

United Nations Peacekeeping Ministerial - BERLIN 2025

Pledging Session I - Training and Capacity Building, Partnerships, Cross-Cutting Issues

Statement of the Slovak Republic

Dear Secretary-General,
Excellencies, Ministers, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is an honor to address the 2025 Berlin UN Peacekeeping Ministerial.

Slovakia firmly supports United Nations peacekeeping, recognizing its vital contribution to conflict prevention and the maintenance of lasting peace. Since 1993, more than 11,000 Slovak men and women have served under the UN flag most notably in UNFICYP and as military observers in UNTSO.

Through these experiences, we have learned that UN peace operations must remain agile and continually adapt to evolving security threats and complex political environments.

On this occasion, I would like to highlight Slovakia's concrete contributions and commitments to UN peacekeeping, which align with the priorities of this Ministerial and have been registered in the Peacekeeping Capability Readiness System.

First, we will host specialized "Train-the-Trainer" courses in 2026, with a possible repeat in 2027, at our Military Academy in Liptovský Mikuláš. These courses will be based on the UN Infantry Battalion Specialized Training Materials, equipping future instructors with advanced peacekeeping skills and ensuring that new deployments benefit from standardized, high-quality training.

Second, we aim to reach 12% female representation in our SLOVCON infantry company and engineering platoon within UNFICYP by the next rotation in September 2025, thus aligning with the Secretary-General's 2025 target for women in contingent troops.

Third, we plan to achieve a 25% female presence among our Individual Police Officers (IPOs) in the UNPOL component of the UNFICYP mission, even though we have already exceeded 60% female representation with our current deployment.

Additionally, although not among Slovakia's main pledges, following national certification in August 2025, we plan to upgrade our demining unit for greater flexibility in deployment without caveats. Currently registered for UNFICYP, the unit aims to attain Level 2 certification in the Peacekeeping Capability Readiness System (PCRS). This enhancement covering manual and mechanical demining as well as Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) will enable deployment to other missions (e.g., UNIFIL) and various humanitarian demining efforts.

We believe that peacekeeping is a shared responsibility, extending beyond uniformed personnel to include strategic investment. Slovakia has therefore earmarked 100,000 euros (EUR) for 2025 to support key United Nations (UN) funds and programs.

These efforts focus on regulating conventional arms through the United Nations Trust Facility Supporting Cooperation on Arms Regulation (UNSCAR), advancing the digital transformation of peacekeeping operations via Extra-Budgetary (XB) resources, and supporting mine action in Iraq through the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS).

Looking ahead, we welcome the UN's emphasis on forward-thinking peacekeeping models, innovative technology, and stronger synergies between peacekeeping and peacebuilding.

As we work together to strengthen training programs, expand the role of women in uniformed services, and deploy specialized capabilities, Slovakia reaffirms its commitment to protecting those most affected by conflict and to reinforcing the collective foundation for peace.

Thank you for your attention.