

## **THE 2021 UN PEACEKEEPING MINISTERIAL: RWANDA'S MINISTRY OF DEFENCE KEY NOTE**

The Honorable Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea,

Honorable Ministers present,

The Under Secretary Generals, Department of Operations and Operational Support

Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is an honor to speak on this occasion and share the Rwandan perspectives and support to Peacekeeping operations.

In July 2021, Rwanda and USA co-chaired one of the preparatory meetings themed: Partnerships for Performance and Accountability. This meeting like others organized by other member States, was in line with achieving the Actions for Peacekeeping Plus (A4P+) priorities that we all support. I will just limit my speech to a few priorities that were in line with our theme during the Preparatory meeting on Partnerships for Performance and Accountability.

We all believe that peacekeeping missions are only impactful if stakeholders pull in the same direction and are guided by the mandate. To achieve this, it is imperative that we build strong partnerships to bridge individual member- state gaps in capabilities and training. Rwanda recognizes the power of strong partnership, judging from the Partnership in peacekeeping we had with the United States, right from 2004.

Today, as we plan to go digital in enhancing mandate delivery, the need to forge strong partnerships in training, logistics and digital capability is becoming greater than ever before.

The peacekeeping environment is always challenging and threats evolve at unprecedented rate. For the peacekeepers to adapt to this ever-changing operating environment and perform to the expectations of the host nation and the wider international community, they need to train hard, equipped sufficiently but above all, they need to have the mindset required to confront the challenges of Protection of Civilians. Rwanda believes that the 3 are inseparable if the performance and accountability are to be achieved.

Rwanda remains concerned with the safety and security of peacekeepers and urge the stakeholders to work together to hold accountable the responsible of the crimes against peacekeepers and also urges peacekeepers to avoid some undeclared caveats that sometimes lead to inaction, the poor performance of the mission's mandate and compromise safety and security of fellow peacekeepers.

As we all embrace the implementation of the digital strategy to better perform and meet the expectations of the host nation and the wider international community, through using technology to enable Command, Control Communication Computer Intelligence Survey and Reconnaissance (C4ISR) in conducting military operations, medical, transportation activities, etc Rwanda aims at deploying **4 units of drones for ISR capabilities to enhance real-time intelligence collection and sharing to allow operations planning and military response based on accurate intelligence; 2 Flying hospitals (a fixed-wing and rotary-wing) for Medical evacuation and Casualty evacuation to enhance the safety and security of peacekeepers.**

In the medical line of effort, I wish to remind the audience that Rwanda has Level 2 Medical Hospital in MINUSCA and has a registered pledge of another complete Level 2 Hospital with Light Mobile Surgical Module in the Peacekeeping Capacity Readiness System (PCRS) readily available for deployment. Rwanda will also continue cooperation with other stakeholders in the framework of Light Coordination Mechanisms and Triangular Partnership Programs.

In line with the implementation of the Vancouver Principles, Rwanda also pledges training and capacity building initiatives at regional level (including the provision of national trainers) on three priority issue areas including Protection of Civilians, child protection, and Women Peace and Security implemented by the African Centre of Excellence located in Kigali, Rwanda.

It should also be mentioned that Rwanda fully supports Seoul Initiative on Technology and Medical Capacity Building in Peacekeeping. Adopting this strategy will adapt field peace missions to the rapidly changing threats.

Honorable Ministers, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, I cannot end my remarks without reiterating Rwanda's commitment to Women, Peace and Security agenda. Rwanda continues its journey to increase the participation of women in peacekeeping missions and also to assign them command and leadership responsibilities and hope to meet the UN target in near future.

I thank you for your kind attention.