

**Remarks by Hon. Purna Bahadur Khadka, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense of Nepal at the 2023 UN Peacekeeping Ministerial, Ghana, Accra**

**05-06 December 2023**

**Time: Three Minutes**

**Words to Read: 443**

**Mr. Chair**

**Fellow Ministers, and**

**Distinguished Delegates**

**I thank the Government of the Republic of Ghana for hosting this important summit. Kindly extend our greetings from the people and Government of Nepal, the country of Mt Everest.**

**Nepal is a promoter of peace, and a consistent contributor to the UN peacekeeping operations since 1958. We are the 2nd largest troops and police-contributing country, with the current deployment of 6278 UN peacekeepers, including 616 women in 16 different missions across the globe. Till date, 86 peacekeepers have laid down their lives for the noble cause of peace, and 66 have been injured.**

**Nepal supports UN reform initiatives by the UN Secretary-General including Action for Peacekeeping (A4P) and A4P+. This ensures, among others, the need for safety and security of**

**peacekeepers, and commitment towards the protection of civilians.**

**We deploy our contingents without caveats. We ensure that our peacekeepers meet the highest standard of conduct and discipline, and we firmly adhere to zero-tolerance policy against sexual exploitation and abuse.**

**Nepal believes that improved coordination mechanism among the concerned key stakeholders including the T/PCCs is very important to ensure the effectiveness of the peacekeeping. Peacekeeping is a shared partnership and all must unite to accomplish the stated goals.**

**Mr. Chair,**

**Nepal has fulfilled most of its pledges, and the few remaining are being pursued. Nepal is committed to deploy up to 10,000 troops at the request of the UN. This year, we pledge to elevate one Mechanized Infantry Battalion and two FPU's to RDL while continuing to maintain our Special Force unit and Quick Reaction Force in RDL level. We pledge an EOD unit, signal unit, recce unit, QRF Company and MP Company to be upgraded to higher level.**

**Similarly, we look forward to avail our Birendra Peacekeeping Operations Training Centre and its instructors to conduct regional and international Peacekeeping training. Nepal offers a simulation software for UNMO Course to the ITS, DPO.**

**Nepal will continue to meet the Secretary General's Uniformed Gender Parity Strategy target and increase meaningful participation of women by deploying them in operational roles. We are committed to use and promote renewable energy to reduce the environmental footprints in peacekeeping missions. We are deploying renewables in UNMISS and our training center in partnership and are further looking for bilateral/multilateral partnership to meet this end.**

**Finally, to conclude, Nepal expresses its firm commitment for the cause of global peace, under the auspices of the United Nations.**

**Thank you, Mr Chair.**