



Minister for Defence, National Security and Policing
Honourable Mr. Inia Batikoto SERUIRATU

HONOURABLE MINISTER'S STATEMENT (3min)

UN PEACEKEEPING MINISTERIAL VIRTUAL MEETING

SALUTATIONS!

The Chair of Session III – United Nations Deputy Secretary General
(Department of Management, Strategy, Policy and Compliance.
Fellow Representatives

Mr. Chair at the outset, I wish to congratulate the Government of the Republic of Korea of hosting the sixth high level United Nations Peacekeeping Ministerial virtual meeting.

I wish also to thank you for the opportunity to provide Fiji's effort in improving performance and accountability for our two forces.

Mr. Chair, United Nations Peace Keeping largely remains a critical tool for promoting international peace and stability. On Performance and Accountability, this refers to Civil and Military Leaders in theaters of Peace Keeping Operations who have direct impact and influence in changing lives by preventing violence and protect civilians.

Our commitment to Peacekeeping have seen our adherence by signatory to the following International Peacekeeping obligations:

- a) Kigali Principle - protection of civilians
- b) SEA Compact - sexual exploitation and Abuse and
- c) Vancouver Principle - recruitment of child soldiers

Mr. Chair, the maintenance of global peace and security, being an enormous task has been exacerbated, amongst others with the onset of the current pandemic. Given its vibrant Peacekeeping history since 1978, Fiji is adamant in championing the cause of peace by continuing to engage its Defence and Police Forces in volatile regions when required by the United Nations.

Peacekeeping enables Fiji Forces to build personal and professional relationships among other deployed peacekeepers from around the world. This is an opportunity for Fijian peacekeepers to demonstrate their professionalism and skill.

Peacekeeping missions are an opportunity for the forces to grow professionally and bring greater confidence and improved skills back to the security sector in Fiji.

Fiji's Female officers have assumed supervisory roles, put into training positions, and they then become part of a UN pool of trainers that go to do pre-deployment training, paid for by the United Nations. This is something that Fiji could get more recognition for. For instance, Ms. Unaisi Vuniwaqa who had served as the first female Police Commissioner with the United Nations Mission in South Sudan, and who has again created history after being appointed as the UN Assistant Secretary-General for Safety and Security.

Mr. Chair, Fiji's commitment in improving our performance for Peacekeeping include:

1. ***Capability Development*** - Re-development of Blackrock Military Camp: In partnership with the Australian government, Fiji is expanding its Blackrock training camp and transforming it into a regional hub for police and peacekeeper training. The new facilities would support Fiji's security and military training requirements and providing a regional hub for peacekeeper training – pre deployment preparations of personnel and capabilities.
2. Military officers have been sent to attend military leadership colleges – War Colleges and Defence Colleges (Australia, New Zealand and the United Kingdom) these opportunities have tremendously instilled our

officers the qualities that are beneficial if given the prospect of leading troops to mission areas.

Mr. Chair, given that I am only to speak for a certain time slot, I would like reiterate our stance and as a member state we recognizes and committed to provide well-trained and well- equipped Forces to support the United Nations peacekeeping operations.

In conclusion Mr Chair, Fiji wishes to render its support to the Republic of Korea's Government initiative to integrate both Technology and Medical Capacity Building into the Peacekeeping operations for member states.

I thank you Mr Chair!

END