



CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

**Statement by H.E. Mr. Nikolaos Panagiotopoulos
Minister of National Defence of the Hellenic Republic
at the
UN PEACEKEEPING MINISTERIAL MEETING
Session 4 on Protection of Civilians and Safety & Security
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Mr. Chairman, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,

It is a particular honor for me to address the 2021 4th UN Peacekeeping Ministerial and I would like to thank **the Republic of Korea** for hosting this important event.

No one can deny that the UN **is the backbone of global peace and security**. Greece has always been contributing to the Organization's peacekeeping missions, within our capabilities and is among the **top contributors** to peacekeeping budgets.

We continue to reinforce the **“UN Interim Force in Lebanon”** (UNIFIL) and contribute to the UN Peacekeeping Capability Readiness System (PCRS) with personnel, assets and free personalized training in support operations. **We also have a significant voluntary contribution to UNFICYP.**

In order to improve safety and security of the UN peacekeepers in high – risk environments, we need to provide them with the necessary means of sophisticated technology and customized training.

In this context, Greece is willing to provide training to UN uniformed personnel on **Improvised Explosive Devices (IED) Countermeasures**, prior to their deployment in peacekeeping missions.

Moreover, as mental health casualties are a major issue of concern among our armed/security peacekeeping forces, we **can contribute to**

the efforts of prevention, assessment and early detection of mental disorders, especially of post – traumatic stress disorder, with a new selection and evaluation method for the personnel of UN peacekeeping operations.

The mobility is also critical for supporting peacekeeping missions. For this reason, **Greece** stands ready to provide an “**Autonomous Portable Power Generation Storage and Management Hybrid Power Unit**” for the energy requirements of mobile operational formations and remote camps, with a lifespan of more than 20 years.

Dear Colleagues,

Greece remains committed to supporting the UN peacekeeping missions and will spare no effort to provide high-performance capabilities.

My country actively promotes Defence Diplomacy and initiatives of regional cooperation, based on International Law and the principles of good neighborly relations **with a view to safeguarding security and stability in our region.**

We remain dedicated to the ideals, values and principles of the UN: promotion of democratic principles of governance, full respect for human rights, **peaceful resolution of disputes and strict compliance with the rules of International Law.**

Thank you.