

Mr. Foreign Minister, excellences, distinguish delegates, on behalf of the Minister of Defence, Mr. Lorenzo Guerini allow me to **thank the Government of the Republic of Korea** for the 2021 UN Peacekeeping Ministerial.

It is an honor for me today to confirm Italy's pledge in support of the UN peacekeeping.

My country **supports** the indispensable role of the UN to preserve peace and international security and **contributes** to its operations and activities, both financially and with highly qualified personnel, granting training activities and logistic support.

The **UN Brindisi Global Service Center** that provides integrated logistical support to all UN activities in theatres of operation is a concrete example of the enduring Italian commitment to the UN.

Today, recalling the constant role that Italy plays in supporting peacekeeping operations, I am glad to confirm the offer of relevant units and capabilities within the framework of the "UN Peacekeeping Capability Readiness System". Italy has been regularly renewing its offer since 2016.

Italy is a committed troop-contributing member and takes part in 5 missions. We have made available a force of approximately 1,000 units, with relevant enabling assets, to UNIFIL II, a mission that we support since 2006. Recently we have also offered to contribute a naval unit equipped with rotating wing assets to UNIFIL Maritime Task Force.

We will continue to be present in the Sahel region and West Sahara, at the border between India and Pakistan and in Cyprus.

In line with the strategic guidance of Action for Peacekeeping Plus, we are committed to provide also a vast range of **Defence Capacity Building activities**, including pre-deployment training, so critical to achieve high-level standards, **as the SG stressed today**.

Italy constantly cooperates with the UN in this regard. Indeed, the Turin **Centre for Post-Conflict Studies** and the **UN System Staff College** exchange expertise and best practices in the sector of training for stabilization and reconstruction activities.

The dedicated facilities of the **Infantry School** located near Roma implement Security Force Assistance programs, in addition to the activities of the **Stability Police Multinational Centre of Excellence** specialized in Security Sector Reform and training of UN Police Units.

The **Multinational Medical Training Centre at Rome Military Medical School** is conducting, **for the first time**, a new range of medical training programs, contributing to the priority areas defined in Action for Peacekeeping “Plus”.

These programs are in line with **the excellent Seoul Initiative**, promoted by the Republic of Korea, **which Italy fully supports**.

Let me stress that Italy remains committed to implementing the Women, Peace and Security Agenda both into our military organization and in all the peacekeeping missions where Italian units operate.

Italy is firmly committed as well to implementing a zero tolerance policy with regard to sexual exploitation and abuse. Recognizing the need for a

responsible appropriate approach to this issue, Italy appointed a National Investigation Officer in all our units taking part in UN peacekeeping missions.

Thank you for your attention