

**UN Ministerial Summit
Performance and Accountability
Seoul, 8 December 2021**

**Presentation
by
Mr. Bent-Joacim Bentzen,
Deputy Minister of the Norwegian Ministry of Defence**

Good afternoon,

Dear Ministers, colleagues, friends, and supporters of UN peace operations. I am delighted to have been given the opportunity to give this presentation.

UN peace operations are **our** peace operations. They belong to us all. Their performance will not improve just because we ask them to. They will improve because **we** put the necessary effort into their development.

Norway is strongly committed to ensure that UN operations continue to play an important role in the maintenance of international peace and security. Therefore, we support the Secretary-General's reform initiative; Action for peacekeeping (A4P) and its current implementation strategy, A4P+. We also support, as should be evident through our pledges, the Seoul Initiative on Technology and Medical capacity building in peacekeeping.

A4P and A4P+ resonate very well with the priorities for the Norwegian membership on the UN Security Council: Peace diplomacy, protection of civilians, women, peace and security, and climate and security. We will continue to engage through policy input, extrabudgetary support, training and capacity building – and not least - through continued contributions to on-going missions with high quality niche capacities.

Our longstanding support to UN Policing is consistent and comprehensive. It includes deployment of highly qualified personnel as well as financial contributions and policy input. We are glad to see that the concept of Specialized Police Teams, pioneered by Norway, has become an established tool.

We also support the Light Coordination Mechanism. It is a unique tool for identifying training requirements and coordinating the supply and demand of capacity-building between troop- and police-contributing countries.

We need to identify gaps in training and equipment, and fill these gaps with troops fit to purpose. Therefore, pending political approval, we pledge what you can read on the slide. And, therefore, we are particularly happy to pledge a high-tech, virtual reality-based, training concept. With our Extended Reality training system, officers from around the world will be able to partake in complex training programs. With ordinary mobile phones, they can connect to our instructors, and efficiently improve their skills for subsequent use in the field.

And, with the same mobile phones, via a high-tech shot location sensor, peacekeepers will in a few seconds be able to locate active shooters in the operations area. With knowledge and technology, we can improve the protection of civilians, and protection of our personnel.

Thank you for your attention.