



STATEMENT

By

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of the Republic of Slovenia

at the

UN PEACEKEEPING MINISTERIAL:
Uniformed Capabilities, Performance & Protection

Check against delivery

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Your Excellency, Secretary-General Antonio Guterres,
Your excellencies, ladies and gentlemen.

Thank you for giving me the floor. First of all, let me emphasize that the Republic Slovenia supports the A4P (Action for Peacekeeping) initiative by the Secretary-General, and the efforts to make peacekeeping operations an even more credible, successful and effective mechanism for establishing peace in crisis areas in many parts of the world. As an active and responsible member of the international community, the Republic of Slovenia will continue to strive for active involvement of the international community in managing the situation in crisis areas. In doing so, it will focus on preventive action, finding peaceful solutions, human safety, and respect for the international law and human rights.

The Republic of Slovenia supports the implementation of UN resolutions concerning peacekeeping operations, It regularly fulfils its financial obligations in peacekeeping operations, and has contributed nearly half a billion dollars to its peacekeeping contingents over the past twenty years. Slovenia is co-sponsoring the resolution on peacekeeping reform, and has acceded to the Declaration of Shared Commitments on UN Peacekeeping Operations. Slovenia is committed to the prevention and elimination of sexual exploitation and abuse in peacekeeping operations, the implementation of principles on the protection of civilians, and the prevention of the recruitment and use of child soldiers.

Approximately 5% of the Slovenian Armed Forces' active duty personnel is involved in UN-mandated peacekeeping operations in various formats (NATO, the EU, the UN, the OSCE) on three continents. Peacekeeping operations (the EU) also include members of the civilian police. In its role as a member of the OECD, the Republic of Slovenia is providing considerable financial resources and technical assistance.

In its response to crisis areas, the Republic of Slovenia will continue to implement the 2030 Agenda goals for sustainable development. With regard to its peacekeeping, development and humanitarian efforts, Slovenia will primarily focus on providing assistance in achieving gender equality and women's empowerment. In this way, it will significantly contribute to social development, peace, stability and

security, the strengthening of economy, and the establishment of open societies in developing countries.

The Republic of Slovenia has seen important results in the participation of women in the defence system and peacekeeping operations. Female members of the defence system perform numerous responsible functions and duties. Slovenia has appointed the first female Chief of the General Staff in the world. In 2017, the Slovenian contingent in UNIFIL Lebanon was the first to have a female commander. Slovenia is among the world's leading nations with 16.5% of women occupying military positions. The Republic of Slovenia will be happy to share its experience in integrating women in defence systems with developing countries.

In conclusion, I am pleased to inform you that the Republic of Slovenia is going to establish a training centre for military and police personnel and civilians for participation in peacekeeping operations, which will be co-founded by the Ministry of Defence, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of the Interior. The centre is expected to offer courses as early as this year, and will intensify its activity during Slovenia's Presidency of the EU Council in the second half of 2021. In this way, the Republic of Slovenia will further increase its contribution to the efforts for a peaceful, safe and development-oriented world.