

Good morning/afternoon,

Mr. President, Ministers, colleagues, friends, and supporters of UN peace operations. Norway is pleased to be a co-sponsor of the first peacekeeping ministerial that is taking place in one the largest troop- and police contributing countries and in an African Country. It is high time, and I would like to commend Ghana for hosting this important meeting.

We all know that peacekeeping operations have always faced difficult challenges in demanding environments. As we meet here in Accra, it is more evident than ever that the global conflict landscape requires urgent action to fortify peace operations for the challenges of our time. We share the Secretary-General's analysis in his "New Agenda for peace": Member States need to reflect on the limits and future of peacekeeping in the light of the evolving nature of conflict, with a view to enabling more nimble, adaptable, and effective mission models while devising transition and exit strategies. Although the days of large integrated UN peacekeeping missions might have passed for now, we should not lose sight of the value inherent in the comprehensive approach that they represent.

Norway is strongly committed to ensure that UN operations, in whatever shape or form they may have, continue to play an important role in the maintenance of international peace and security. Our efforts will be threefold; through participation with highly qualified personnel, through project support, and through training and capacity building.

Firstly, we will continue to provide military and/or police personnel to UNTSO in the Middle East, as well as to the missions in South Sudan and in Colombia. We also second civilian experts to several missions. In addition, we will work together with our Nordic partners to provide a Specialized Police Team.

Second, we will continue to provide extra-budgetary funding to strengthen the capacity of UN missions to deliver on their mandates. This includes support to the Secretary-General's digital transformation strategy as well as support to enhance peacekeeping-intelligence, to strengthen the protection of children in armed conflict, to combat conflict-related sexual violence, to address mis- and disinformation, to gender responsive UN police activities and to the development of thematic manuals under the Strategic Guidance Framework for international policing.

Thirdly, we aim to increase our support for capacity building and pre-deployment training of UN personnel, both nationally and with partners. We believe that as small countries, we can make an even bigger difference by rallying our efforts in selected areas.

We are currently working towards providing training courses within UN prioritized fields together with the Nordic countries as well as with other partners. This includes the co-sponsoring of a UN Police commander course in Kenya in 2025 with the UK and the US.

It is important to keep in mind that lasting peace cannot be achieved nor sustained by military engagement alone. The UN Security Council must ensure that the primacy of politics remains a central tenet of peace operations: They must be deployed based on and in support of a clearly identified political purpose and process. Women's meaningful participation in such processes must be ensured.

Thank you for your attention.