

29 May 2014

**Message of H.E. John W. Ashe  
President of the 68<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations General Assembly,  
for International Day of UN Peacekeepers**

On this International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers, let us take a moment to pay tribute to our colleagues who face enormous daily challenges and continuously risk their lives in the name of peace. I encourage Member States, civil society and other stakeholders to support this year's theme: "UN Peacekeeping: A Force for Peace. A Force for Change. A Force for the Future." We must ensure that security challenges are addressed in the countries where peacekeepers work so that we can create a more sustainable future for all members of the international community.

Peacekeeping remains an important resource for preserving international peace and security. Its success undoubtedly depends on the continued strong engagement and cooperation between the Security Council, the General Assembly, the Secretariat as well as Member States that contribute troops and financial resources.

More than 111,000 peacekeepers are serving in sixteen missions in some of the world's most dangerous places. As we continue our global efforts to set the stage for the creation of a Post-2015 Development Agenda, innovation and technology, especially the transfer of new and emerging technologies will greatly contribute to strengthening global security. We must continue to create new ways of using these technologies to protect those at greatest risk in conflict and war-torn countries.

Defending the lives of civilians has become an increasingly tough challenge. Today we honor those who have died in the struggle to promote global stability. We sincerely commend those who have worked tirelessly in the service of peace, and we must do everything we can to usher in the world that they envisioned.