning to organise a joint UN-EU Workshop in Brussels, on enabling factors for engaging more women in all roles and areas of expertise, and at all levels of peacekeeping (and crisis management).

EU Member States, other UN Troop and Police contributing countries (T/PCCs) and experts in this area, will be invited to exchange lessons learned and best practices on female engagement in line with UN SCR 2242(2015).

The aim is to build on already ongoing work and existing data in this area, and arrive at a set of practical recommendations that will be shared widely. We hope to encourage a practice of regular informed and practical exchanges, on enabling factors for engaging more women in peacekeeping.

Excellences, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me stress that the EU will continue to support UN peacekeeping. Our missions and operations will continue to cooperate closely in the field, working to enhance synergies and capitalise on complementarities.

The recent unprecedented security and defence developments within the EU will allow us to become more responsive and more effective. The new structures and new tools that are being put in place are creating new opportunities for cooperation with partners, both with, and in support of, the United Nations.

The United Nations for us continue to be our best hope for a more peaceful, cooperative, and just world. We all have a responsibility to make it work; including ensuring the highest possible performance of our missions and operations.

Thank you.