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**Remarks of Ambassador Shehryar Akbar, Deputy
Foreign Minister of Pakistan, on the event of
Peacekeeping Ministerial Meeting
(Accra, 5-6 December 2023)**

Session III: Conditions for Success (incl Host Government Support, Inclusion, Conduct, Strat Comms).

**Hon'ble Ministers,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies & Gentlemen,**

Let me thank the Republic of Ghana for hosting this important Ministerial and for the warm and generous hospitality accorded to us.

Excellencies,

2. The safety of peacekeepers and the populations they serve is a shared interest. Every day, men and women serving under the UN flag put their lives at risk to deliver on a host of mandates, including the vital mandate of the Protection of Civilians (PoC).

3. UN peacekeeping is at a crossroads. It faces daunting challenges, such as a surge in deadly attacks, increasingly complex mandates, the emergence of new conflicts, and the festering of old disputes. Rising to these challenges requires a renewed commitment and a robust partnership among Member States and the United Nations.

4. Peace is Pakistan's enduring aspiration. We are resolutely committed to peace in our region and beyond. For the last six decades, we have committed more than 230,000 of our brave sons and daughters to UN peace operations. They have served with dedication, distinction, and honour. 171 of them made the ultimate sacrifice in the service of peace. Today, Pakistan has around 4300 peacekeepers deployed in 7 UN missions. This includes infantry units, aviation and medical personnel, Formed Police Units and those serving in leadership positions such as the police commissioner. In addition to being a major troop-contributing country (TCC), Pakistan is also host to one of the oldest peacekeeping missions – the UN Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP).

5. I am pleased to note that, the Preparatory Meeting held in Islamabad on August 30-31, 2023, on the theme, "Safety and Security of UN Peacekeepers," played a crucial role in aligning with the broader objectives of this Ministerial meeting.

6. I am honoured to present Pakistan's concrete pledges, as displayed, to strengthen our commitment to UN peacekeeping.

7. I wish to thank you all and look forward to hearing your valuable contributions.

I thank you.

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