

Statement by the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for International Development Cooperation and Climate of Sweden to the United Nations, at the Security Council Meeting on Protecting Civilians in the Context of Peacekeeping Operations 2016 **Pro**
10 June 2016

"As outlined in the Secretary-General's report (S/2016/447), the protection of civilians is at the core of our common purpose. The heroic efforts of United Nations personnel and the commitment of troop- and police-contributing countries are a testament to this. They deserve our deepest respect, recognizing that their mission may also entail sacrifice. Let me highlight three ideas that we believe should underpin the protection-of-civilians agenda of the twenty-first century. First, peacekeepers and peace operations must be properly resourced to protect. Governments have the primary responsibility to protect civilians. But while we recommit to enhancing national efforts, United Nations peace operations must be able to assist in fulfilling this responsibility. All peacekeepers need to be properly prepared, trained and equipped. We must therefore ensure that all United Nations personnel, at all levels and in all functions, receive adequate training on the protection of civilians, child protection and preventing conflict-related sexual violence before deployment, and that continual training is provided in the field."

Read the full statement [here](#) .