

High-Level Event - "Collective Action to Improve UN Peacekeeping Operations"
Statement by: Israeli Minister for Regional Cooperation, Mr. Tzachi Hanegbi
25 September 2018

Thank you Secretary-General Guterres.

I would like to thank you for this important initiative and for convening us here today.

The maintenance of international peace and security is the highest priority of the United Nations, and the most important tool the UN has to fulfill this goal today is peacekeeping.

We are here today to recognize the important role of peacekeeping operations, the evolving challenges they face and to endorse the Secretary General's Action Plan for Peacekeeping that envisions a renewed mutual commitment amongst all relevant stakeholders to ensuring that UN peacekeeping operations are fit for purpose.

Peacekeepers worldwide are operating in increasingly dangerous environments and facing unprecedented challenges, particularly in Africa. These brave men and women are often targeted and assaulted by armed groups and these attacks are evolving rapidly in magnitude and sophistication. I wish to take this opportunity to pay tribute to those peacekeepers and their families who lost their lives and loved ones in the pursuit of peace.

The evolving challenges are not only claiming a growing number of lives in recent years but increasingly undermining the peacekeepers' ability to deliver on their mandates, rendering UN peacekeeping less effective.

The recent reforms, initiated by the Secretary-General and approved by the General Assembly hold the promise of a more efficient, effective and accountable UN system. Specifically, the reform of the UN's Peace & Security Pillar promises to enable the UN to improve its peacekeeping abilities and enhance its peacebuilding efforts on the ground. To achieve this, all relevant stakeholders need to play their part.

The Secretary-General's Action Plan for Peacekeeping (A4P) is an important initiative that demonstrates not only the acknowledgement that peacekeeping must improve to adapt to new realities, as highlighted most recently in the "Cruz" report, but also the willingness of the United Nations to take action on this matter and the importance of partnerships with Member States and other stakeholders.

Israel has long been a supporter of UN peacekeeping, contributing knowledge, know-how and training to help protect peacekeepers and give them the tools to fulfill their mandates. During the past few years we have shared with the UN our expertise in the medical field to facilitate in First Aid training for peacekeeping personnel. We have also made financial contributions and most recently pledged to provide additional medical training to help ensure that the standard

of medical care in peacekeeping missions is sufficient. In addition to the medical field, we have also expanded our partnership with the UN to improve camp security.

We are proud, therefore, to have joined the “Declaration of Shared Commitments” along with many others in this room and remain steadfast in our commitment to peacekeeping, now and in the future.

Thank you.