

**Statement of H.E. the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Cyprus  
Mr Nicos Christodoulides at the High Level Meeting on  
«Action for Peacekeeping (A4P) - 25 September 2018**

I wish to express my thanks and appreciation to the Secretary General of the United Nations for his leadership, his commitment and his initiatives in the area of Peacekeeping Operations, which constitute the cornerstone of the “peace and stability” pillar of the United Nations.

Cyprus unequivocally supports the review of peacekeeping operations in order to enable them to become even more effective and efficient in responding to contemporary challenges, and able to fulfill their mandate as prescribed by the Security Council, to uphold the UN Charter.

As a host country of a peacekeeping operation since 1964, we are deeply indebted to the United Nations, to all the United Nations member states for their invaluable contributions, their active involvement and their steadfast support. UNFICYP is a successful model of a UN operation, with exemplary performance in exercising its preventive and deterrent tasks, preventing a recurrence of fighting, contributing to the maintenance of law and order and a return to normalcy, preserving stability, de-escalating tension, acting as a channel of communication between the opposing forces and underpinning an atmosphere that is conducive to the political peacemaking process. In this respect, I wish to underscore UNFICYP’s indispensable role towards and until the achievement of a final political agreement in Cyprus.

While we understand that current circumstances may necessitate the reform of peacekeeping operations to a certain extent. It is though important to underline that the particularities of each conflict and each peacekeeping operation should always be taken into account; the dangers involved are far too grave to allow for any experimentation in this regard.

We strongly believe that the United Nations primary purpose and the need to serve as the medium for the promotion and maintenance of international peace and security constitute an important responsibility, until this aim is accomplished.

With this in mind, on behalf of the Republic of Cyprus, I wish to express our firm support to the “Declaration of Shared Commitments” and to the Secretary General’s vision for reforming the peace and security pillar with the aim of improving the United Nations peacekeeping operations’ ability to deliver on their mandates.