

**STATEMENT**

**BY**

**HON. DR. MAMADOU TANGARA**

**MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, INTERNATIONAL  
COOPERATION AND GAMBIAANS ABROAD OF THE REPUBLIC OF  
THE GAMBIA**

**AT THE**

**UN PEACEKEEPING MINISTERIAL MEETING, BERLIN, GERMANY**

**13<sup>TH</sup> – 14<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2025**

**Hon. Annalena Baerbock, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Germany,**

**Ministers, Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Ministers of Defence,**

**Distinguished Delegates,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

**Members of the Media,**

**All other protocols duly and respectfully observed.**

**Honourable Chair, Distinguished Colleagues, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

It is a profound honour to address this esteemed gathering on behalf of the Government and people of the Republic of The Gambia. At the outset, allow me to commend the Federal Republic of Germany for generously hosting this ministerial meeting which gives us the opportunity to discuss opportunities, challenges, and indeed, our partnership priorities within the realm of UN Peacekeeping. We are gathered here in Berlin to further reaffirm our collective commitment to the consolidation of global peace, security, as well as reinforce multilateral cooperation that underpin the work of the United Nations.

As we approach the 80th anniversary of the United Nations and commemorate the 10th anniversary of the Leaders' Summit on Peacekeeping, we are reminded of the enduring relevance of UN peacekeeping operations in addressing the complex challenges of our time. Peacekeeping or peace operations are not merely about military engagements, but they are vital instruments of diplomacy, human rights, and sustainable development. Keeping the peace allows governments in conflict situations to focus on bringing much-needed development to volatile communities.

**Excellencies, Distinguished delegates,**

The Gambia has a longstanding tradition of contributing to UN peacekeeping missions. Currently, we provide ninety-eight uniformed personnel, including thirty-one women, to various missions around the world. Our largest deployment is with the United Nations Mission in South Sudan, where thirty-five

peacekeepers are currently serving. Additionally, we contributed to the missions in Mali, the Democratic Republic of Congo, the Central African Republic, Abyei, and Sudan.

**Excellencies, ladies, and Gentlemen,**

Our commitment extends beyond merely contributing troops or police personnel. Throughout our deployments, The Gambia Armed Forces have been commended for their professionalism, discipline, and unwavering dedication to fulfilling the mandates with which they are entrusted. Since our first deployments in the 1990s, our troops have served in over ten different UN peacekeeping missions, contributing more than 4,000 personnel.

In line with the UN Secretary-General's "Action for Peacekeeping Plus" initiative, The Gambia has actively sought to enhance its contributions through strategic partnerships. A notable example is our co-deployment agreement with Bangladesh, which was formalized during a high-level visit in February 2023. This collaboration aims to leverage the strengths of both nations to bolster the effectiveness of UN peacekeeping missions. We strongly believe that strategic partnerships between states and the UN Secretariat are critical for the effective deployment of peacekeepers.

**Excellencies, Distinguished delegates,**

In line with our pursuit of effective peacekeeping, The Gambia continues to engage with the UN Secretariat to ensure that our peacekeepers are well-equipped, well-trained, and prepared to meet the evolving challenges of modern peacekeeping.

As we deliberate the future of peacekeeping, it is imperative that we consider the evolving nature of conflicts and the diverse needs of the populations we serve. The study on "The Future of Peacekeeping, New Models, and Related Capabilities" commissioned by the UN Department of Peace Operations offers valuable insights into how we can adapt our approaches to be more effective and responsive.

**Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

The Gambia supports the vision of a people-centred, politically focused, and modular peacekeeping model that can unite the Security Council around effective

multilateral responses to a broad range of threats and challenges. Peacekeeping mandates must be implementable to be effective.

In conclusion, The Gambia remains steadfast in its commitment to uphold the principles of the United Nations peacekeeping and to the consolidation of international peace and security. We stand ready to collaborate with all Member States to enhance the effectiveness of UN peacekeeping operations and to ensure that they continue to serve as a beacon of hope for those affected by conflict.

We look forward to the outcomes of this Ministerial Meeting and to the continued strengthening of our collective efforts in the pursuit of lasting peace. Let us deepen our collaboration, strengthen our relationships, and work towards realizing a peaceful world and a brighter future for all.

Thank you.