

Session 2: Capacity Building and Training (Mental Health)

Intervention

Deputy Secretary General (Development)

Ministry of Defence, Malaysia

1. Your Excellency Shirley Ayorkor Botchwey, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration, Republic of Ghana, Mr Atul Khare, Under-Secretary-General, your excellencies, and distinguished guests from across the globe.

2. It is an honour for me to be given the opportunity to share Malaysia's perspective on **Capacity Building and Training** at the United Nation's Peacekeeping Ministerial Meeting today.

3. At the onset, allow me to congratulate the host, Republic of Ghana, for the excellent arrangements in hosting this Conference despite the challenges that are affecting all of us.

SUPPORT FOR CAPACITY BUILDING AND TRAINING IN PEACEKEEPING

Excellencies and distinguished guests,

4. Taking note of the events around the world today, sustainable peace will be the most important agenda that we must uphold and I am pleased to see that all nations are working closely together in sustaining peace around the world.

5. Malaysia welcomes the Republic of Ghana's initiatives on Capacity Building and Training particularly on Mental Health in Peacekeeping, as proposed by Minister Shirly Ayorkor Botchwey.

6. Indeed, Malaysia hopes to see this initiative possibly leading to more effective UN Peacekeeping operations. Malaysia is confident that with the Republic of Ghana's vast experience in peace keeping operations, this initiative can be implemented and will certainly bring great benefits to all participating nations particularly on mental health.

Excellencies and distinguished guests,

7. Malaysia remains deeply concerned with increased attacks against UN peacekeepers. We pay tribute to the men and women who have made the ultimate sacrifice in the service of maintaining peace. Despite our collective efforts to stabilise countries in conflict with the deployment of more peacekeepers, we must continue to ensure the safety and security of our peacekeepers. There should not be any compromise on this matter. All stakeholders are responsible for the morale, safety, and security of peacekeepers; thus, their well-being must be taken care of as a top priority. This would require peacekeepers to have the necessary skills, training, equipment, and mandate.

8. Malaysia strongly believes in the critical role of training in ensuring effective peacekeeping. The Malaysian Peacekeeping Centre (MPC) continues to be recognised as a premier training centre in the region. The Centre regularly offers courses such as for Contingent Commander and Gender Advisor (GENAD) and Comprehensive Protection of Civilians; Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA); Women, Peace, and Security;

Gender Mainstreaming, and Preventing Sexual Violence Initiative to domestic and international participants.

9. Malaysia also believes engaging women and youth in capacity-building programmes is vital for sustainable recovery and long-term peace. Therefore, the role of women and youth in peace and security should be further socialised, strengthened, and mainstreamed. Malaysia is highly committed to supporting the agenda of women, peace, and security.

10. Currently, MPC has instructors who specialize in implementing a wide range of training and courses. Included in the MPC Yearly Training Schedule are the: United Nations Military Expert on Mission Course (UNMEOM); United Nations Staff Officers' Course (UNSOC); United Nations Logistic Officer Course (UNLOC); United Nations Contingent Commander Course (UNCCC) and a Gender Advisor Course.

11. Malaysia's work and commitment to training in the Service of Peace received the highest acknowledgement from the UN with a visit to MPC by the then Secretary General, Mr. Ban KI-moon on 22 March 2012. This is a testament to Malaysia's continuous commitment to global peace which is the cornerstone of our National Defence Policy. In celebration of the visit by the Secretary General, MPC's main auditorium at MPC was named in his honour.

MALAYSIA'S PARTICIPATION IN ONGOING PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS

Excellencies and distinguished guests,

12. Malaysia is continue deploying a battalion of armed forces personnel, in South Lebanon, under the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL). Known as MALBATT 850-11, it is the 11th Battalion since the first deployment of Malaysian peacekeepers in 2007 as part of UNIFIL to enforce the Resolution 1701 of the United Nations Security Council to resolve the 2006 Lebanon War.

13. Apart from the UNIFIL, Malaysia is also participating in four other UN peacekeeping operations by sending observers at the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara, United Nations Organisation Stabilisation Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei in Abyei, and United Nation Mission to Support the Hudaydah Agreement.

WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY (WPS)

Excellencies and distinguished guests,

14. Malaysia has continued to maintain having 10 percent women personnel serving in the Malaysian Armed Forces to achieved its commitment towards the United Nations Security Council's Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security or WPS for the past three years. We aim to increase the involvement of women personnel in UN peacekeeping operations in the future.

15. Malaysia will continue supports the UN's agenda through its Malaysian Peacekeeping Centre or MPC. The MPC collaborates with other international agencies such as the UN Women, United States' Global Peace Operations Initiative and Canada's Directorate of Military Training and Cooperation to provide training for experts and peacekeeping personnel on WPS subjects.

CLOSING

16. I would like to conclude that the United Nations should not be left alone to shoulder the burden of this heavy responsibility of ensuring sustainable peace around the world.

17. Malaysia once again reaffirms its strong commitment to peacekeeping efforts under the ambit of the United Nations and will continue to work with others towards a better world and global peace.

18. On that note, I once again wish to thank the chair for giving me the privilege to deliver a speech during this meeting.

Thank you.