

**Thesis by the Minister of Foreign Affairs G. Landsbergis
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- Today, as instability and conflicts increasingly challenge international security, peacekeeping remains in great demand. Although peacekeeping operations are reactive rather than a preventive measure, their importance is not diminishing.
- In 1994 Lithuania contributed the first peacekeepers to the UN operation only four years into our restored independence, and only three years while being full member of the UN. Thus, Lithuania has been consistently participating in peacekeeping missions for already 27 years and we will continue to increase our contributions.
- Lithuania has gained useful experience in the UN Security Council. As a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council in 2014-2015, Lithuania has gained useful experience and emphasized that the UN must be more proactive in conflict prevention rather than just sending peacekeepers after conflicts have erupted. Lithuania also called for intensified discussion by all stakeholders on how MINUSMA in Mali would be adjusted and updated such way to best protect not only civilians but also peacekeepers themselves.
- Today, we are in a process of prolonging our contribution to the MINUSMA mission in Mali, which is currently staffed by 47 Lithuanian peacekeepers. Our Police have also contributed female police officers who served in the UNFICYP in the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus. Lithuania is also active in the EU crisis response within a framework of Common Security and Defense Policy.
- Currently, as part of the UN-EU Strategic Partnership on Peace Operations and Crisis Management, we are working on modalities for informal EU rotational systems in support of UN peacekeeping, support for rapid response bridging operations and transitions.
- We expect that the priorities set out in the UN and the EU strategic documents, namely the Action for Peacekeeping Plus (A4P+) and the Strategic Compass, will be further aligned, creating a flexible platform for enhancing EU-UN cooperation on peace operations and crisis management. However, the opportunities for states to take part in the peacekeeping are dependent on limited resources and the security challenges at their borders. Considering our contribution we must keep in mind the broader context, so pooling of resources and building partnerships is of key importance.
- With specific experience and relevant know-how, Lithuania could offer trainings for peacekeeping missions in the near future, especially MINUSMA, how to combat disinformation and hybrid threats and to improve strategic communication.