



UGANDA

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Statement by

Hon Adolf Mwesige

**Minister of Defence and
Veteran Affairs
Republic of Uganda**

UN Peacekeeping Ministerial

29 March 2019, New York

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Mr President,

On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Uganda and on behalf of my delegation let me. I congratulate the United Nations Secretariat, Department of Peace Operations and Department of Operations Support for organizing this meeting and their continuous support to us in Peacekeeping.

Mr President,

Allow me to congratulate Bangladesh, Canada, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Japan, The Netherlands, Pakistan, Rwanda, Uruguay, United States and United Kingdom for the preparatory meetings that all built into this Ministerial.

Mr President,

Uganda is a peace loving country that has contributed to peacekeeping to include areas where it has sometimes been said that there is no peace to keep. The deployment of our troops in protection of civilians shall therefore never have caveats. We fully participated in the formulation of the Kigali principles and Uganda was among the first countries to endorse these Protection of Civilian Principles. We also endorse the Vancouver Principles aimed at protecting children in the conflict zones and fully support the Action For Peacekeeping initiative (A4P).

Mr President,

As we fully support the three objectives of this meeting, allow me to inform you of our readiness to implement them though our pledges of the following.

- a. One Special Company ready to deploy in 60 days and registered at level II on the PCRS.
- b. One Infantry battalion, one Formed Police Unit and one Engineer Company that continue to be registered on PCRS and where we are engaging in Smart Partnership with other Member States.

Mr President,

Uganda promises to continue with its commitment of promoting peace, security and stability worldwide and therefore stands to participate in such missions and conferences that enable us to learn, progress and partner with other Member States.

As we do this Mr President, allow me to salute the gallant troops, police and civilians that have lost their lives while protecting civilians under UN mandated missions and join others to condemn these barbaric acts of terrorism. However, we need not to stop at condemning them in statements alone but deploy troops committed to flushing them out.

As we meet here the world is anxiously waiting for the outcome which is expected to improve peace and security in UN missions. The wounds in Mali and other countries are steel fresh fear grips villages with a population in full doubt of other tomorrow. It is therefore time for more robust forces and no excuse. In this regard, Uganda would request a revisit of the third paragraph of the A4P which will allow those who are ready to sacrifice to deploy.

I THANK YOU.