



**Statement by H. E. Mr. Michal Mlynár, Permanent Representative of Slovakia to the UN
Open debate of the Security Council on Peace Operations and Human Rights**

Mme. Minister,

Slovakia aligns itself with the statement of the European Union and would like to present some additional remarks in its national capacity.

We welcome the participation by the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights at the Debate, and we express our appreciation for her briefing as well as for the briefings by the Special Representative Shearer and Mr. Dismas Kitenge.

Human rights are not only one of the three pillars of the UN work, but they are a fundamental pillar in all peacekeeping operations. While primarily intervening to seek peaceful settlement in troubled areas, members of UN peacekeeping missions also have to ensure the protection and promotion of human rights.

In 2018, Secretary-General announced the launch of Action for Peacekeeping, underlining a clear role of human rights in peacekeeping efforts. Slovakia endorsed the A4P's Declaration of Shared Commitments on UN Peacekeeping Operations and focus on human rights aspect is one the main optics in our national implementation of the A4P. The initiative serves as blueprint for the UN peacekeeping agenda and helps to overcome the critical challenges that peacekeeping faces today.

Human rights and international humanitarian law are an integral part of regular and pre-deployment training of the Slovak Armed Forces, which without a doubt helps to fulfill humanitarian and human rights tasks if such are a part of the mandate of peace-keeping mission. As we see a rising trend in including human rights tasks in the mandates by the Security Council and in including substantive human rights capacities or components in the missions, appropriate training becomes inevitable for all troops and therefore should be made mandatory.

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The United Nations shouldn't replace host countries in their primary responsibility to promote and protect human rights, although they have an obligation to step in in case of absence of such behavior by the host country. Adequate training of host country authorities helps to bridge the gap and is necessary for good cooperation with peacekeeping missions' human rights capacities. The failure of peacekeeping missions to consistently and effectively respond in case of gross human rights violations and to anticipate the threat of atrocity crimes highlights the need to develop the capacity of peacekeeping personnel to conduct threat assessments and improve monitoring mechanisms.

Effective monitoring of violations of international humanitarian, human rights and refugee law should make clear the gravity and scale of threats to particular groups of civilians and provide information on perpetrators. Monitoring should also include analysis of historical trends and patterns in relation to targeted populations. Improved coordination between human rights officers and military and police personnel can enable missions to use different types of expertise in order to maximize their mission's impact on the protection of civilians.

We are convinced that the protection and promotion of human rights should be the key functions of peacekeeping operations. The human rights aspects of these operations have immense potential for enhancing conflict resolution through peaceful means.

Thank you, Mme. Minister.