



**STATEMENT BY H.E. MS THANDI MODISE**

**MINISTER OF DEFENCE AND MILITARY VETERANS OF  
THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

**AT THE UNITED NATIONS PEACEKEEPING MINISTERIAL**

**ACCRA, GHANA**

**06 DECEMBER 2021**

**Chairperson,  
Excellencies,  
Honourable Ministers,  
Distinguished Representatives,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Let me begin by commending the Government of Ghana for hosting the 7<sup>th</sup> United Nations Peacekeeping Ministerial, the first African country to host this important event.

We also appreciate the hospitality extended to us since our arrival in this beautiful city of Accra.

**Chairperson,**

As one of the leading personnel contributing countries to the United Nations peacekeeping operations, South Africa remains committed to contributing to the noble cause of the maintenance of international peace and security.

Over the past 75 years, several United Nations peacekeeping operations deployed in different regions of the world have concretely promoted peace and stability.

We ought to celebrate the achievements of these peacekeeping missions and honour the sacrifices made by many women and men in uniform for their selfless service in discharge of UN mandates.

At the same time, we recognise that no mechanism is perfect, including peacekeeping.

We, thus, recognise that due to the evolving threats and varied taxing operational environments, it is imperative to review and reform this mechanism, as and when necessary, to make it more relevant, nimble, and adaptable to the circumstances unique to every operation. At the same time our missions should be complemented by realistic and achievable mandates.

**Chairperson,**

Our meeting today gives us an opportunity to continue implementing

peacekeeping reforms in line with the Action for Peacekeeping Initiative and Action for Peacekeeping Plus. We appreciate that these initiatives promote greater coordination amongst all relevant stakeholders, predictability, transparency, accountability, and inclusivity.

It is also a matter of pride that our women peacekeepers are reaping benefits from the transformative approach of UN peacekeeping policies in recent years. South Africa ranks amongst the highest personnel contributing countries of female peacekeepers to UN peace operations.

We are pleased to note in this regard the contribution of South African peacekeepers, in particular female peacekeepers who have been making a difference on the ground. Some of these female peacekeepers have also been duly recognised for their outstanding performances with United Nations awards.

It is for this reason that South Africa has heeded the clarion call made to all member states to consider making pledges that will not only strengthen peacekeeping operations but to also make them more appreciated as one of the viable tools of the UN to promote sustainable peace.

Responding to this call, South Africa would like to make the following pledges **on capacity building, training, partnerships, women in peacekeeping operations as well as sharing of good practices** per the Pledging Guide:

- 1) To host a field medical assistant training of trainers course.
- 2) To provide a battlefield advanced trauma life support training;
- 3) To provide mental & welfare professionals experts & experts for capacity building of TCCs;
- 4) The South African Peace Mission Training Centre to offer training of senior mission leader courses and peacekeeping intelligence.
- 5) To fully utilise the opportunities provided by Senior Women Talent Pipeline.
- 6) To nominate Senior Women for UN Missions leadership positions.
- 7) To provide experts mobile training team on gender & peacekeeping intelligence.
- 8) To share experiences, good practices and lessons learned by the defence sector women veteran advisers to the UN on breaking the barriers on gender mainstreaming.

- 9) To provide capability enhancement to TCCs during pre-deployment on gender, SEA and sharing of good practices; and
- 10) Hosting of an event on UN peacebuilding/post-conflict reconstruction and development for women in Africa.
- 11) To provide Senior Officers, Staff Officers, and Military Observers
- 12) To provide Geospatial Information System Capability (Including Imagery Analysts and Operators)
- 13) Hosting of the UN Peacekeeping Ministerial in the near future.

As I conclude, **Chairperson**, on a separate but related issue, South Africa looks forward to contributing to Secretary-General's New Agenda for Peace and the Summit of the Future in 2024 with a specific focus on the future of peacekeeping and peace enforcement.

This is imperative as some UN peacekeeping operations particularly in Africa are in transition as their mandates are ending, and regional arrangements such as the Southern African Development Community Mission in Mozambique are increasingly assuming peace enforcement roles.

We are raising this matter because these operations require adequate, predictable, and sustainable financing as the operations are being undertaken in support of the maintenance of international peace and security, a primary responsibility of the UN Security Council.

We hope that the Security Council will urgently adopt a resolution that supports the financing of African-led peace support operations authorised by the Security Council envisaged in the African Union's Consensus Paper on Predictable, Adequate, and Sustainable Financing for African Union Peace and Security Activities.

**I thank you.**