

Closing Remarks

by H.E. Chung Eui-yong

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2021 Seoul U.N. Peacekeeping Ministerial

December 8, 2021

Ministers and Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It has been a remarkable journey.
Since the last Peacekeeping Ministerial in 2019,
we have come a long way
to realize this meeting.

Despite the last-minute changes to make this a virtual meeting,
the 2021 Ministerial has been a resounding success.

It allowed us to renew our shared commitment
toward a more peaceful and secure world.

77 representatives delivered their remarks from around the globe.
More than 60 of them registered their pledges
to better equip and prepare our peacekeepers,
as well as to improve peacekeeping missions as a whole.
I encourage more countries to join by registering their pledges
even after this Ministerial is over.

Reaffirming their strong support on the Action for Peacekeeping plus (A4P+), many have prepared their pledges in line with its key priorities.

Notable pledges include, among others, aviation assets such as helicopters, transport aircraft, unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV), training on protection of civilians and counter IED (Improvised Explosive Devices), and, of course, capable troop and police contributions.

The forging of new bilateral and triangular partnerships announced yesterday and today will undoubtedly boost our efforts to strengthen U.N. PKO in a sustainable way.

I was particularly delighted to see many participants highlighted that more participation of women is a key to success of the peace operations and shared their efforts in this regard.

In line with this Ministerial's cross-cutting theme, technology and medical capacity building, we also saw commitments to much-needed enabling capabilities.

These include support for first-aid assistance and COVID-19 vaccines, as well as deployment of medical units and medical training.

Many Member States also pledged to support the digital transformation of PKOs through technology training courses and relevant funding.

Distinguished representatives,

Our work this week has special meaning for Korea. It was these kinds of activities that we have discussed that helped rebuild a war-torn Korea.

Korea is the living example of how our peacekeeping efforts can bear real fruit for the future.

For example, the National Medical Center of Korea was established in 1958 in the aftermath of the Korean War with the support from Sweden, Denmark, and Norway.

In 1976, Korea was able to fly its very first military helicopter thanks to the partnership with the United States.

Today, Korea's Level 2 mobile hospital is in operation in Mali and 16 helicopters to be provided by Korea¹⁾ will support operations of the U.N. peacekeeping missions in Africa.

1) 아프리카 임무단 內 헬기 부대 운용중인 공여국에 500MD 헬기(16대) 공여 (협의 중)
- 말리 임무단 엘살바도르軍(8대), 소말리아 임무단 케냐軍(8대) 지원 검토중

I cannot emphasize enough
the importance of equipping peacekeepers
with key technology and medical capabilities
as well as sustained partnerships among Member States.

In this light,
I am very grateful that
many countries around the world echoed their commitment to
the “Seoul Initiative on Technology and Medical Capacity-Building in
Peacekeeping” launched today.

I look forward to the “Seoul Initiative”
helping to ready our peacekeepers
meet their goals and mandates
to keep peace and protect vulnerable civilians on the ground.

The Smart Camp model put forward by my government, in particular,
is a good example of our dedication to this matter.

Fellow Ministers, Distinguished Delegates,

Back in 1950, maintaining peace on the Korean Peninsula
was an urgent matter of discussion at the U.N. Security Council.

More than 70 years later,
I was filled with such honor and excitement to lead
this virtual gathering to discuss peacekeeping
as a Foreign Minister of the very country
once in dire need of U.N.’s help.

As I emphasized back in March
on the occasion of the 3rd anniversary of A4P initiative,²⁾
I can reassure you that
my government's commitment
to inclusive, forward-looking peacekeeping
with a special focus on building sustainable peace
will not end with this Ministerial.

We will work together with all Member States
to sustain the strong momentum created today,
and to translate our deliberation
into real changes in the field.

It is time to get to work, to deliver.

We need to implement our pledges and continue our efforts
to make U.N. peacekeeping as able as possible
to respond to the challenges before us.

These efforts cannot be realized by one stakeholder alone.
All of us, Member States, the United Nations,
the troops and police officers, civilians,
and all other partners
should unite for a better future.

Thank you very much. /End/

2) 유엔 평화유지구상(A4P) 3주년 기념행사(21.3.29.) 장관님 기조연설
- (요지) 평화유지구상 역할(PKO 효과성 강화) 평가 / 포용성·지속 가능한 평화
구축·새로운 안보도전 대응 등 PKO 발전 방향 제시 등