

SPEECH BY PERMANENT SECRETARY, MF ISTIFANUS, AS HEAD OF THE NIGERIAN DELEGATION FOR THE 2021 SEOUL UNITED NATIONS PEACEKEEPING MINISTERIAL (VIRTUAL) IN LINE WITH ONGOING PEACEKEEPING REFORM EFFORTS WITH SPECIFIC FOCUS ON ACTION FOR PEACEKEEPING PLUS (A4P+)

It is my pleasure to participate in this year 2021 Seoul United Nations Peacekeeping Ministerial. This year's event focuses on ongoing peacekeeping reforms with the Secretary General's renewed focus on Action for Peacekeeping Plus (A4P+) is promising for a time like this. Permit me to express Nigeria's appreciation to the United Nations for offering Member States another opportunity to make the world a better place. The Action for Peacekeeping Plus priorities for the year 2021 – 2023, are great building blocks aimed at ensuring a world free of violence and other related threats to peace and security.

2. Nigeria is a peace-loving nation with the desire to ensuring peace within and outside her shores. This has seen her at the fore front of various peace commitments since 1960. This has seen Nigeria participate in UN Peacekeeping Operations in Congo, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Darfur and many others including the ongoing Mali operations.

3. Nigeria has also met and surpassed her ratio of female troops contribution, for contingents as well as military observer and staff officers deployed at various United Nations post. On Sexual

Exploitation and Abuse, Nigeria has concluded investigations and the reports would be made available to the United Nations at the appropriate time. Nigeria has also re-equipped of the burnt Level 2 Hospital in Timbuktu, Mali and medical outreaches have improved significantly thereby saving lives in the communities, peacekeepers and humanitarian workers.

4. Nigeria aligns with the Secretary General's renewed focus on the Action for Peacekeeping Plus priority areas. Nigeria takes proactive steps to avert security breach within the region. For instance, the former President **Goodluck Jonathan** was appointed as a special envoy to head the ECOWAS mediation mission in Mali in 2020. Also very recently, former President **Olusegun Obasanjo** was appointed to lead the African Union envoy to the Horn of Africa to help discuss modalities for lasting peace and security in the region.

5. At this juncture, may I present Nigeria's pledges as follows:

a. Training institutions such as the **Martin Luther Agwai International Leadership and Peacekeeping Centre (MLAILPKC)** could allocate slots to train personnel of other Troops Contributing Countries (TCCs).

b. Deployment of gender sensitive company strength of personnel to peacekeeping roles of UN missions, with a

minimum of 30 percent female participation (in non-combatant areas) to form part of the pledged company.

6. On this note I wish to assure all delegates and distinguished representatives that the Federal Government of Nigeria will continue to support peace efforts in the world.

7. Thank you and God bless.