

High-Level Event for Action for Peacekeeping

Statement by

H. E. Sheikh Hasina

Hon'ble Prime Minister

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

UNHQ, New York, Tuesday, 25 September 2018

Bismillahir Rahmanir Rahim

Mr. Antonio Guterres,
United Nations Secretary General,
Excellencies
Ladies and Gentlemen.

Assalamu Alaikum and a very good morning/afternoon to you all.

I thank you for inviting me to this High Level Meeting on 'Action for Peacekeeping', also known as A4P. As a leading contributor of troops and police in the UN peacekeeping, we attach high importance to the A4P initiative. Therefore, I appreciate Secretary General's sincere efforts in this regard.

Maintaining global peace has become far more challenging today. New and unconventional threats are arising from various state and non-state actors. Threats to peace have become multidimensional with rapid advancements in technology. These are making UN peacekeeping operations more difficult while increasing the fatalities of peacekeepers.

We must increase our effort to improve effectiveness of the peacekeeping operations. Most importantly the peacekeepers should be adequately equipped to fulfil their mandate.

Excellencies,

A4P has laid down ways to address some of the critical aspects of peacekeeping. We are hopeful that this will help peacekeeping operations become 'fit for purpose'.

Bangladesh is an active subscriber of the A4P. We have lent our support to the recently developed 'Declaration of Shared Peacekeeping Commitments'.

We acknowledge the importance of ongoing consultations on the five thematic areas under the A4P, which are, peace-building, performance, people, partnership and politics. I am pleased to share that Bangladesh along with Uruguay has taken up the responsibility of organizing consultations on "People".

Excellencies,

Peacekeeping is one of our core foreign policy objectives. This year we celebrated 30th anniversary of our joining the UN peacekeeping operations here in the Secretariat. I thank the Secretary General, President of 72nd UNGA and other dignitaries for gracing the occasion.

Many of our peacekeepers lost lives in the line of their duties. We, therefore, attach high importance in safety and security of the peacekeepers. To that end, we have provided mine-protected vehicles in Mali with our own resources. We are going to provide more such equipment for our peacekeepers in Democratic Republic of Congo.

We are continuously striving to further enhance the efficiency, performance, accountability, deployment capability and readiness of our peacekeepers.

We are also committed to increasing the number of female peacekeepers. Bangladesh is proud to have deployed first female helicopter pilots in UN peacekeeping mission in Congo. This is a milestone achievement.

We stand ready to provide senior leadership both at UN Headquarters and in field missions.

Excellencies,

On the issue of sexual exploitation and abuse, we maintain zero tolerance policy. We have earlier lent our support to the circle of leadership initiative of the Secretary General.

We endorse the collective statement issued by the circle on its anniversary.

We are also working to consolidate the normative notion of sustaining peace. Bangladesh was one of the co-facilitators of the Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace Resolution adopted recently at the General Assembly. As one of founding members of Peacebuilding Commission, we remain actively engaged in the work of the PBC.

Mr. President,

UN peacekeeping operations have passed 70 successful years with lot of success. This was achieved by sacrifices made by thousands of peacekeepers. We are proud to be part of this glorious legacy.

I reiterate our commitment to continue our services to the UN peacekeeping operations. We shall also remain ready to provide all supports in fulfilling the Secretary General's Action for Peacekeeping.

I thank you all.

Khoda Hafez.
Joi Bangla, Joi Bangabandhu,
May Bangladesh Live Forever.

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