

2019 Peacekeeping Ministerial

Statement by: Surgeon General of the Israel Defense Forces, Brigadier General Dr
Tarif Bader -29 March 2018

I would like to thank Secretary-General Guterres for the invitation to participate in this important event. International peace and security are of the highest priority to the United Nations, and peacekeeping operations are essential tools to achieve this. Yet, peacekeepers are operating in increasingly dangerous environments and facing huge challenges.

It is an honor for me, as the Surgeon General of the Israel Defense Forces, to address the General Assembly of the United Nations today, to emphasize the critical need for, and importance of, life-saving and medical support for UN peacekeeping operations.

Recent years have shown that peacekeepers are often targeted and attacked, with increasing magnitude and sophistication. As the senior medical authority in the Israel Defense Forces, I know from first-hand experience that if we expect our troops to perform their duty in the field, it is our moral obligation to ensure that they have the necessary medical knowledge and equipment, so they can receive essential medical assistance, when required.

Over the past few years, we in Israel have shared with the UN our medical expertise, to facilitate First Aid and Field Medic training for peacekeeping operations personnel. We have also made contributions towards the Triangular Partnership Project and most recently contributed a Super Trainer to run the BFAC Master Trainer medical courses for Troop Contributing Countries.

Our goal is to help the UN to ensure that the standard of medical care in peacekeeping operations not only improves, but is maintained to the required level. With this in mind we would like to further pledge for the following contributions:

1. Remote advisory assistance on UN medical training needs.
2. Host UN medical training courses for First Aid and Field Medics at the Military Medical Academy in Israel.
3. Remote advisory assistance for TCC's running Level I, II and III hospitals.
4. Provision of first aid and field medic Super Trainers for Master Trainer courses.

5. Assistance in the development of a Mental Health Strategy for uniformed personnel.
6. Provision of experts to conduct camp security assessments in Peacekeeping Missions in Africa.
7. Host UN/TCC course in Israel on peacekeeping safety and security, and technology in peacekeeping.
8. Provide consultancy on integration of technological security equipment in peacekeeping.

Our commitment to extending a helping hand to the wounded and to the sick and to saving lives, whether friend or foe, is written in the Israeli military medical oath:

להושיט יד עוזרת לכל פצוע אם אוהב ואם אויב ולכל אדם באשר הוא אדם
(in English: to extend a helping hand to every wounded person, whether friend or foe, and to every person as a human being).

I believe that together we will be able to improve the performance of peacekeeping, while enhancing the safety and security of the brave peacekeepers.
For our part, we are ready to share Israel's medical care expertise and contribute to this effort.

Thank you.