

UNPKM 2023, 5-6 December 2023, Accra (Republic of Ghana)
Draft Statement of State Secretary in the Ministry of Defence Nemanja Starović

Under-Secretary-General Khare, (acting in accordance with assigned session)

Distinguished Ministers,

Excellences,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Dear Colleagues,

First of all, I would like to thank the Republic of Ghana for hospitality and for organising such an important gathering in close cooperation with the United Nations Secretariat, particularly having in mind very difficult circumstances in which, sadly, there are armed conflict that rage all over the world for which it becomes ever more difficult to find appropriate, compromise and long-term solutions, both at regional and global levels.

Regardless of the ever more complex security situation in the world, and internal challenges that the Republic of Serbia faces to preserve its territorial integrity, it continues to be steadfastly oriented towards providing continued contribution to peace under the auspices of the United Nations.

Members of the Serbian Armed Forces and Ministry of the Interior are being engaged in four out of 12 peacekeeping operations under the mandate of the United Nations, with more than 270 members. With its engagement in peacekeeping operations, the Republic of Serbia stands among the most significant European contributors. Also, in the previous period, the Republic of Serbia has provided a significant contribution in the field of mental health support for uniformed personnel of the United Nations through engagement in various projects. In the years to come, the Republic of Serbia will continue the long-standing practice of providing support to United Nations peacekeeping operations.

As a significant contributor, the Republic of Serbia carefully keeps track of the challenges that peacekeeping operations face, and it supports the efforts made by the Secretary General and the United Nations Secretariat, including the initiatives titled “Action for Peace Initiative” and “New Agenda for Peace” aimed at adapting the approach to peacekeeping through the acknowledgement of the reality of current conflicts.

Apart from contributing to United Nations mandated peacekeeping operations through the engagement of its military and police troops, the Republic of Serbia intends, in the upcoming period, to dedicate more attention and energy to providing support to the Secretariat of the United Nations in terms of education and building capacities for the needs of the peacekeeping operations.

Having the said in mind, it is my honour to pledge new contribution to peacekeeping under the auspices of the United Nations.

- ✓ As a Host country, the Republic of Serbia is ready to support the Secretariat of the United Nations during the realisation of two courses planned in the first half of 2024, as well as one course to be conducted in 2025. The realisation of the courses in 2024 has already been agreed, and final stages of their immediate preparations are in progress.
- ✓ Furthermore, in the next two years, the Republic of Serbia stands at the disposal of the Secretariat of the United Nations to second three mobile training teams to member states that require such support.
- ✓ By supporting United Nations Triangular Partnership Programme, the Republic of Serbia will in 2024 and 2025 provide certified instructors for the conduct of United Nations Field Medical Assistants Course.

Apart from the announced pledges in terms of new contributions, allow me to reiterate the commitment of the Republic of Serbia to remain, in the period to come, a reliable partner in peacekeeping under the auspices of the United Nations, including the participation in current initiatives relating to arriving at ways to enhance peacekeeping operations.

Thank you for your attention.