



**S L O V A K I A**

**Statement  
by**

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**at 2021 UN Peacekeeping Ministerial**

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Dear Secretary General, Mr. Chair, Fellow Ministers, National Delegates,

I would like to express my gratitude for organizing this meeting that represents a truly valuable opportunity to discuss the current challenges that peacekeeping missions are facing.

Peacekeeping missions and operations represent one of the most crucial instruments in safeguarding peace and security. When we discuss peacekeeping, we need to focus on both, people living in fragile environment of regional conflicts as well as men and women who work in often difficult circumstances to secure it. Slovakia has been actively contributing to UN peacekeeping missions since its independence in 1993. Unfortunately, we are very much aware of the high price of peace, as six of our brave soldiers gave their lives to protect it. Therefore, Slovakia welcomes the efforts to improve the safety and security of our peacekeepers by maximizing the potential of current and new technologies as proposed in Seoul Initiative on Technology and Medical Capacity Building in Peacekeeping.

Slovakia is committed to supporting UN actions in response to conflicts that cause harm to civilians and threaten regional security and stability. We support the launch of the next phase of the UN Secretary-General's A4P initiative. Enhancing the priorities of A4P and A4P+ requires our contributions. Therefore, Slovakia is pledging to host "UN Infantry Battalion Course" to train UN Military Observers and UN Staff Officers in the second half of 2022.

Furthermore, we believe that it is our duty to foster security of our personnel by keeping the pace with an ever-changing environment. That's why we will contribute 120 000 Euro evenly to 4 extra budgetary projects focused on (1) strengthening cybersecurity resilience, (2) UN Peacekeeping Capabilities, Performance and Accountability, and, last but not least, (3) enhancing the digital transformation. In 2022, Slovakia will continue to support the UN Mine Action Service in Iraq and projects of the United Nations Trust Facility – UNSCAR by its contribution of 50 000 Euro to both trust funds.

Slovak Republic has been long supporting the peace process in Cyprus on two levels - through the deployment of the Armed Forces of the Slovak Republic to UNFICYP and through active diplomacy by providing a platform for bi-communal dialogue. In the light of improving technical capabilities in the UN missions, Slovakia is supporting the possible employment of modern technological solutions in the UN missions. Namely in UNFICYP in the form of surveillance equipment to enhance our technological capabilities of the mission and to increase effectiveness of the mission tasks.

Thank you for your attention.