

***Remarks by Hon Minister of Defence of Rwanda, Maj Gen
Albert Murasira on Protection of Civilians in UN
Peacekeeping (Theme III)***

The UN Secretary General, Honorable Ministers, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

As one of the ten member states that facilitated the consultation on the Shared Commitments it is my pleasure to add a voice on the **necessity of enhancing the implementation of Protection of civilians mandates** in UN Peacekeeping missions.

Whereas there is a range of factors that characterize the efficiency of peacekeeping missions, **the number of people saved from deaths, injuries and displacement** is indisputably the core indicator of successful peace restoration efforts. Every time a Peacekeeping mission is accompanied by important **civilian losses** the mission is considered a failed one.

We strongly believe that the **success** of peacekeeping missions and protection of civilians depends on commitment of peacekeepers, their commanders and their own governments. We feel that the Protection of Civilians **challenges** can be addressed through institutional reforms, change of mind-sets as well as drawing lessons from past mistakes and inactions.

Most of you may have appreciated the benefits of the **Kigali Principles on Protection of Civilians**. These are a set of eighteen commitments for the **effective implementation** of the protection of civilians in UN peacekeeping, currently **endorsed by 49** UN member states. All UN member states are here called upon to support the efforts to improve performance and

accountability in peacekeeping by **implementing** the Kigali Principles.

In line with the **United Nations goal** of increasing women peacekeepers, the Republic of Rwanda is currently ranked 2nd highest major contributor of female police and troops and we are committed even to do more.

The Republic of Rwanda supports the idea of increasing the number of French speaking peacekeepers deployed in French speaking host countries to achieve effective communication in the mission area.

Distinguished Delegates, before I close, let me restate the Republic of Rwanda's pledge to Uniformed Capability Requirements:

The Republic of Rwanda pledges an **Infantry Battalion** to stay on the rapid deployment level in 2019-2020, an **Engineering Unit** with vertical and horizontal engineering capabilities and a **level 2 Hospital** both being smart pledges in partnership with the United States of America for the 2020-2021 at rapid deployment level, and a **FPU** to also stay on the rapid deployment level in 2020-2021

Thank you very much for your attention.