

Strengthening the Conduct of Peacekeeping Personnel:

High-Level Meeting to Share Good Practices

As a United Nations Troop Contributing Country with a long history, Ireland takes the conduct of its Peacekeeping personnel very seriously. Ireland is a signatory of the **Voluntary Compact**, and our Prime Minister and his Deputy are members of the **Circle of Leaders**. Ireland also addresses the broader issues of sexual and gender based violence through the **National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security**.

It has been our experience that good conduct arises from an organisational culture based on our Values of Respect, Loyalty, Integrity, Selflessness, Physical and Moral Courage. These Values are instilled in our soldiers from day one of induction training. As a way of encouraging good conduct, our **Defence Forces Values Awards Scheme** rewards those whose conduct exemplifies our Values.

Leadership, plays a vital role. Empowered, well-trained Leaders, supported by National Headquarters with appropriate legal and administrative provisions are key to maintaining good conduct. Our new **Defence Forces Leadership Doctrine** forms the basis of the training and education given to our Leaders for home and

overseas service. Authentic Leaders show a keen interest in their soldiers - an interest in their development, standards, welfare, safety and behaviour.

The leadership throughout all levels of an Overseas Unit must set the right “tone.” This tone is set early - during pre-deployment training, when the unit is formed-up to prepare for the upcoming Mission. In our Defence Forces, Leaders achieve this through delivering **Troop Briefings**, which cover such issues as Conduct, Cultural Awareness, Sexual Exploitation and Abuse, Ethical Behaviour, Diversity and Gender issues, and Standing Orders.

It is primarily through these measures - instilled Values and effective, authentic Leadership, education and good communication - that conduct is enhanced and maintained during Peacekeeping Operations.

Thank you.