

GOSL statement to be delivered by the Hon. Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Foreign
Employment & Tourism at the High-Level Session of
the Peacekeeping Ministerial Meeting 2025
14 May 2025, Berlin, Germany

Hon. Annalena Baerbock, Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs of Germany, (Hon Boris
Pistorious Federal Minister for Defence)

Excellencies,

Distinguish participants,

At the outset, let me extend my sincere gratitude to the Federal Republic of Germany for
hosting the 2025 UN Peacekeeping Ministerial meeting and for the warm hospitality
extended to the participants.

**I also wish to note Germany's significant contribution to the UN peacekeeping as the
fourth largest contributor to the UN Peacekeeping Missions and leading the list of
donor countries by providing extra budgetary support.**

Excellencies,

Sri Lanka commends the United Nations for its valiant efforts to maintain global peace and
security, despite the rise of asymmetric threats and an increasingly exigent operational
landscape.

As a peace-loving nation, Sri Lanka, under the leadership of the new government, reaffirms
our unwavering commitment to maintain global peace and security. Today, our efforts are
further strengthened by a renewed national vision and a series of reforms to enhance
professionalism and accountability in all aspects of governance, including the defence
sector.

Hon. Minister,

Sri Lanka believes that the protection of civilians remains a cornerstone of UN
peacekeeping. This vital mandate requires more robust and responsive peacekeeping
strategies given the growing complexities on the ground. The rapid pace of technological
advancement has paved the way for new and more sophisticated threats, further
complicating the operational environment.

Hence, peacekeeping operations must become more adaptive and resilient to ensure the effective protection of civilians. In this context, the rapid deployment of troops, which can respond swiftly to crises with minimal environmental footprints, has become an operational imperative for peacekeeping today.

We remain committed to investing in specialized training and capacity building to prepare our peacekeepers to meet the evolving challenges. In this regard, Sri Lanka seeks new partnerships and opportunities to collaborate with the United Nations, Member states, and regional organizations to strengthen collective capabilities and contribute meaningfully to future peacekeeping efforts.

Sri Lanka also believes in gender-inclusive peacekeeping and the active participation of women peacekeepers in confronting evolving global challenges. We remain committed to empowering women in peacekeeping, in line with the new government's policy of extending the retirement age in the military service and by encouraging more women in leadership roles. Moreover, Sri Lanka also advocates for increased youth participation in peace efforts, as agreed in the Pact for the Future.

Hon. Minister,

Sri Lanka reaffirms its pledge to uphold the highest standards of conduct and discipline in all its peacekeeping operations. Our peacekeepers are guided by the values of professionalism, integrity, and respect, serving with honour under the United Nations flag.

Recognizing the evolving challenges faced by UN peacekeeping missions, Sri Lanka reaffirms its commitment to global peace efforts by making significant pledges. These include the deployment of specialized military and police units, such as the Formed Police Unit with SWAT Teams, Combat Convoy Company, Explosive Ordnance Disposal Teams, Construction Company, and Airfield Protection Company.

Moreover, Sri Lanka has pledged the services of military observers, staff officers, and individual police officers to enhance the effectiveness of peacekeeping operations. These contributions highlight our dedication to achieving more responsive and accountable peace operations, ensuring the protection of vulnerable communities, fostering trust, and promoting stability in regions affected by conflict.

Hon. Minister,

The new Government is committed to contributing more meaningfully to Global Peace and Security. Sri Lanka is ready to take on greater responsibilities in support of the United Nations peacekeeping and peacebuilding efforts. We therefore call for the United Nations to consider Sri Lanka as a trusted and capable partner in advancing the shared objectives of effective, responsive, and resilient peacekeeping.

Thank you.