

PEACEKEEPING MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE 2023

REMARKS BY THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE OF THE REPUBLIC OF RWANDA

HONORABLE JUVENAL MARIZAMUNDA

Accra, 6 December 2023,

Your Excellences, Distinguished delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen

It is an honor to take the floor, but first and foremost, allow me to thank Ghana for the hospitality and wonderful preparation of this event. I also thank those who spoke before me.

The peacekeeping operating environment has been described, and remedial measures have been taken. We have been exchanging about capabilities required to overcome the challenges of protecting civilians and improving the safety and security of our peacekeepers. The threats keep evolving, we must adapt and deal with the complex challenges of the contemporary peacekeeping environment.

In the current context, we cannot underestimate digital technology's power in improving peacekeeping capabilities' efficiency and effectiveness. We are navigating the informational era, and I strongly believe that digital technology should be the driver of change we must make in all peacekeeping aspects.

Rwanda's contribution to peacekeeping has been mainly the infantry units and formed Police Units. Rwanda has also contributed an Aviation Unit in UNMISS since 2012 and a Level 2 field hospital in MINUSCA, with another one on standby for deployment in case of need.

Presently, Rwanda has pledged a complete system of Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Unit made of TACTICAL AND Medium Altitude Long Endurance (MALE) in a bid to improve the Intelligence Surveillance and Reconnaissance required to make informed decisions and effectively respond to threats to civilians and even to peacekeepers.

Rwanda intends to also deploy ALL VEHICLE TERRAIN to improve the mobility of troops in Malakal in the rainy season, as recommended by the previous Contingent Owned Equipment Working Group (COE WG)

In addition, since capacity building is an everyday endeavor, Rwanda also intends to contribute to it in the framework of the Triangular Partnership Program (TPP) and even the Light Coordination Mechanism (LCM).

Excellencies, distinguished delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen

I want to reiterate the need to enhance community engagement as a key to the peacekeeping mandate. Rwanda will continue its human security approach when engaging with the communities in Rwandan Units Areas of Operations. Helping overcome real-life issues such as health, environment, education, and sanitization, just to name, builds trust and confidence between peacekeepers and communities, which is the cornerstone of a successful mandate delivery.

To conclude, I want to assure you that Rwanda is committed to the implementation of Action for Peace (A4P) and will also spare no effort to improve peacekeepers' capacity by deploying able personnel with the state of mind required to confront the hardships of the operating environment, as guided by the Kigali Principles on the Protection of Civilians.

I thank you for your attention