



**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF
SIERRA LEONE TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

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STATEMENT

by

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at the

**Peacekeeping Ministerial on Uniformed Capabilities,
Performance and Protection**

New York, 29th March 2019

Check Against Delivery

Mr. Secretary General of the United Nations,
The Under Secretary Generals,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am honoured to attend this meeting and wish to thank the Secretary General for hosting this important event. Let me convey greetings from the Government and people of Sierra Leone to your Excellencies and Delegations here present.

The Government of Sierra Leone remains committed to the maintenance of international peace and security and reaffirm its support for the Action for Peacekeeping Initiative. Sierra Leone was among the first countries to endorse the declaration of shared commitments on United Nations peacekeeping operations. The country is determined to participate actively in peacekeeping operations in contributing military and formed police units. In support of the Secretary General's call for increased female participation in peacekeeping operations, Sierra Leone has already exceeded the target set and is willing to deploy more as pledged in the Peacekeeping Capability Readiness System.

Currently, Sierra Leone has United Nations Military Experts on Mission deployed to UNISFA, UNAMID, MINUSCA, UNIFIL, UNMISS, MINUSMA, UNSOA and UNSOM including a Formed Police Unit in AMISOM.

Sierra Leone accepts the prevention of conflict as the most effective way to protect civilians as highlighted in the Secretary General's Remarks on the protection of civilians in Armed Conflicts. However, due to the complex challenges faced in conflict prevention, there is need to improve on both the protection of civilians and peacekeepers as highlighted in the Cruz Report of January 2018, including the Cairo Road Map as a collective African Vision enhancing the performance of United Nations Peacekeeping Operations. Sierra Leone has therefore taken appropriate steps to enhance the professional military skills of personnel through training prior to deployment.

I therefore on behalf of the Government of Sierra Leone pledge a Quick Reaction Force Company, Force Protection Company and Long Range Reconnaissance Task Force Group. In addition to its current pledge of an Infantry battalion, the country hereby pledges 80 United Nations Military Experts on Mission for United Nations Peacekeeping operations deployment that will comprise 30% female personnel.

Excellencies, Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, I thank you for your attention.