

STATEMENT FOR THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEFENCE, HON. BRIG GEN (RTD) LEVI MAYIHLOME, ON THE OCCASION OF THE UNITED NATIONS PEACEKEEPING MINISTERIAL MEETING: BERLIN, GERMANY: 13 TO 14 MAY 2025

Excellencies,

Distinguished Delegates,

Let me begin by extending Zimbabwe's gratitude to the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany for hosting this important Peacekeeping Ministerial, and to the United Nations Secretariat for its continued leadership in global peacekeeping.

This meeting takes place at a time when United Nations Peacekeeping Missions are operating in increasingly complex and volatile environments. These evolving threats are undermining the effectiveness of peace operations and eroding community trust. We must therefore seize this moment to rethink and recalibrate the role, structure, and capabilities of UN peacekeeping to remain fit for purpose.

Zimbabwe welcomes the findings of the independent study commissioned by the Department of Peace Operations. We are pleased that it affirms peacekeeping as a vital multilateral tool-

capable of preventing conflict, sustaining peace, and responding to broader global security challenges.

Excellencies,

Zimbabwe is deeply committed to the Women, Peace and Security agenda. Our national policies promote gender equality and women's empowerment, and we commend the United Nations for its continued efforts-particularly the Uniformed Gender Parity Strategy. I am proud to note that 66% of Zimbabwe's uniformed peacekeepers currently deployed are women, exceeding the Secretary-General's 2025 targets.

Zimbabwe has a long-standing history in UN peacekeeping-from our contributions to UNAVEM II in Angola, where we served as one of the largest troop-contributing countries and even provided a Force Commander, to our participation in UNSOM II and five ongoing missions across the globe.

Looking ahead, Zimbabwe reaffirms its commitment to:

1. Deploying qualified uniformed personnel, including staff officers, military experts, police, and corrections officers;
2. Collaborating with the UN Secretariat on robust pre-deployment training, including on conduct and discipline;
3. Maintaining gender parity and professionalism across all deployments.

Finally, Zimbabwe's bid for a non-permanent seat on the UN Security Council for 2027-2028 reflects our continued resolve to uphold international peace and security. We stand ready to contribute constructively to this shared global mission.

I thank you.