

Statement
Federal Councillor Viola Amherd
Minister of Defence

UN Peacekeeping Ministerial
7 – 8 December 2021
Seoul, Republic of Korea

- Mr. Chair, Ministers, Ladies and Gentlemen,
- I thank the Republic of Korea for hosting this year's Peacekeeping Ministerial, and for swiftly adapting to the newest challenges with Covid-19.
- We all miss real meetings. However, given the current circumstances, we are thankful for the cautious planning of today's event.
- As a small country, Switzerland is not in a position to provide large contingents to international peace operations. However, we wish to contribute by focusing on selected areas, mainly by providing military as observers, staff officers or experts.
- Recently, the Secretary-General appointed a member of the Swiss Armed Forces to Head of Mission and Chief of Staff of the *UN Truce Supervision Organization*. We are honored and thankful for the trust you have placed in us.

- Currently, there are close to 300 members of the Swiss Armed Forces in peacekeeping missions around the globe. Among them the Swiss delegation on the Korean Peninsula as part of the NNSC (Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission).
- In a report, we assessed if we are still on track to make relevant contributions to international peace and security missions.
- We decided to uphold a UN or an OSCE mandate as key requirement for Switzerland's participation in any military peacekeeping mission.
- We also concluded that qualified personnel is a critical factor for military peacekeeping – and that definitely includes women.
- In order to increase the participation of women, especially in the rank of officer, we plan to introduce a special program.
- This goes hand in hand with our commitment to implement the UN Security Council Resolution on Women, Peace and Security.
- We continue to invest in partnerships to advance training and capacity building and thus pledge the following:

- Switzerland offers to host up to four UN training courses organized by the Department of Peace Operations. The courses will be open for international participants in 2022.
- As a candidate for the UN Security Council in 2023-24, Switzerland is committed to contributing to military peacekeeping – because there is only one way to tackle today’s security challenges: together.
- Thank you for your attention.