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STATEMENT

By H.E. Joanna Wronecka

**The Permanent Representative of the Republic of Poland to the United Nations
The Head of the Delegation of the Republic of Poland to the Peacekeeping Ministerial**

29 march 2019, New York

Mr. Chairman,

Distinguished Ministers, Ambassadors,

Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and Gentelmen,

Poland has always been a strong supporter of the United Nations peacekeeping operations. We regard them as an important tool of the international community in preserving global peace and security. The contemporary security challenges however, require whole of the United Nations available means to engage.

It needs to be underlined, that one of the firsts who stepped up to confront these challenges was the Secretary General, Mr. Antonio Guterres. His perseverance in actions and determination in decisions resulted in wide engagement in the Action for Peacekeeping.

Bearing in mind the importance of today's meeting I would like to reiterate Poland's strong and continuous support to A4P as one of the most important initiatives aiming to improve both the safety and security of peacekeepers and effectiveness of peacekeeping missions.

This is indeed, one of the lessons already learned by Poland, after a decade-long gap in contributing to the UN operations: challenges alongside with tremendous progress made by organization to increase the effectiveness of its efforts.

The return to UN peace operations remains one of our priorities during the non-permanent membership in UN Security Council. This was announced by our President during the September 2018 A4P High Level Event. Therefore, we have positively reacted to the request concerning deployment of a maneuver company to UNIFIL. Let me express gratitude to Ireland for opening for us the door to return to this operation.

Mr. Chairman,

Polish engagement in peacekeeping has a multi-role character. It is coherent with EU-UN Strategic Priorities on Peace Operations. It also confirms our commitment to stabilize the southern neighborhood of Europe.

One of our focus is protection of civilians, aimed not only at providing security, but also at supporting the local community. Therefore, one of the elements of our presence in Lebanon will be the civilian-military cooperation focused on the development projects. As a result, our approach will be comprehensive and oriented towards building partnership relations with host country and its people. Hence, protection of civilians is an important part of our peacekeepers preparation process. It is an inherent element of every soldier training, though changing a green helmet to the blue one, it must be of particular importance.

In order to meet the requirements and deploy our soldiers fully trained, Polish Armed Forces have already initiated necessary preparations. Last month we hosted UN Assessment and Advisory Visit. Let me express here our gratefulness to the DPO team for providing us with the expertise and guidelines on several aspects of our future deployment. We also plan to initiate further consultations with UN as soon as possible. This process would include our partners within Irish battalion.

Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In conclusion, I would also like to express our strong support the Woman, Peace and Security agenda. Referring to the question of expanding women participation in peacekeeping, let me admit that we encourage women to join Polish Armed Forces and have adopted no barriers policy for female soldiers to be deployed. Taking that into account, the most efficient way to ensure the appropriate women ratio in Polish contribution to UN peacekeeping effort is to continue actively promote female soldiers service.