

# **NATO'S STATEMENT AT THE 2023 UN PEACEKEEPING MINISTERIAL**

**Accra, Ghana, 6 December 2023**

Chairperson, National Representatives, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to thank the Republic of Ghana for hosting this meeting. As a nation with a longstanding record of regional and international cooperation in support of peace and security, notably through its enduring commitment to UN Peacekeeping, Ghana is well positioned to host this conference, which is vital for the sustainability and effectiveness of peacekeeping missions.

NATO's support for UN peacekeeping has been a pillar of UN-NATO cooperation for decades. In recent years, NATO has greatly enhanced its support for UN peacekeeping, in keeping with the 2015 pledge made by Secretary General Stoltenberg.

Guided by our 2018 Joint UN-NATO Declaration, the cooperation between NATO and the United Nations has increased significantly in recent years. Now in its fifth year, and despite the COVID-19 pandemic, our declaration has enabled unprecedented staff-

to-staff exchanges on a range of technical matters in support of peacekeeping.

In support of operational performance, and the safety and security of UN peacekeepers, the Alliance has strongly supported the implementation of the United Nations Secretary General's "***Action for Peacekeeping***" initiative.

Our support of its next phase, "***Action for Peacekeeping Plus***", has led to deeper UN-NATO dialogue to address key security challenges for peace operations, such as emerging and disruptive technologies and tackling disinformation. In this regard, we were pleased to support the development of the cross-cutting **Strategy for the Digital Transformation of UN Peacekeeping**.

In response to a UN request, NATO continues to deliver a multi-year training initiative in support of UN peacekeeper training in Africa. Allied experts are delivering training on medical care, military performance evaluation processes, and signals and communications. Crucially, we are also providing training on **countering improvised explosive devices**,

which remains a significant threat to the safety of peacekeepers.

This is NATO's **first ever capacity-building initiative** prepared for an international organization partner. And it contributes concretely to the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 2436 on ***Enhancing the performance of peacekeeping personnel***.

At the NATO Summit in July, Allied leaders underlined the critical importance of women's full, equal, and meaningful participation in all aspects of peace and stability. This is one area where NATO can add value. As we update NATO's Policy for the Implementation of UNSCR 1325, we are engaging extensively with a broad range of stakeholders, with the UN in particular.

As reaffirmed by Allied Leaders at the Vilnius Summit in July, NATO remains determined to do more **with**, and more **for** our partners, including with the United Nations, to support a rules-based international order.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to address this forum on behalf of NATO.

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