

**Remarks by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense
Hon. Mr. Ishwar Pokhrel
at the ‘UN Peacekeeping Ministerial Conference on Uniformed Capabilities, Performance and
Protection’
New York, 29 March 2019
(Pledge Announcement)**

Mr. Chair

Excellencies the Ministers, and
Distinguished delegates

I thank Mr. Secretary General for convening this Conference.

As a country, which has contributed to maintaining international peace and security through the United Nations peacekeeping operations for the past 61 years, Nepal attaches high importance to this event. We hope that its deliberations will have a significant impact on transforming the way peacekeeping is conducted in future.

Nepal firmly supports the initiatives such as security pillar reform, A4P, gender parity strategy and SEA Compact advanced by the Secretary-General. We also call for a renewed focus on substantive and sustained capacity building efforts in order to improve performance in peacekeeping operations.

With its participation in 12 UN peacekeeping missions in 11 different countries across the world, Nepal currently ranks as the fifth largest troops and police-contributing country. As of today, it has already contributed over 140 thousand troops and police in as many as 44 UN peace operations since 1958. A total of 74 Nepali peacekeepers have sacrificed their lives for the noble cause of international peace and stability.

Nepal continues to deploy troops and police personnel without caveats even in the most challenging environments. We stand ready to contribute up to 10,000 troops upon the request of the United Nations.

Furthermore, Nepal contributed to the capacity building of peacekeepers from other member states by co-hosting the largest Multi-Platoon Training Event till date with the participation from 34 countries. We are ready to offer training opportunities as well as provide our Training Center’s facilities, administrative support and instructors for any capacity building efforts in future.

Mr. Chair

We have delivered on most of the pledges we made in the previous Peacekeeping Ministerial Conferences. We deployed a High Readiness Company in South Sudan, a Special Guard Unit in Libya and a Mechanized Infantry Company in Syria. In addition, we deployed a High Readiness Protection Battalion in the Central African Republic in 2018. A Special Forces Company has now been elevated to Rapid Deployment Level, and a Formed Police Unit has been placed in Level III of the PCRS.

Nepal reaffirms its pledge to elevate an Infantry Battalion and a Force Protection Company in the PCRS for the year 2019-20. Nepal also offers two Formed Police Units and police officers for the year 2019-20.

We have already met the UN targets with regard to the participation of female peacekeepers as Staff Officers, Military Observers and Individual Police Officers. Nepal has also begun integrating Female Engagement Teams in Infantry Battalions.

To conclude, I reaffirm Nepal's commitment to continue contributing to the UN peacekeeping operations. In the meantime, I call for more representation of military and police officers from TPCCs at the senior-level leadership both at the UN Headquarters and in the field missions.

I wish this Conference all success.

I thank you **Mr. Chair**.