

High level meeting on “Strengthening the Conduct of Peacekeeping personnel” (28 June 2021)

H.E. Ambassador BAE Jongin DPR, Republic of Korea

Mr. President,

Let me begin by thanking the Secretariat for convening today’s meeting on this critical issue.

As was reaffirmed in the Action for Peacekeeping Plus, the proper discipline and conduct of UN peacekeepers is crucial in maintaining operational effectiveness, not to mention in building trust. In this vein, I would like to emphasize the following three points based on the Republic of Korea's good practices and lessons learned from our operations.

First, it all starts with a thorough screening process in recruiting, followed by pre-deployment training for future peacekeepers.

Our process begins with a screening by internal and external authorities. Following selection, the personnel must complete a training course in accordance with official UN rules and regulations. In addition to UN materials, we also have our own training sessions on military law and human rights, which are directly tied to the level and standard of conduct of troops in the field.

As a result, the Republic of Korea has been recruiting and deploying peacekeepers with one of the best disciplinary records in terms of conduct. We have been able to achieve zero cases of misconduct during our peacekeeping operations.

Second, the UN peacekeepers should continue to receive practical and realistic training, even after they are deployed to the mission.

It is mandatory for the deployed Korean peacekeepers to receive regular training for their conduct. In order to effectively respond to unexpected situations, we utilize various types of instructors and materials. The ROK contingents have their own legal officers who provide guidance and training on legal matters. We also designate gender advisers who primarily focus on the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse. Above all, the role of the commanding officer is indispensable in preventing and responding to misconduct.

Third, we should strongly adhere to the UN Secretary-General's zero-tolerance policy on all forms of sexual exploitation and abuse.

Investigating allegations and holding the perpetrators accountable in a timely and appropriate manner is imperative for its own sake as well as in earning the trust of the host government.

The zero-tolerance policy also applies to prevention and education. The Republic of Korea is proud to affirm that its peacekeeping forces are trained to always bear in mind that those who commit SEA should be investigated and punished without hesitation and without impunity. It's a principle we will continue to uphold.

I thank you. /END/