

IRELAND
Statement by Minister Neale Richmond
UN Peacekeeping Ministerial
14 May 2025

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

Let me begin by expressing Ireland's sincere appreciation to Germany for hosting this Ministerial. We are deeply grateful for the leadership you have shown in convening us here in Berlin to reaffirm and strengthen our collective commitment to the future of United Nations peacekeeping.

Peacekeeping remains one of the most visible and impactful expressions of the United Nations' work around the world. It embodies the core values of multilateralism, cooperation, and shared responsibility. Successful and effective peacekeeping reform has never been more necessary, particularly as missions navigate increasingly complex political and security environments. Ireland's view is that peace operations remain

an effective tool of the UN as outlined in the 2024 Pact for the Future.

Ireland has a proud tradition of participation in UN and UN-authorised peacekeeping operations, as the only country with an unbroken record of service since 1958.

Ireland agrees that future peace operations should be flexible, agile, and tailored to respond to the ever increasing range of threats and challenges, drawing on the full range of UN capabilities. Political and people centred community considerations must be to the fore of mission design. The protection of civilians and promotion of peace must remain at the core of what we do. As a Troop and Police Contributing Country, Ireland has also consistently urged that peace operations have clear, credible, and realistic mandates.

Our pledge commitments today underline the commitment of Ireland to focus attention on capacity building, training, sustainment and the importance of developing partnerships, also supporting environmental initiatives and promoting the Women, Peace and Security agenda.

We must continue to enhance the links between peacekeeping and peacebuilding efforts. We want to see full implementation of UN Security Council resolution 2594, the development and adoption of which was led by Ireland led, which aims to ensure that as a UN peace operation draws down, it does so in a way that supports peacebuilding objectives, and ensures that peace gains made are not lost and in that regard we are happy to continue to support UN work

on transitions by contributing \$171,000 to the UN Operational Transition Preparedness project in 2025.

I also want to reinforce the importance of safety and security of peacekeepers. We have seen how the UN blue flag is being altered from a symbol of security into a target for attack.

Misinformation, disinformation and hate speech are increasingly being used as weapons of war, they can be not just misleading, but dangerous and potentially fatal. As a long serving troop contributing country in UNIFIL, Ireland has seen first hand how mis and disinformation can severely threaten safety and security of peacekeepers on the ground. It would appear to have been a contributing factor to the fatal attack and loss of the life of an Irish peacekeeper in UNIFIL, Private Sean Rooney, in December 2022. As a consequence, we are committed to financially support the UN workstream on mis

and disinformation with \$80,000 during 2026/2027 and we will double our CIMIC contribution in UNIFIL in 2025, to €80,000.

To truly contribute to peacekeeping reform, we must all keep those deployed in peacekeeping operations, and the populations they protect at the forefront of our efforts – let us strive to make peacekeeping better for those whom it affects the most.

Success of peacekeeping also requires a solid financial foundation and we encourage all Member States to pay their assessments in full and on time so we can address the current UN liquidity crisis.

Ireland stands ready to work with all Member States and stakeholders to act together to strengthen the UN's capability, with the aim of ensuring lasting peace for future generations.

Thank you.