



## **REPUBLIC OF KENYA**

### **REMARKS BY HON ADEN B DUALE, EGH, CABINET SECRETARY DURING PEACEKEEPING MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE IN ACCRA, GHANA 05 - 06 DECEMBER 2023**

The Chairperson;

Fellow Defence and Foreign Affairs Ministers;

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I wish to express my deep gratitude to the Government and people of the Republic of Ghana for hosting the 2023 Peacekeeping Ministerial Conference (PMC) and for extending an invitation to us. Additionally, I would like to most sincerely thank the Government and people of the Republic of Ghana for the warm reception and hospitality accorded to my delegation since our arrival in this great country. In this regard, I am delighted to be part of the 5<sup>th</sup> UN PMC particularly pleased that it is the first one to take place in Africa. In my view, hosting this conference in Ghana is an appreciation of Africa's contribution to the enhancement of international peace and security. It is worth noting that, the late Kofi Annan, a globally respected diplomat and the seventh Secretary-General of the United Nations was a son of this great Nation.

Fellow participants, as we are aware, this engagement is a follow-up to the virtual Conference held in December 2021 in Seoul, South Korea. The Conference therefore provides us an important opportunity to reflect

on capability and capacity gaps in the peacekeeping system with a view of generating fresh insights on how current and future peace support operations may be strengthened. For this reason, it is essential for this Conference to frame the issues around the seven priority areas mentioned in the Secretary General's Action for Peacekeeping Priorities (A4P+). The issues therein include capabilities and mindset needed, accountability, improvement of strategic communications, establishment of robust partnerships, recognizing the role of women in peace and security in addition to modalities of sustaining peace. These considerations and others have the ultimate goal of transforming peacekeeping by ensuring high performance and delivery of specialized capabilities, in tandem with the demands of the contemporary peace support environment.

Despite the progress achieved in PSO, the security challenges facing the global community are enormous and rapidly evolving. For instance, the political and security environment has deteriorated in the recent resulting in humanitarian crises exacerbated by issues associated with weaknesses in the protection of civilians as evidenced in conflict situations in Eastern Europe, Middle East and various parts of Africa to name but a few. In light of these concerns, there is need to reconfigure UN missions in order to adopt a streamlined approach to ensure mandate delivery by equipping peacekeepers with the most appropriate capabilities.

Colleagues, it is against this background and in recognition of dynamics in the PSO environment that I acknowledge the efforts made by all

stakeholders in organizing and making this Conference a reality. It is my belief that the information and experiences shared during our deliberations will bring to the fore action points that will enrich policies and enable actors in the peace support space to discharge their functions more efficiently and effectively. I would like to assure everyone, that Kenya remains committed to pursuing regional and international peace and security through its participation in United Nations and regional peace support mechanisms. In this context, our actions are guided by the principles laid out in the United Nations Charter and the African Union (AU) Constitutive Act. Indeed, Kenya is revamping its PSO capacity by allocating resources as envisioned in our newly formulated National Peace Support Operations Policy which provides for the establishment of a Peace Operations Fund. This intervention will contribute towards peacekeepers' capacity enhancement as well as equip them appropriately to achieve the required performance standards.

As a commitment to the maintenance of international peace and security through peacekeeping, Kenya reaffirms its existing pledges and wishes to enhance the same as follows:

- Armed Helicopter Unit (MD 500 model) pledge made in PMC 2021.
- Mobile Counter Improvised Explosive Device Training Teams (MTT)
- Provision of Level 2 Field Hospital.
- Quick Reaction Force (QRF) Company.

Once again, I take this opportunity to thank the Republic of Ghana and the United Nations Secretariat for facilitating this vital forum that seeks to promote the quality and effectiveness of United Nations peacekeeping.

With those remarks, Chairperson, Fellow Ministers, Ladies and Gentlemen, I look forward to fruitful deliberations. **Thank You.**