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**Statement of the Secretary of National Defense of Mexico**

**General Luis Crescencio Sandoval-González**

**United Nations Peacekeeping Ministerial Conference**

New York, March 29, 2019

**Thematic Session:**

**"New Significant Commitments of the Member States".**

Distinguished delegates, colleagues and friends,

Mexico participates in this important Conference aware of the importance of joining multilateral cooperation efforts, both with the United Nations, and allied and friendly countries, in order to strengthen and generate greater capacities and to improve the training and performance of peacekeeping operations.

1. The constant evolution of the environment in which peacekeeping operations are conducted is acknowledged, and demands the constant deployment of personnel and ever more specialized contingents with the highest training standards.

In order to address those needs, I am pleased to announce that Mexico will gradually continue to deploy personnel in peacekeeping operations, privileging the deployment of observers and officers from the Presidential Military Guard.

2. In the same manner, Mexico recognizes that women play a fundamental role in peace processes, as well as in prevention and resolution of conflicts. For this reason, my country reaffirms its commitment to the efforts of this organization to fulfill the "Women, Peace and Security" agenda, which strengthens the substantive participation of women in these operations.

To contribute to this commitment, Mexico will deploy a greater number of female personnel from the Presidential Military Guard and military observers, duly trained according to the standards of the United Nations.

3. Mexico is aware that the training and capacity building of personnel deployed in peacekeeping operations is essential for proper and effective performance on the field.

Therefore, the Mexican Joint Training Center for Peace Operations (CECOPAM) will open its facilities in 2020, in order to teach courses to foreign personnel, with coordination and guidance from the United Nations.

In this regard, we are pleased to extend an invitation to the United Nations to offer some of its courses at our facilities, and to all Member States, to designate personnel to participate in the aforementioned training; it will be a real pleasure to welcome you in Mexico.

Distinguished delegates, colleagues and friends:

The future of peace operations depends on the willingness and commitment of the Member States, not only to agree on solutions to complex security problems, but also to provide the organization with the necessary personnel, as well as resources, so that peace operations can fulfill in a comprehensive and effective manner their mandates, particularly with regards to the protection of civilians.

In this regard, I would like to reiterate my country's support for the Secretary General's initiative "Action for Peacekeeping" (A4P), as well as the "Declaration of Shared Commitments", which represent a collective effort to contribute to improve the operational and strategic capacity of these operations, and also to meet the security needs of personnel in the field.

In light of the objectives advanced by this initiative, we are also committed to the UN policy of zero tolerance for sexual violence and abuse in all its forms by personnel participating in Peacekeeping Operations, focusing on the protection of human rights, and on the victims of such crimes.

Finally, Mexico wishes to reaffirm its strong willingness to continue contributing to the collective efforts aimed at achieving the optimal performance of these important tools for the fulfillment of the Organization's objectives.

**Thank you.**