

## 2021 Seoul UN Peacekeeping Ministerial

### Concept Note

The Seoul UN Peacekeeping Ministerial on 7-8 December 2021 will be the latest in a series of meetings at head of state, government or ministerial level held since 2014 on United Nations peacekeeping. The summit/ministerial process is co-chaired by 12 Member States and the UN Secretariat. Past meetings have focused primarily on generating and enhancing uniformed capabilities while also considering broader peacekeeping reform priorities, with an emphasis on concrete deliverables and targets, such as increasing the deployment of women peacekeepers.

The Seoul UN Peacekeeping Ministerial and the preparatory process will again focus on achieving concrete and tangible outcomes to improve peacekeeping operations, in line with ongoing peacekeeping reform efforts, specifically A4P+. The Secretary-General has put forward A4P+ as a new implementation strategy for A4P. It encompasses seven priority areas and is designed to enhance implementation of the Declaration of Shared Commitments. The Ministerial will serve as a platform for Member States to contribute their support to this strategy. Member States will be encouraged to create or strengthen bilateral and triangular support and partnerships to ensure these improvements are sustained and have impact.

In consideration of the impact of medical support and technology on enhancing peacekeeping, the Seoul UN Peacekeeping Ministerial will highlight medical capacity building and technology in peacekeeping as important cross-cutting issues. The Ministerial will draw on the Strategy for the Digital Transformation of UN Peacekeeping and specifically articulated UN requirements for medical support, as well as discuss opportunities to improve the environmental footprint of peacekeeping. Women, Peace, and Security, which has been a key focus of previous Ministerials, will have a dedicated side event and will be mainstreamed throughout the preparatory process and the Ministerial itself.

All peacekeeping stakeholders must work collectively to make concrete progress towards implementation of A4P+, as well as the cross-cutting themes, many of which are encompassed within. In line with A4P+, we will work towards “data-driven and tech-enabled peacekeeping” as well as to strengthen medical capacities in line with the priority on “accountability to peacekeepers.” The Seoul UN Peacekeeping Ministerial will provide an opportunity for Member States to pledge practical as well as political support to further these objectives.

### Objectives and outcomes

The objective of the 2021 Ministerial is to strengthen UN peacekeeping, including by improving the performance and impact of UN peacekeeping operations in line with A4P+; and to further this objective, close capability gaps through concrete pledges including by facilitating new and sustainable partnerships while strengthening existing ones.

To define concrete and tangible outcomes, the Co-chairs and Member States will draw on the A4P and A4P+ priorities, white papers and concept notes, the results of the preparatory

meetings, as well as on external experts, as relevant. Pledges should be guided by and specifically respond to the needs defined by the United Nations, such as pressing military and police capability gaps, gender participation targets, and training requirements. A pledge by a Member State should be a commitment from the highest political level with a tangible and concrete outcome that will be implemented in a specific timeframe. Pledges typically involve personnel, financial or technical contributions to United Nations peacekeeping, either directly or in partnership with Member States making direct contributions of uniformed personnel.

Peacekeeping is powerful demonstration of multilateral cooperation and effective partnership. In the case of capacity-building pledges as part of sustainable and longer-term partnerships, these should support an identified need with a specific partner or partners, and which will lead to or improve an existing contribution to peacekeeping including existing Secretariat capacity-building programmes.

The unprecedented challenges posed by COVID-19 have further highlighted the importance of better preparing and equipping peacekeepers with appropriate and effective medical and technological capacities. In this regard, Member states will also be encouraged to develop pledges focusing on advancing medical capacity and technology in peacekeeping.

### Preparatory process

Four preparatory meetings hosted by the Co-chairs will lead up to the Seoul Peacekeeping Ministerial. Each preparatory meeting will focus on specific areas and related objectives and outcomes. A Preparatory Conference on Sustaining Peace, co-hosted by Bangladesh, Canada and the United Kingdom, was held in November 2020 and a Preparatory Conference on Partnerships for Performance and Accountability, co-hosted by Rwanda and the United States was held on 21-22 July 2021. Going forward, the following meetings are planned:

- **1-2 Sept 2021** – Preparatory Conference on Partnerships and Training and Capacity Building, co-hosted by Ethiopia, Indonesia and Japan (Virtual)
- **25-26 October 2021** – Preparatory Conference on Protection of Civilians and Safety and Security, co-hosted by the Netherlands and Pakistan (Virtual)
- **7-8 December 2021** – Seoul Peacekeeping Ministerial

The Ministerial process will also be informed by the December 2019 meeting on Peacekeeping Performance, meetings of the Light Coordination Mechanism on training and capacity building, meetings on the safety and security of peacekeepers, actions taken to advance accountability for performance, as well as additional meetings or processes related to other A4P commitments and themes, including transitions.