

High-Level Meeting on Strengthening the Conduct of Peacekeeping Personnel

June 28, 2021

Statement by Ms. Christine Fossen, Police Commissioner and Special Adviser to the Ministry of Justice of Norway

Excellencies, ambassadors, colleagues,

Let me start by thanking the UN Department of Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance for convening this very important meeting.

I am grateful for the opportunity to speak about Norway's national efforts to ensure the good conduct of our peacekeepers.

Norway takes this responsibility very seriously. That is why we have been members of the Secretary-General's Voluntary Compact from its inception, and why Prime Minister Solberg is a member of his Circle of Leadership.

In addition to these political steps, we have also implemented concrete, operational procedures to promote good conduct – with a particular emphasis on prevention.

As I represent the Ministry of Justice, the state entity responsible for Norway's police contributions, I will focus my remarks on best practices specifically within that component.

Briefly summarized, our model to prevent misconduct among police peacekeepers consists of four main criteria:

- 1) Solid basic training.** To become a police officer in Norway you must complete a 3-year bachelor's degree with high admission standards.
- 2) A rigorous selection and training process for UN service.** Norway selects only top-performing officers for deployment, and provides thorough pre-deployment training with specialized modules. This includes a separate course on conduct and

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discipline, as well as a declaration of behavioral commitments that every officer must sign.

- 3) **Focus on gender parity.** Our UN contingents reflect the gender balance of our national police service, which is comprised of nearly 40% female officers. This balance contributes to a culture of equity and inclusion amongst contingents.
- 4) **The "social contract".** National authorities closely follow our contingents before, during and after deployment. They also facilitate opportunities for the officers to get to know one another – and even each other's families – in order to foster close working and personal relationships.

We believe this model has been highly successful in preventing misconduct among our police contingents. Combined, these four factors contribute to well-trained and informed officers, working with a strong degree of trust, openness and respect towards each other, other UN colleagues, and host state communities.

Norway stands ready to share our experiences with other member states. The exchange of best practices in this domain is crucial, as the realization of the UN's core values is a collective endeavor. The UN family succeeds, or fails, together.

Thank you.