

Remarks by Hon. Dr. Minendra Prasad Rijal, Minister for Defense
of Nepal at the Virtual 2021 Seoul UN Peacekeeping Ministerial
Seoul, 7-8 December 2021

(Pledge Announcement)

Session IV: Protection of Civilians and Safety and Security

Chair: Jean-Pierre Lacroix, DPO USG

Mr. Chair

Fellow Ministers, and

Distinguished Delegates

I thank the Government of the Republic of Korea for hosting this important Summit even amidst the continued challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Nepal is a steadfast partner and a consistent contributor to the UN peacekeeping operations since it joined hands in 1958. We are the 2nd largest troops and police-contributing country and are currently working in 12 Missions. Over 151,000 Nepali peacekeepers have served under the UN flag with profound dedication, high professionalism, and distinction.

We deploy our contingent without any national caveats. We have always supported reform initiatives of the UN Secretary-General, including A4P Plus. Nepal has adopted a zero-tolerance policy against sexual exploitation and abuse. We ensure the highest level of conduct and discipline among the peacekeepers.

Nepal believes that improved coordination mechanism among the concerned stakeholders is very important to ensure the safety and security of peacekeepers, and protection of the civilians especially women and children. Nepal has endorsed the Kigali principles on the Protection of Civilians and is committed to abiding by those principles.

We have accorded a high priority to train our peacekeepers. Our pre-deployment training includes POC as one of the core areas in the curriculum. They are fully trained and educated on the concept and significance of POC for the effective mandate implementation.

Nepal is concerned about the safety and security of peacekeepers. Nepal strongly condemns all acts of violence against blue helmets and does underline that the safety and security of lives and dignity of all peacekeepers must be ensured.

Mr. Chair,

Nepal has implemented the pledges made previously. We pledge to deploy Units like the UAS using innovative technology in line with the concept of Light Coordination mechanism for ensuring “data-driven and tech-enabled peacekeeping” in partnership with other countries.

Nepal is ready to deploy up to 10,000 troops at the request of the UN. It will also deploy essential units like Quick Reaction Force, Special Force, Reconnaissance, Infantry Battalion, Military Police, and Signal for different UN Missions.

Similarly, we reiterate our commitment to conduct regional and international Peacekeeping training in Nepal’s Peace Operations Training Center and to provide the Center’s facilities, administrative support, and instructors in the future, including POC-TOT Course to prepare qualified instructors.

Nepal is committed to increase women’s participation in the national security forces in line with its national and international commitments. We are committed to use renewable energy through

bilateral/multilateral programs to reduce the environmental footprints in peacekeeping Missions.

Before I close, let me state that Nepal welcomes the Seoul Initiative on Technology and Medical Capacity-Building in Peacekeeping.

Thank you, Chair.