

## **INTERVENTION OF THE NATO SECRETAR GENERAL'S SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY AT THE UN PEACEKEEPING DEFENCE MINISTERIAL**

**New York, 29 March 2019**

- Secretary General, USG Lacroix, delegates,
- On behalf of NATO I thank you for the opportunity to speak here today.
- The relationship between NATO and the UN is strong and complementary based on our collective values. NATO remains committed to enhancing support to the UN and in particular UN peacekeeping, as pledged by our Secretary General at the 2015 Leaders Summit and reaffirmed by our Allies in the Warsaw Declaration.
- The recent Updated Joint Declaration on UN-NATO Secretariat Cooperation establishes the Action for Peacekeeping (A4P) initiative as a key guide to our further cooperation. NATO stands ready to support the UN on the implementation of the A4P agenda, wherever we can add value to this important work.
- Over the past years we have considerably expanded our cooperation with the Secretariat to address pressing UN peacekeeping needs, including addressing the urgent need to increase the numbers of women deployed to missions and operations.
- NATO's commitment to Women Peace and Security is underscored by the UNSCR resolutions on WPS. Last year at the Brussels Summit, Heads of State and Governments endorsed the new NATO/EAPC policy and Action Plan which highlights our key principles of 3 Is: Integration, Inclusiveness and Integrity. The Policy further expands our commitment to increasing women's participation in national forces, supporting the full integration of gender across our core tasks and promoting enhanced protection of women and girls from sexual violence and abuse.
- The holistic approach of NATO to women peace and security rests on the recognition that Increasing numbers of women in national forces cannot stand alone and must be accompanied by robust gender equality policies, development of National Action Plans and engagement with civil society. Gender Parity cannot act as a surrogate for gender equality.
- In NATO we believe that women must also have the opportunity to speak directly to peace and security and it is women who are best placed to identify their own protection needs. For this reason we have established and will expand our Civil Society Advisory Panel – a platform where women can speak directly to NATO on areas relevant to defence and security.
- We recognise that protection of civilians, including protection of women and girls must be addressed in a holistic manner. Therefore recently our Allies agreed to the

establishment of a Human Security unit which allows us to weave the WPS and protection of civilians commitments through all our work.

- To strengthen our approach to Human Security, over the coming year we will be enhancing our training and capacity building on sexual violence, drafting policies on protection and Human trafficking and establishing a monitoring and evaluation mechanism to enhance accountability mechanism.
- We are pleased that our first NATO Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA) Policy will be released in June, which aligns with the UN key principles to allow for clarity on zero tolerance. We invite the UN to participate in the development of training on combatting sexual abuse so we can have a consistent clear approach across entities.
- Collaboration with the UN has allowed us to advance our efforts on training and capacity building in a number of areas.
- For example on countering improvised explosive devices, we have worked with the UN to develop a common training model, so that when Allies instruct anywhere in the world, they are also teaching to UN standards too. We remain in regular contact with our UN counterparts and are ready to provide further training support, including on 'search and detect' training and route clearance.
- Our support in training has gone beyond mitigating the IED threat as we have provided expertise to support the development of a concept for the collective training of UN force headquarters. We are prepared to consider similar value-added support on short notice when the UN needs it.
- We are also ready to enhance our cooperation on military medicine, including by sharing doctrine, policies and standards and through training opportunities.
- And we remain open to looking at how NATO's extensive network of Partnership Training and Education Centres can better support UN training priorities.
- In closing let me reaffirm our commitment to furthering our collective efforts, especially on WPS and POC and we look forward to ongoing collaboration in our quest for enduring peace and stability.