

## EAPTC opening session, 16 Apr 2019

Minister, distinguished participants, colleagues and friends, it is a pleasure to be in Belgrade and to be invited to speak at this meeting of the European Association of Peacekeeping Training Centres.

For the United Nations, close relations with the regional training centres and the international association of peacekeeping training centres represents a means to connect directly with those who prepare our uniformed personnel for peace operations. On a day-to-day basis, our connections are more distant as they must be done through the Permanent Missions in New York. Of course, we spend a lot of time in the field with the various troop and police contributing countries, but with more than 120 nations directly involved in peacekeeping, our capacity to interact with each nation's training institutions in a significant manner is limited. Hence, we greatly value opportunities like this to interact directly with national trainers.

I would like to thank the Government of Serbia for its contribution to peacekeeping with more than 250 personnel including 37 women. This is a significant contribution. Serbian military and police personnel are serving in five missions. In MINUSCA, Serbia provides the much needed aero-medical evacuation team (AMET). Serbia has hosted UN training courses and has training recognition for three courses: military observers, staff officers and protection of civilians. We are very grateful.

Želim da se zahvalim Vladi Republike Srbije na doprinosu mirovnim misijama Ujedinjenih Nacija gde Srbija danas učestvuje sa dvestopedeset mirovnjaka od kojih trideset i sedam žena. To je značajan doprinos. Srpsko vojno i policijsko osoblje služi u pet mirovnih misija. U Centralno Afričkoj Republici Srbija je obezbedila tim za vazdušno-medicinsku evakuaciju. Srbija je ugostila brojne

treninge i dobila priznanje za održavanje tri kursa: za vojne posmatrače, vojno osoblje i zaštitu civila. Mi smo jako zahvalni.

I will spend a few minutes outlining some of the key issues facing peacekeeping today, steps that we are taking and areas where help is needed.

The largest of our peacekeeping operations are deployed in highly dangerous environments which are difficult and challenging to operate in. The dangers come from threats posed to peacekeepers by spoilers and those that wish to target us. The difficulties and challenges come from scale of the environment, the lack of infrastructure, the distances involved and the extremes of climate.

When the dangers, difficulties and challenges are so apparent, it becomes hard to attract the troop and police contributing countries to participate in these missions. For those that elect to participate in these operations, the skills and standards required can be unfamiliar and hard to acquire. In these environments, effective performance is essential.

Against this operational backdrop is the financial aspect. It is becoming more and more difficult to secure funding for peacekeeping. Member States ask us to do more with less, but the reality is that when with the current environment and decreased funding, we have to do less with less, or rely on the voluntary contributions of a few Member States.

Our platform for advancing standards in peacekeeping is Action for Peacekeeping (or A4P) which is a partnership with the Member States. **The Declaration outlines Secretariat, Member State and collective commitments in seven areas: (1) advancing political solutions and enhancing the political impact of peacekeeping; (2) strengthening protection provided by peacekeeping; (3) safety and**

**security; (4) performance and accountability; (5) peacekeeping's impact on sustaining peace; (6) partnerships; and (7) the conduct of peacekeeping operations and of our personnel.**

I would like to focus on some of these areas to highlight the implications for training and capacity building.

Working to achieve **political solutions** must be at the centre of all of our work. Our aim is to achieve durable political solutions. But, we can only do this if we play our part by being effective.

Improving **performance** is at the heart of our collective effort. This renewed focus is having a positive effect across our peacekeeping missions. While we have made progress in reducing the deaths of our peacekeepers by violent acts, one death is one too many. This is why making even further progress implementing the Action Plan to implement the dos Santos Cruz report is one of our highest priorities at headquarters and for the senior leadership of our missions, in particular our five highest risk missions. (More specifically, this includes MINUSMA, MONUSCO, MINUSCA, UNMISS and UNAMID).

In line with this plan, this year we're conducting even more mission-specific pre-deployment visits to ensure that qualified, well-trained and well-equipped personnel are deployed in compliance with Statement of Unit Requirements. We're also producing and rolling out integrated in-mission training programmes. For the five high-risk missions, we're instituting CASEVAC training, stress testing and conducting more crisis management exercises.

We will also be developing a clear and comprehensive procedure on caveats, as highlighted in the Declaration of Shared Commitments. But to make progress we strongly encourage T/PCCs to clearly communicate caveats and avoid any caveats which could have a detrimental impact on performance and mandate implementation.

While we're placing significant effort and resources into strengthening performance, we also need to objectively assess the progress we are making.

Strengthening conduct and discipline remains one of our key priorities. We are encouraged to see that the number of allegations of **sexual exploitation and abuse** appears to be decreasing in peacekeeping. But we are also mindful that we must be vigilant in our prevention efforts, seek accountability whenever the Secretary-General's zero tolerance policy has been violated and, more importantly, provide support and assistance to victims. We must continue to do so in strong partnership with Member States with the understanding that sexual exploitation and abuse is ultimately not a training issue. It is an issue of command and discipline.

