

**STATEMENT BY GHANA'S MINISTER OF DEFENCE AT
THE 2019 UNITED NATIONS PEACEKEEPING MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE
HELD IN NEW YORK ON 29 MARCH 2019**

1. Mr Chair, distinguished Ministers, participants, ladies and gentlemen, on behalf of the President of Ghana and the Commander-in-Chief of the Ghana Armed Forces, President Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo, I wish to extend our warm compliments to the Secretary General, staff of United Nations Headquarters and fellow distinguished participants of this Conference.
2. I also wish to express my appreciation for the cooperation Ghana continues to enjoy with United Nations Secretariat especially the Departments for Peace Operations and the Department of Operational Support.
3. Mr Chair, Ghana remains committed to international Peacekeeping efforts under the auspices of the United Nations as well as that of the African Union and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS).
4. Ghana as one of the top ten Troop Contributing Countries has endorsed the Secretary General's Action for Peacekeeping (A4P) Initiative and the Declaration on Shared Commitments. We are therefore encouraged by the Action Plan to Improve the Security of UN peacekeepers and the many advances made in the A4P Initiative so far.
5. We welcome the reforms at the UN Secretariat especially those of the Security Pillar. It is our hope that the reforms will eliminate the disconnect between operations and field support as well as offer clear operational and political strategies to guide peacekeeping operations in the field. Additionally, we hope the reforms should provide the appropriate authority and resources for peacebuilding and reduce

the multiplicity of UN actors and fragmented initiatives for political, security and justice institutional support

6. Ghana also notes UN's Uniformed Capability gaps and in order to assist to strengthen peacekeeping and overcome these gaps, Ghana has pledged the following formed units on the UN Peacekeeping Capability Readiness System (PCRS);

- a. Level I
 - (1) One (1) Mechanized Infantry Battalion
 - (2) One (1) Engineer Squadron
 - (3) One (1) Riverine Patrol Unit
- b. Level II
 - (1) One (1) Rapidly Deployable Battalion
 - (2) One (1) Signal Squadron
 - (3) One (1) Medical Level II
- c. Registered
 - (1) 150 Military Observers
 - (2) 50 Staff Officers
 - (3) One (1) Police Formed Police Unit (FPU)

7. Mr Chair, in the area of Operational Performance, Ghana is of the view that there is an intricate link between performance and good conduct both as an element of individual accountability and a reflection of the UN's shared values. Performance is therefore essential to optimal effectiveness of UN Missions. We therefore believe that consideration is given to an arrangement for the provision of equipment to Troop Contributing Countries through greater cooperation with donor states as part of bi-lateral or triangular arrangements.

8. As a means of contributing towards the enhanced performance of senior mission leaders, Ghana is hosting the 2019 Senior Mission Leaders (SML) Course currently taking place at the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping in Accra. I would also wish to commend the Triangular Partnership Project for Rapid Deployment of Enabling Capabilities. Ghana joined the programme in September 2017 and our participants have gained tremendously in the way of skills and

knowledge transfer in Engineering. We look forward to taking part in the programme for this year.

9. Internally, Ghana has increased the scope of its pre-operational training to include Jungle Warfare tactics, training on IED (Improvised Explosive Device) detection and counter measures, UAS (Unmanned Aerial System), improved training in First Aid and patient safety at Level 1 medical facilities.

10. Mr Chair, As regards, the safety and security of UN peacekeepers, Ghana would like to see a revision of the existing Statement of Unit Requirements (SUR) for UN missions, especially those in Africa, to ensure that they meet the realities of the operational conditions in the field. We also stress the need for well protected operational bases and the strengthened of force protection measures for peacekeepers.

11. Ghana's performance as regards Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA) in field missions is quite commendable and more efforts are being made to achieve Zero Occurrence. We ensure the appropriate pre-operational and In-Mission training on SEA and we further ensure all our formed troops have National Investigation Officers. We make it a point to investigate thoroughly all cases of alleged violation of SEA regulations and offenders get the appropriate conviction in accordance with our laws and the UN Secretariat is given the appropriate feedback on all such matters. Additionally, as part of our review of the Armed Forces Regulations, we will extend the time bar of 3 years for criminal liability to ensure that no offender goes un-convicted.

12. Finally, I would like to state that Ghana endorses and supports the Uniformed Gender Parity Strategy 2018-2028 and is working hard to ensure we meet the targets set out in the policy document. Currently, Ghana can pride itself on an average of ten percent (10%) female participation in all the formed troops deployed in the various missions and 23% of all Military Observers and Staff officers being female. Policies have been put in place to meet the projected annual targets set by the UN Secretariat and reduce and eliminate any internal structural challenges female peacekeepers face.

13. Thank you