



PERMANENT MISSION OF THE
REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

Statement

**by the Minister of Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Lithuania Linas Linkevičius**
at the High – Level Event on
Action for Peacekeeping

New York
25 September 2018

Excellencies,

Ladies and gentlemen,

“Action for Peacekeeping” is a timely endeavor to ensure more effective UN peacekeeping. We thank Secretary-General Antonio Guterres for this initiative and commend his dedication and broad personal efforts aimed at reinforcing UN peacekeeping, including via Peace and Security Architecture reform.

Peacekeeping is one of the most effective tools available to the promotion and maintenance of international peace and security. Yet UN peacekeeping faces several challenges that undermine its ability to deliver on its mandates. “Declaration of Shared Commitments on United Nations Peacekeeping Operations” represents so much needed collective commitment to overcome those challenges. We strongly believe this document can help us all to bring a change in peacekeeping, therefore, Lithuania was proud to endorse the declaration.

But endorsement of this Declaration is just a beginning. As good as this declaration, or any other document may be, what really matters is our political will and ability to vigorously go beyond just another solemn pledge and to deliver – swiftly, effectively, and in full.

Issues such as proper training and equipment of peacekeepers, increasing peacekeeper deaths and their ability to perform civilian protection roles, clarity and sequencing of mandates and mandates being matched with the necessary resources, leadership responsibility, sexual abuse by peacekeepers are the ones that we need to address again and again.

We cannot afford to repeat the cycle. The key word is **IMPLEMENTATION**.

Implementation of this political pledge of ours will be decisive for the future success of UN peacekeeping operations, bringing stability to conflict areas, avoiding fatalities among civilians, and ensuring that peacekeepers are fully equipped and ready to perform their role in the increasingly complex and challenging conflict environments.

As a troop contributing country, Lithuania has a great interest in making UN peacekeeping more efficient and capable of addressing the needs of the 21st century. It is not just our wish, but also a moral imperative for the United Nations as a whole to make sure that the unique tool of peacekeeping does deliver and protect. We simply cannot afford to fail.

I thank you.