To advance the **women, peace and security** agenda within the year, we will provide more guidance to missions on how to promote the full, equal and meaningful participation of women in all stages of a peace process. To report more systematically on our missions' progress implementing Security Council Resolution 1325, 9 of our missions (specifically MINUJUSTH, MINUSCA, MINUSMA, MONUSCO, UNAMID, UNFICYP, UNIFIL, UNMIK and UNMISS), will be tracking and reporting on 15 common indicators.

We're also working to do our part to increase the number of women in our peacekeeping operations. We are intensifying partnership opportunities to increase the number of women in national military services, developing a talent pipeline specifically for senior women military officers, and, as a system, we are looking at how we can make the environments within our missions more conducive to women in peacekeeping.

I need to stress how important it is that we receive significant pledges of female peacekeepers. In 2016, the Office of Military Affairs set two goals: i) filling at least 16 per cent of staff officer and

military observer positions with women by the end of 2019; ii) doubling the total number of military female peacekeepers by 2020 (to 6.4 per cent from 3.2). We think that we should hit the 16% target: TCCs who aren't hitting their targets are having positions given to countries that will deploy women, and it seems to be motivating them.

On police, the Police Division has set the 2020 targets of filling 22 percent individual police officers (IPOs) and 10 percent formed police units (FPUs) posts with women. While the target for IPOs has been reached (we are almost at 24%), continued efforts are appreciated to be able to sustain it. [In addition, we need an additional 1 percent of women in FPUs.]

Achieving these goals means that more women need to be trained to operational standards and then put forward for service by their Member States.

We are grateful to those Member States which have sponsored 50/50 male female military observer and staff officer courses.

At the leadership level, 39 percent (20/51) of Heads or Deputy Heads of Mission are women, 26 percent of heads mission support (7/27) are women, 29 percent (4 of 14) heads of police components are women, and 15 percent (2/13) of Force Commanders are women.

All that we do to strengthen peacekeeping requires the strongest of **partnerships** – both with Member States and regional organizations at the political and strategic level. We will continue working to further strengthen our strategic partnership with the African Union (AU) and the European Union (EU). With individual nations, we rely on specialized bilateral training and capacity building support to maintain and enhance the skills of units that operate in high threat environments.

On support **partnerships which include training and capacity building**, we are continuing to expand our Triangular Partnership Project to include additional geographical regions, particularly in Asia and West Africa, and to include medical training this year in addition to engineering and signals training that we have been providing since 2015.

**We have also operationalized the light coordination mechanism which engages** training and capacity-building providers (both Secretariat entities and Member States) to communicate training gaps, identifies training opportunities and facilitates training partnerships to improve T/PCC performance. The LCM's success, however, depends on Member States providing details on their bilateral training programmes and training needs. In other words, it can only be as good as the initiatives of which it is aware. We will do our best to ensure that initiatives are deconflicted and supported with relevant UN standards.

In peacekeeping, poor training has disastrous consequences, contributing to poor performance, a failure to implement mandates and -- tragically -- fatalities. We have strengthened our approach to medical training beginning with basic first aid training using the combat tourniquet and introduced a standardized CASEVAC policy along with HQ-led exercises to test the process within missions.

In addition to the CASEVAC process, we will continue rolling out the first-aid programme. The plan is to have the next courses take place in South America and East Asia. We are developing a curriculum for field medics trained to deliver essential care, with courses planned for the second half of this year. We are also continuing our efforts to improve the conditions of our Level I and II hospitals in our high-risk missions to ensure that no life of injured are sacrificed due to lack of adequate medical care.

To close, the members of the EAPTC can support peacekeeping.

The Quarterly Uniformed Capability requirements paper lays out areas where Member States can help. I would like to highlight a few.

Training is a central requirement (but not the only requirement) for the preparation and deployment of operationally ready units.

The most important pre-deployment training requirement is the need for T/PCCs to fully train their contingents in accordance with the guidance issued by the UN Secretariat, including the statement of unit requirements and the mission CONOPs, and to certify that they have done so as part of the force and police generation process.

With regard to individually deployed uniformed personnel, the most important pre-deployment training requirement is to ensure that staff officers have the requisite military skills to function as staff officers at the Force (division) and Sector (brigade) level.

We need specific and targeted pledges of training support, delivered in T/PCC home locations, focused on training of trainers in critical unit skills such as operating in an IED environment, or counter-ambush drills. Individual skills also need enhancement – particularly with regard to staff officer duties in both core military areas and areas specific to peacekeeping. The aim of these programmes should be to build national capacity, rather than to train contingents. Recipients of these programmes should ensure that they use the support to build their own self-sustaining training capacity.

We need more offers to host 50/50 male/female courses with all female participants being fully funded. A two-week course (UNMO or staff officer) should be preceded by a one-week female-only session which focuses on military skills and driving. Attendance should be linked to a commitment by TCCs to deploy the trained female personnel.

We would be grateful for assistance in the development of AMET standards and the delivery of AMET trainings, in developing a Mental Health Strategy for uniformed personnel, and in developing skill sets for Level 1 medical personnel.

I am grateful for this opportunity to attend the meeting of the EAPTC and to underscore our commitment to work with all Member States to support the preparation of units and personnel for peacekeeping operations. Lastly, my thanks to the Government of Serbia for supporting this event and to its continuing commitment to peacekeeping.



