

**STATEMENT OF H.E. MR. ZORAN DIMITROVSKI,  
DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND FOREIGN TRADE OF THE  
REPUBLIC OF NORTH MACEDONIA**

*- UN Peacekeeping Ministerial Meeting,*

*Session 1: The Future of peacekeeping*

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Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the outset, I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to the host country, Germany, and to the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Defense of the Federal Republic of Germany for co-hosting this UN Peacekeeping Ministerial in Berlin. I also thank the UN Secretary-General for his keynote address, which sets a constructive tone for our deliberations.

As we commemorate the 80th anniversary of the United Nations and reflect on its achievements since the signing of the Charter in 1945, it is clear that the UN continues to serve as an indispensable platform for all Member States to contribute to the advancement of peace, security, and multilateral cooperation.

There is no doubt that UN peacekeeping and peace operations continue to play a vital role in maintaining international peace and security. In today's context of heightened geopolitical tensions and protracted humanitarian crises, UN peacekeeping remains a critical tool in our collective efforts. With over 100,000 military, police, and civilian personnel deployed across 14 missions, the contribution of the UN to stability in conflict-affected regions is both visible and essential. For many vulnerable populations, UN peacekeepers offer the best hope for peace and stability.

The Republic of North Macedonia strongly supports efforts to enhance the effectiveness, efficiency, responsiveness, and accountability of UN peacekeeping. In this regard, we welcome the Secretary-General's Action for Peacekeeping (A4P) and A4P+ initiatives, which seek to improve the performance and impact of peace operations. Peacekeeping and Special Political Missions are vital instruments, yet they are increasingly challenged by complex and rapidly changing contexts. It is therefore essential that we continue the implementation of A4P and A4P+ recommendations to ensure missions are fit for purpose.

This year also marks 25 years since the adoption of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security. As reiterated in the "Pact for the Future," North Macedonia reaffirms its commitment to the full, equal, safe, and meaningful participation

of women in peace operations. We also stress the importance of integrating gender perspectives in all areas of peace and security—not as a matter of representation alone, but as a strategic priority to enhance mission effectiveness. The future of peacekeeping must be inclusive, gender-responsive, and grounded in intersectional approaches.

Excellencies,

The Republic of North Macedonia greatly values the role UN peacekeeping has played in preventing conflict, protecting civilians, and promoting long-term peace in many parts of the world. We recall with deep appreciation the UN peacekeepers deployed in our own country from 1992 to 1999 as part of the first UN preventive mission, UNPREDEP. Their presence was instrumental in supporting stability during a highly volatile period in our region.

Over the years the country has transformed into an active contributor to international peace and security through its participation in peacekeeping missions led by the UN, NATO and the EU such as the UN mission in Lebanon (UNIFIL), EU for ALTHEA in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

As a NATO member state and a peacekeeping contributor since 2017, North Macedonia attaches great importance to the work of the UN and the contributions made by troop- and police-contributing countries. Recognizing the growing challenges faced by peacekeeping missions, including shortages of personnel and critical capabilities, we are actively exploring options to increase our contributions.

Secretary-General,  
Excellencies,

In closing, I wish to underline the importance of strengthening coherence and synergy between ongoing peace and security reviews, including those related to peacekeeping operations, the peacebuilding architecture, and the Women, Peace and Security agenda. Ensuring the effectiveness of peacekeeping requires not only resources, but also sustained political commitment and strategic coordination.

Peacekeeping is not a substitute for political solutions—it is a tool that supports them. We must invest equally in dialogue, mediation, and reconciliation. The “Pact for the Future” offers a timely opportunity to reimagine our global peace and security architecture. It calls for inclusive, networked multilateralism and a renewed social contract between institutions and people.

UN peacekeeping must continue to evolve in response to increasingly complex crises. Despite the challenges, it remains a vital mechanism for global stability. North Macedonia stands ready to support further reform and contribute meaningfully to peacekeeping efforts.

Let us work together to ensure that peacekeeping is not just a response to conflict, but a foundation for lasting peace and development.

Thank you.