

**THE STATEMENT BY THE HON. MINISTER OF PUBLIC SECURITY AND
PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS OF SRI LANKA DURING UNCOPS 2026**

Madam Chair, Distinguished Delegates,

The threats to peace have become more diverse and complex than ever before. Violent conflicts have been on the rise during the last two decades. Protection of civilians has become a critical concern in many conflict-ridden areas, with the humanitarian landscape becoming increasingly hostile with non – traditional threats. New advanced technologies have opened new domains of security concerns, such as cybersecurity and autonomous weapon systems, together with the misuse of ICT for criminal purposes and the recruitment of mercenaries.

Be that as it may, permit me the honor of commending the United Nations Peace Operations for their effective efforts in addressing the evolving challenges in conflict theatres.

In this backdrop, Sri Lanka welcomes and appreciates the substance and vision of the Secretary – General’s New Agenda for Peace. My delegation recalls with pride that Sri Lanka has been committed contributor to UN Peacekeeping since the deployment of military observes following the Suez Crisis in 1956. More than 21,000 Sri Lankan Peacekeepers have played an important role in many peacekeeping operations, to date. I am confident that the Sri Lanka Formed Police Unit, which is at Readiness Level Three, stands by with the capacity to handle the emerging security landscape.

Madam Chair,

Organized crime, gang violence, and illicit economies are rapidly increasing and pose a growing challenge to international peace and security. It is therefore imperative that the United Nations consider deploying specialized police teams with the experience and skills to address these threats. Sri Lanka stands ready to contribute police personnel, gendarmerie units, and criminal justice experts with experience and skills to counter such threats and to share the knowledge and experience with host countries and partner nations.

Sri Lanka remains committed to supporting United Nations peace operations and stands ready to partner with the international community in advancing sustainable peace and security.

Thank You