

STATEMENT

by

**H.E. Mr. Peter Hultqvist,
Minister of Defense**

at the

United Nations Peacekeeping Ministerial

**United Nations
New York**

29 March 2019

-Check against delivery-

Mr Secretary General, Ladies and gentlemen,

Let me start by expressing my governments condolences to the Malian people and the families of the victims after last week's awful attack where 200 civilians were killed or wounded. We condemn this act in the strongest terms and call on the international community to support the Malian authorities.

I would also like to thank the Secretary-General and your staff for arranging this meeting and your efforts to make United Nations peacekeeping a more effective instrument for peace. This is needed - more than ever - to protect civilians, increase performance and promote peace. We fully support your Action for Peacekeeping initiative.

We are living in a world with increasing insecurities, where institutions and relationships we previously considered stable are now under growing pressure. For Sweden, the rule-based international order is of fundamental interest. Together we must stand up against violations of the UN-charter and work towards peace and security.

The legality of peacekeeping depends on the performance and accountability of troops. Uniformed units must have the right training, skills and equipment to be able to protect civilians, themselves and to deliver on mandates. To support this, units and resources need to be deployed according to plan and with the right quality.

Mr. Secretary-General,

Correct information and analysis is a cornerstone of strategic decision-making and operational effectiveness. We welcome and encourage continued implementation of peacekeeping intelligence. We have served in MINUSMA for almost five years with our ISR Task Force. We know that intelligence is essential to reduce risks for peacekeepers, protect civilians and defend the mandate.

Women's active engagement in peace processes is essential for achieving sustainable peace. More women in peacekeeping increases operational effectiveness. We must all step up our efforts and deliver on promises to include more women in our units and missions. The UN's zero tolerance policy on sexual exploitation and abuse needs to be fully respected and implemented.

The policy for military enablers, especially the use of helicopters, has worrying implications for the safety and security of peacekeepers. This includes CASEVAC as well as deployment of quick response units. Sweden welcomes an independent review to assess the utility of military helicopters.

Sweden supports an increased cooperation between EU and UN. Sweden has therefore co-signed the paper on 'Increasing the Contribution of EU Member States to UN Peacekeeping'. Europe and likeminded needs to support the UN in a more comprehensive and tailored way.

Mr. Secretary-General,

Sweden and Finland have successfully deployed a mobile training team to MINUSMA, in support of our peacekeeping partners in Timbuktu. The team supports with training in first aid, counter attack tactics, escort and reconnaissance. During March they will have trained roughly 400 peacekeepers.

I am also honored to announce our new pledge to the MINUSMA mission. Sweden will, pending agreement with the United Nations, deploy a Light Infantry Company to Sector East in 2020.

Sweden will also continue to develop and offer training courses certified by UN to prepare UN staff for international missions. These courses are unique in reflecting a multidimensional mission where military, police and civilian personnel are training together. Sweden will continue to support the UN with training in leadership, conflict prevention, gender and corrections.

Sweden will also contribute with two Specialized Police Teams: in the Central African Republic, and in the Democratic Republic of Congo, that work with national authorities to address sexual and gender based violence and organized crime.

Sweden also pledges to support the United Nations with extra budgetary funds to finance development and implementation of Peacekeeping Intelligence, an ISR Task Force manual and the Military Aviation Manual.

Mr. Secretary-General,

You have shown great leadership in reforming UN Peacekeeping to make this important tool better fit to meet current and future challenges. We all have a responsibility to do our utmost to ensure peace, security and stability. Sweden will remain steadfast in our support to UN Peacekeeping both bilaterally and together with others.

Thank you.