

Intervention by the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Worship of Costa Rica

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High-Level Session I – The Future of Peacekeeping

UN Peacekeeping Ministerial 2025 – Berlin

May 13th, 2025

Costa Rica is honored to participate in this crucial discussion that provides for guidance on the future of United Nations peacekeeping.

As a country without an army, Costa Rica is strongly committed to multilateralism and its values, and in this regard wishes to continue contributing to peacekeeping debates and collective ideas. With this commitment in mind, I will today outline five key proposals focusing on the pillars of coherence, accountability, sustainability, people-centered approaches, and peacekeeper welfare.

Firstly, we call for enhanced strategic coherence.

Mandates must align more closely with political strategies, prioritize conflict prevention and transitions, and integrate cross-cutting issues such as human rights, climate security, and gender equality into mission planning.

As discussed in the C-34 Special Committee this year, Costa Rica supports establishing Regional Strategic Integration Units to ensure contextual relevance and coordination across peace operations in shared geopolitical spaces.

Secondly, we demand accountability and zero tolerance for misconduct in UN operations.

Our peacekeepers must uphold the highest standards or face swift consequences.

We call for transparent investigation processes, strengthened UN-Member State collaboration on discipline, and enhanced training against sexual exploitation.

Thirdly, we must prioritize long term sustainability of peace operations.

Costa Rica calls for greater mission agility, stronger partnerships with host communities, and deeper environmental accountability.

We support the full implementation of the Digital Transformation Strategy for Peacekeeping and urge that 50% of mission energy be drawn from renewable sources by 2028.

Sustainability also means smarter operations. The UNITE Aware platform is a game-changer, consolidating real-time data on patrols, incidents, through integrated data.

Costa Rica also welcomes the commitment for adequate, predictable, and sustainable financing for peace operations reflected in the Pact for the Future.

Fourthly, we prioritize people-centered peacekeeping.

Reforms must ensure that operations are grounded in mandates that protect civilians and foster long-term peacebuilding.

We propose expanding community engagement, as the significant success of the peacekeeping architecture depends on the way missions communicate with diverse stakeholders, including local communities and other regional or local stakeholders.

Finally, we call for enhanced investment in the welfare and preparedness of peacekeepers.

In line with evolving operational demands and the UN's own Mental Health Strategy, Costa Rica urges full implementation of the new Mental Health Support Framework. **Protecting those we deploy is a moral obligation and a prerequisite for effective, credible peacekeeping.**

Together, with these five proposals, we represent a renewed commitment to the foundational values of the United Nations.

Peacekeeping must evolve to meet today's challenges, but its core purpose must remain constant: to protect the vulnerable, to serve with integrity, and to build lasting peace.

I thank you.