

**STATEMENT BY HON EUGENE WAMALWA, CS DEFENCE,
DURING UN PEACEKEEPING DEFENCE MINISTERIAL IN SEOUL
REPUBLIC OF KOREA**

Chung Eui-yong, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea

Suh Wook, Minister of National Defence of the Republic of Korea

Jean Pierre Lacroix, UN Undersecretary General, Department of Peace Operations

Atul Kharre, UN Undersecretary General, Department of Operational Support.

Honourable Ministers

Excellencies Ambassadors

Delegates

Ladies and Gentlemen

Mr. Chairman,

Allow me to thank the Republic of Korea for hosting this important conference.

Kenya attaches great importance to international peace and security, and supports peacekeeping as the most visible tool available to the United Nations Security Council for the maintenance of International peace and security. Our long-standing contribution to the United Nations peacekeeping operations is a testimony to our commitment to make this world a safer place.

Mr. Chairman,

The changing nature of threats facing peacekeepers today calls for a greater understanding of the operational environment and better preparation for peacekeepers before deployment. Time is long gone when the blue flag offered natural protection: In today's operational environment, peacekeepers have become targets of the armed groups and sometime are faced with terror threats. The International Community needs to wake up to this new reality and develop ways of addressing these challenges within the context of peacekeeping.

In the foregoing regard, Kenya supports the Seoul Initiative on dynamic peacekeeping operating environment and which calls for commitment by the Members States to leverage the necessary technological tools to strengthen performance and improve safety and security of the peacekeepers and to providing timely and quality medical care and casualty evacuation (CASEVAC) in peacekeeping missions.

The security situation in Somalia continues to be a matter of grave concern to Kenya and the region. The terrorist threat posed by al Shaabab remains the greatest threat to peace, security and stability

in Somalia and the region. Contrary to the popular belief, al Shaabab still retains capability to launch large scale terrorist attacks with a major disruptive consequence to the situation in Somalia. The anticipated reconfiguration of AMISOM ought to take into account the reality on the ground regarding the current threat levels, the local dynamics, the capacity of the SNA, and the role of other actors. Any rushed reorganization of the mission risks a possible consequence of a state collapse and erode the gains already realised.

Mr. Chairman,

In the enhancement of peacekeeping capacity, Kenya is pleased to pledge the following capabilities to the PCRS:

- An attack helicopter unit jointly with the Republic of Korea.
- An Explosive Ordinance Disposal Unit.
- Counter IED Training at the International Peace Support Training Center (IPSTC) in Kenya.

We further pledge to elevate the Military Police Company and the Communication and Information System company already in the PCRS to Rapid Deployable Level (RDL) and level 3 respectively. We thank the Government and People of the Republic of Korea for the

partnership. In furtherance to the need for increased female participation in peacekeeping, Kenya is willing to provide a female engagement team to the Force Intervention Brigade in DR Congo if requested.

Mr Chairman,

Kenya continues to host the Engineering capability training under the Triangular Partnership Project aimed at filling identified gaps in peacekeeping. We thank the Governments of Japan, Switzerland, Israel and Brazil for technical and financial support in this cause.

Lastly, **we commend** the blue helmets for their commitment and dedication to their work, pay tribute to those who have paid the ultimate price for global peace.

Finally, **we reaffirm our commitment** to continue working with the United Nations and other member states to strengthen peacekeeping operations.

I thank you for your kind attention.