

*Chairperson,
Esteemed Colleagues,*

First of all, I would like to thank the Republic of Korea for organising this important gathering in extremely difficult circumstances when the entire world is facing the pandemic caused by COVID virus and makes considerable efforts to curb all its new forms.

Regardless of all difficulties imposed by the current circumstances, including the fact that the fight against corona virus is still in its full swing, the Republic of Serbia remains strongly committed to ensuring the continuity of contribution it provides to building and maintaining the peace in the world. The engagement in United Nations peacekeeping operations places the Republic of Serbia among significant contributors, especially through the provision of critical and lacking capacities, such as military medical ones, whose importance has been recognised during the preparations for the ministerial as well.

The Republic of Serbia is ready to analyse the opportunities for further enhancement of its engagement and contribution, which implies the provision of full support to the implementation of the Secretary General's Initiative Action for Peace (A4P). The level of the engagement of up to 300 personnel in six United Nations peacekeeping operations will be maintained in the period to come with the focus being placed on the operations in Lebanon - UNIFIL and the Central African Republic - MINUSCA.

For the future needs of the maintenance of peace in Lebanon, the Republic of Serbia will ensure the engagement of an infantry company in UNIFIL, in collaboration with the Kingdom of Spain, and a force protection platoon in collaboration with the Republic of Italy.

The engagement of role 2+ military hospital in the Central African Republic represents a crown of the contribution of the Republic of Serbia to peacekeeping operations. Its qualities, particularly in the time of COVID-19, have been recognised and evaluated as excellent by both the United Nations and Member States, but first of all by MINUSCA contributors. Up till now, many peacekeepers' lives have been saved and it is a motive for further engagement of Serbian medical personnel in the Central African Republic.

The Republic of Serbia will maintain its engagement in Cyprus in UNFICYP with its Military Police in cooperation with the United Kingdom, and in other operations where it has already deployed its Military Observers, Staff Officers, Police and Correction Officers.

*Mister Chairman,
Dear friends,*

The presented contribution of the Republic of Serbia will surely continue having a positive impact on the overall peacekeeping performance under the auspices of the United Nations, and the enhancement of accountability to the personnel engaged in peacekeeping operations, chiefly in the field of their protection through ensuring high quality medical care. Hence, the Performance and Accountability as one of defined areas of the Action for Peace Initiative,

represents an important precondition for further engagement of the Republic of Serbia in peacekeeping operations.

Apart from the said, in order to implement the Action for Peace Initiative, the Republic of Serbia pays considerable attention to the creation of conditions for the 1) incensement of the women representation and engagement in the peacekeeping operations, and 2) for more active participation in the Light Coordination Mechanism.

Out of the entire number of deployed Serbian peacekeepers, 15% are females. Also, almost a half of the personnel engaged in the Level 2+ hospital in MINUSCA are women. In the forthcoming period, a special attention will be paid to the increase of the percentage of women being deployed in categories of Military Observers and Staff Officers.

The Serbian Armed Forces have developed significant capacities and capabilities for pre-deployment training for peacekeeping operations, and it is ready for more intensive cooperation and partnerships under the umbrella of the Light Coordination Mechanism.

Likewise, under the auspices of the Action for Peace Initiative, the Republic of Serbia is especially interested in the priority of improving the cooperation with host countries, having in mind that it itself is a host country to one of the United Nations operations and that it insists on the necessity of consistent observance of UN SC Resolution 1244, and the continuation of UNMIK engagement in undiminished scope and with unchanged mandate.

Finally, to all participants of this Conference I would like to wish a safe and prosperous future of their states, a life of wellbeing, peace and stable international environment founded on equality, mutual respect and consistent implementation of international law.