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Session 1: Addressing key challenges facing United Nations peacekeeping through Action for Peacekeeping (A4P) and A4P+.

1 September, New York, GA Hall

Statement by Poland

Honourable Secretary-General,
Esteemed Ministers,
Esteemed Police Chiefs,
Distinguished assembled Guests,

In June this year, at the invitation of the Head of the National Police of Ukraine, I visited Kiev. I experienced first-hand the tragic dimension of this war, the barbarity of the invaders and the drama of ordinary Ukrainians. The devastating images of Irpin - destroyed local police station, where police officers and civilians took shelter during the fight, bombed Romanivsky bridge, used by city residents as an escape route from Russian cannon fire, and finally Bucha, which will always remain a symbol of the bestiality of Russian soldiers - these images will haunt my memory forever.

Witnessing the enormous human tragedy and the scale of the devastation, I have no doubt that Ukraine needs a comprehensive, wide-ranging assistance from the countries of the free world, which need to be united and show solidarity on this issue. The Polish State has been enormously committed to providing assistance to the most vulnerable ones. Since the day the Russian Federation attacked Ukraine, 5.759 million people have fled the dangers of war from Ukraine to Poland. Most of them are women and children - defenceless victims of the unlawful attack by the Russian army. Refugees have received all kinds of support in Poland: shelter, material aid, the right to medical care, education, work and, above all, safety. During that period, in spite of the dangers, more than 3.912 million people moved back from Poland to Ukraine. According to the UN, as of 24.02.2022, more than 11.150 million people have fled from Ukraine.

Also the Polish Police have already been involved in providing material and logistic assistance to Ukraine, and have also taken care of the families of Ukrainian police officers who have found a safe haven from the war in my country. However, in order for our world to remain safe, the support to Ukraine must be increased to include all critical aspects for the ultimate victory in this war.

Particularly important is to assist Ukraine in prosecuting the perpetrators of war crimes, thus providing technical and forensic support to enable more effective and faster identification of both victims and perpetrators of crimes. Another area is the assistance in de-mining threatened areas, and therefore the supply of explosive ordnance disposal equipment (robots, mine detectors, neutralisation equipment, EOD armoured suits). In the context of Russian activities in the vicinity of the Zaporizhia Nuclear Power Plant in Ukraine, it is extremely important to provide personal protective equipment for radiation emergencies. In addition, Ukraine needs all types of vehicles, radio stations, communication means, winter uniforms, tents, blankets and other essential items of everyday use.

Polish police officers have for many years been involved in peacekeeping, stabilisation, humanitarian missions and crisis management operations under the aegis of the United Nations and the European Union. Scattered around the country and abroad, our commitment over the years has been to ensure the safety of our citizens, but also of all whom we care for as part of our daily service.

Today - as we witness the unfolding drama in Ukraine - there emerges the need, if not necessity, to build alliances to strengthen our capacity for representing security and order and to strengthen the role of the United Nations Police as a guarantor of these values.

It is therefore a matter of absolute priority to ensure that the United Nations Police are able to make full use of their wide array of manpower and resources to eliminate both existing and potential threats. I strongly believe that this should include specific actions in both the criminal and prevention sectors, carried out in close cooperation with the police services of all UN Member States.

I think I will be expressing our common opinion when I conclude my speech by stating that by preventing and detecting crime, protecting life and property, and maintaining public order and security in accordance with the rule of law and international human rights, both the national and UN Police lay the foundations for sustainable peace and development.

Thank you very much for your attention.