

Statement of ITALY

UN Peacekeeping Ministerial Meeting (Accra, 5-6 December 2023)

The Minister for Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration, Hon. Shirley Ayorkor Botchwey

The Minister for Defense, Hon. Dominic Nitiwul,

Excellencies, distinguished Delegates,

Allow me to thank the Government of the Republic of Ghana for the 2023 UN Peacekeeping Ministerial.

Italy has historically been at the forefront of support for UN peacekeeping operations.

We are the first troop contributor, among Western countries, to UN peace operations, as well as the seventh contributor to the UN regular budget and peacekeeping budget.

We are proud to host the United Nations Global Service Centre (UNGSC) in Brindisi. The Centre plays a key role in providing critical support to UN peacekeeping operations on the ground, thanks to its strategic location, cutting-edge services and synergies with the United Nations Humanitarian Response Depot (UNHRD).

You can always count on Italy as a hub of excellence for peacekeeping activities in many fields: training, logistics, industry including in the space sector, and environmental protection.

The Center of Excellence for Stability Police Units (CoESPU) of Vicenza is a state of the art hub for the training of peacekeepers. Until now, around 13.000 UN peacekeepers (military and civilians) from 128 Countries received focused training. This effort will continue together with the activities of the Center of Excellence for the Security Force Assistance sector, located in Cesano near Rome.

The newly established Center of Excellence of Sabaudia, near Rome, specialized in environmental management will soon be able to welcome

and train international peacekeepers to build environmental capacity in peace operations.

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

Military and Police Capabilities:

4 Utility Helicopters, Engineering- Airfield Construction and Maintenance Units/Services, Transport Airfield units (including ground handling services – 1 team RSOM-ATO), Strategic airlift KC767 (availability also subordinate to the end of commitment in Iraq), Tactical UAV, Port Operations Unit, Landing platform Dock Ship (also available for Capacity Building activity), Infantry Battalion (including C2), Signal Company, Engineer Company (EOD capable), Outreach Unit; Transport Company, Special Operations Forces detachment, Force Protection unit, Police Rapid Mobile Assistance Training Team, Role 1 hospital.

As well as Training and education in 45 multidomain courses.

In UNIFIL we are present with 1068 soldiers, and we confirm our commitment in the mission, where there are particular implications on the security conditions of the peacekeeping forces. Please be informed that the Italian Navy ship Vulcano is going to be deployed with a Role 2+ hospital on board, which will be followed by the deployment of a Role 2 on the ground, when conditions allow. In this sense, any contribution to the Italian initiative is welcome.

Thank you for your attention.