

Distinguished audience,

First of all I would like to congratulate the Republic of Ghana for the efforts to organize this ministerial meeting in this challenging context.

I believe this ministerial sends a strong message that Africa's contribution to peacekeeping is not only materialized in troop contribution, but stable countries like Ghana, are also offering important forums for discussions and finding the best ways to address the current challenges.

Romania recently adopted a National Strategy for Africa, through which our country wants to demonstrate that is committed to security and stability on this continent, to boost relations with African countries and bring them to the appropriate level recognizing Africa's growing relevance on the international scene.

We fully support strengthening the EU-UN partnership, by implementing the joint priorities on crisis management and peace operations 2022-2024. Also, it is important to make full use of the EU-UN Framework Agreement on Mutual Support for the missions and operations in the field.

At the same time, we support the continuation of operational efforts in Africa, in line with the principle "African Solutions to African problems". Local ownership, as well as cooperation with regional and international efforts is key in preventing the spread of threats and the influence of malign actors and the expansion of instability.

Romania will continue to support UN efforts to ensure international peace and security taking into consideration that the success of peacekeeping operations is achieved through proper training, availability of needed capabilities and proper selection.

We remain strongly committed to implement Action for Peacekeeping (A4P) and Action for Peacekeeping + (A4P+) Priorities.

As an active member of the UN, Romania has integrated one of the commitments of the A4P, the gender perspective, into all aspects of national security. We have a National Strategy and National Action Plan on the implementation of UNSCR 1325/2000 Women, Peace and Security and the Ministry of National Defense has taken the lead in promoting and implementing the WPS Agenda at the National level by creating a dedicated structure.

I would like to mention one particular event that Bucharest hosted last month during its co-chairship with USA of the Global Focal Points Network. During their mandate both countries have pursued the adaptability of the WPS framework in a more inclusive approach, platform for common interests for all the National Focal Points, adjusting the WPS efforts and actions towards meeting the global challenges and ongoing support for National Points in designing and implementing their National Action Plans. On the same occasion, Romania has joined the Compact on Women, Peace and Security and Humanitarian Assistance Sector.

Romania also has been supporting, since 2016, the activity of the UN Office of the Special Coordinator on improving the UN response to Sexual Exploitation and Abuse, with a military expert on law matters, and we remain committed to addressing the issue. Hence, we intend to maintain this highly valuable contribution.

Another commitment of the A4P regards the protection of peacekeepers. In order to manage the threat posed by Explosive Devices and enhances the security of the peacekeepers, I would mention that, besides one C-27J Spartan aircraft, experts on mission and staff, Romania pledged to maintain in UN Peacekeeping Capabilities Readiness System (UNPCRS) an EOD group, comprised of 30 service personnel.

Ladies and gentlemen, we consider that more than ever, the key word should be “cooperation”. UN cannot be efficient without cooperation of member states. Also there is higher need for cooperation with NGOs and with other international and regional organizations. Even within UN, there are projects that can be better sustained with the contribution of more countries or organization.

We are looking forward to cooperate with Portugal in order to integrate in 2024, 40 Romanian troops within the Portuguese QRF in MINUSCA. This kind of partnership is possible due to involvement and support of all parts at the highest level (Portugal, Romania and UN officials).

We express our gratitude to the openness of the United Nations and to our partners from Portugal regarding our intention to participate to MINUSCA and we hope that the procedures will be finalized without any gaps, in order to deploy our contingent in 2024.

Ladies and gentlemen,

We have to acknowledge that the global security environment becomes more dynamic every year, more unpredictable and we are facing a new and large spectrum of challenges, expanding from the classic conflicts to hybrid, complex threats. Nowadays, more than ever, a comprehensive and integrated approach to security is key to achieving international peace and security.

Thank you for your attention!