

ACTION FOR PEACEKEEPING

New York, 25 September 2018

*The purpose of this event is to advance UNSG's Action for Peacekeeping Initiative, launched in March 2018. UNSG's goal is a formal agreement this year around the **Declaration of Shared Commitments**. Rwanda served on the "Group of Ten" countries that facilitated the negotiation of this document.*

*The event begins at 15h00 with a 2-min video, followed by 3-min remarks (from the podium) by: **UNSG, Jean-Pierre Lacroix** (USG for Peacekeeping), **H.E.**, and the **President of Liberia** (because Liberia was the most recent UN PKO mission to conclude).*

- **Excellencies, Secretary-General; Heads of State and Government**
 - **[George Weah, President of the Republic of Liberia]**
- **Under-Secretary-General; Distinguished Delegates**

Good afternoon.

Allow me to commend the Secretary-General, for this important initiative, to reform the peace and security pillar of the United Nations, and renew our commitment to effective peacekeeping.

For nearly 70 years, the United Nations has worked to protect civilians, and safeguard the transition from war to peace, all over the world.

The majority of troops have served honourably, and they deserve our gratitude and respect.

However, in the face of new threats and challenges, a collective effort is needed, to ensure the effectiveness and integrity of peacekeeping.

In an ideal world, we would not need peacekeepers. But so long as we do, let's make sure they are deployed in support of a clear political process, as highlighted by the Secretary-General.

This means having the right mandates, without detrimental caveats, as well the resources and equipment needed, to get the job done.

Close collaboration with host countries, and strong multi-level partnerships, are indispensable. The partnership with Africa, is central. Our continent is among the biggest troop contributors, but also the host of the largest share of peacekeeping missions.

To manage this burden, the United Nations and the African Union must collaborate closely, including by ensuring stable funding for African Union-mandated peace support operations.

The “Action for Peacekeeping Initiative” is a timely and comprehensive framework, for making peacekeeping “fit for the future”. Rwanda fully endorses the Declaration of Shared Commitments, and looks forward to working together on this basis, going forward.

I thank you.