

**Statement by Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood
Qureshi at the
High Level event on Action for Peacekeeping (A4P), New York
25 September 2018**

**Secretary General
Excellencies
Ladies and gentlemen**

I commend Secretary General Guterres for taking the A4P initiative and convening this important event.

Today's Declaration of Shared Commitments represents a strategic statement of mutually agreed principles and actions by all stakeholders.

We also see the Declaration as a useful framework to guide our future discussions.

Among the world's top troop contributing countries, Pakistan is privileged to be the first country to endorse it.

Excellencies,

Over the years, peacekeeping as an instrument of keeping, building and sustaining peace has proven its worth and potential.

That UN peacekeeping is a success story is due in large measure to the ultimate sacrifice of men and women in the field. We salute them and extend our deepest gratitude.

Evolving from observation and monitoring of ceasefire missions, modern peacekeeping presents a range of challenges. The operational environment has become more complex and volatile. The nature of conflict is changing and asymmetric threats are growing.

It is therefore essential that mandates are accordingly crafted and prioritized. It is equally important to ensure provision of adequate resources commensurate with the operational requirements.

Excellencies,

We welcome this timely initiative for its comprehensive and inclusive approach. Synergy, unity of purpose and enhanced coordination would be vital among all principal stakeholders; the Security Council, the Secretariat and the Troop and Police Contributing Countries.

One crucial measure of success of this initiative would be to strike a prudent balance among all the five components: People, Politics, Partnership, Performance and Peacebuilding.

It is equally important that these commitments are implemented in their true spirit, and followed up by a review process.

Only then would this exercise help us refocus peacekeeping, making the missions stronger, safer, well-resourced and well trained. Cumulatively, these steps would also help mobilize greater support for political solutions.

The whole-of-Mission approach being adopted by the UN Secretariat in assessing performance is a step in the right direction. A level playing field to evaluate performance is a prerequisite to improving it.

In our view, national caveats negatively impact performance and compromise assessment scales. They must be done away with.

We support all efforts to modernize peacekeeping and to equip missions with new technologies and resources. These steps are central to better operational effectiveness and protection of peacekeepers in the face of threats.

Excellencies,

Pakistan is proud to have contributed over 200,000 troops to the noble mission of UN peacekeeping over five and half decades.

Our men and women in uniform have served with professionalism and distinction in 46 missions since 1960. We pay tribute to 156 Pakistani peacekeepers who gave their lives for the cause of international peace.

We will continue to be a consistent and leading troop and police contributing country and support further strengthening of peacekeeping architecture to promote international peace and security.

Thank you