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The Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia
Office of the Prime Minister

2 August 2017

Dear Excellency,

As part of its Presidency of the Security Council in September, Ethiopia will be hosting a High-Level Debate on 20 September 2017 at 10:00 am, focused on the reform of UN peacekeeping operations to provide an opportunity for serious discussion on the issue at the highest level.

The High-Level Debate will be held two years after former Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon presented his report on "The Future of Peace Operations: Implementation of the Recommendations of the High-Level Independent Panel on Peace Operations" and the Leader's Summit on Peacekeeping where substantial pledges were made by member States to strengthen UN Peacekeeping. Therefore, it will be an opportune moment to take stock of the progress made so far and to exchange views on ways of ensuring implementation and follow up.

What gives context and urgency for the need for reform is the need to ensure greater efficiency and cost effectiveness in the financing of UN peace operations. This has drawn major attention in the discussion of the matter not only in the Security Council but also in the General Assembly. The most fundamental challenge is to find ways of ensuring cost effectiveness and attaining greater efficiency without undermining the efficacy of peacekeeping as a necessary tool for global peace and security.

Under these circumstances, it appears self-evident that there is no better option than accelerating reform through the implementation of the relevant recommendations of the Secretary-General's report to contribute towards

ensuring greater efficiency and effectiveness of UN peacekeeping. That is why we believe there is a need for serious discussion at the highest level on this very timely and urgent issue. The planned debate is expected to provide that platform.

The challenges of international peace and security that we face today cannot be handled by the United Nations alone. That is why one of the important pillars of reforming UN peacekeeping is, of course, strengthening partnerships with regional and sub-regional organizations in accordance with Chapter VIII of the UN Charter. This will not only help to ensure a timely and effective response to crisis situations but it is also cost effective. In this connection, there is now a growing recognition that the African Union and its regional mechanisms have indeed demonstrated the ability and flexibility to respond to challenging security situations. But here the need for predictable and sustainable financing and support has never been as urgent as is today.

In this regard, the United Nations and the African Union have jointly developed various innovative options for the financing of AU-led peace support operations on a case by case basis. The expectation is that the Security Council will demonstrate its commitment in taking practical steps in this regard. Therefore, it gives me great pleasure to kindly invite you to attend this high-level debate. I have further the honor to enclose herewith the Concept Note for your reference.

Looking forward to your participation with keen interest, please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Hailemariam', written over a horizontal line.

Hailemariam Dessalegn
Prime Minister

**To All Heads of State and Government
of Member States of the United Nations**