

**UNITED NATIONS PEACEKEEPING MINISTERIAL**

**Berlin, 13-14 May, 2025**

**PLEDGING STATEMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF LATVIA**

**delivered by Andrejs Pildegovičs, Ambassador-at-Large for Global and Multilateral Affairs**

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

- The UN peace operations are an essential instrument for the maintenance of international peace and security. Latvia has been actively contributing to these efforts by historically participating in three UN peace operations with two ongoing. Currently, Latvia contributes its historically highest number of military personnel to UN peace operations. Our peacekeepers and military observers serving in UNIFIL and UNTSO are providing practical contribution to peace and security in the Middle East.
- Demonstrating its commitment to UN peacekeeping, the Government of Latvia has decided to increase its participation in the mission in Lebanon (UNIFIL) by deploying a **platoon of force protection personnel** along with civil-military specialists (CIMIC). Important to note that these personnel have already been deployed to the area of operations in Lebanon in March this year.
- Furthermore, Latvia intends to contribute **more women peacekeepers** to the UN missions, in line with UN guidelines and the “Women, Peace and Security” agenda commitments. Women constitute around 17 % of all military personnel in Latvia, which is a higher number than average in the region. This puts Latvia in a good position to facilitate higher participation of women peacekeepers in UN missions, as well.
- Finally, we recognize the importance of demining efforts in conflict and post-conflict areas, which go hand in hand with the goals of UN peacekeeping missions. To support these efforts, only yesterday, 13 May, 2025, the Government of Latvia has decided to provide **voluntary financial contribution to the UN Mine Action Service (UNMAS)**.

Thank you.