Background
The Secretary-General launched the Action for Peacekeeping (A4P) initiative at the Security Council open debate on peacekeeping operations on 28 March 2018, during which he requested a strategic-level renewal of political support for peacekeeping by key stakeholders. A4P builds upon a range of initiatives to make its peacekeeping operations more effective, safer and better designed to advance political settlements. These include, inter alia, the Action Plan to reduce peacekeeper fatalities and the independent reviews on specific peacekeeping operations.

The Secretary-General requested all peacekeeping stakeholders, including the Security Council, troop and police contributors, host countries, financial contributors and regional organizations, to work together with the Secretariat in developing a Declaration of Shared Commitments, a political document consisting of collective commitments to strengthen peacekeeping. Following consultations with Member States and intergovernmental organizations, the Secretary-General sent the final text of the Declaration of Shared Commitments to all Member States, requesting their endorsement and inviting them to participate in a High-Level Event on the margins of the General Assembly.

The summit-level event falls within the same year as the 70th anniversary of UN peacekeeping. It will therefore be an important opportunity to reiterate the challenges facing UN peacekeeping, demonstrate that the Secretariat is pro-actively working to address them, and articulate what collective action is required from all peacekeeping stakeholders.

Issues and Significance
The summit-level event falls within the same year as the 70th anniversary of UN peacekeeping. It will therefore be an important opportunity to reiterate the challenges facing UN peacekeeping, demonstrate that the Secretariat is pro-actively working to address them, and articulate what collective action is required from all peacekeeping stakeholders.

In this regard, the event will seek to highlight: (1) the achievements of peacekeeping as a peace and security tool; (2) how peacekeeping stakeholders, including the Secretariat, are effectively working together to
address the most complex challenges peacekeeping faces today; (3) critical areas that have yet to be fully addressed in order to improve the effectiveness of peacekeeping and which require the renewed commitment of all stakeholders; and (4) the need for greater awareness and support for peacekeeping from the public at large. The event will also encourage sustained and collective engagement by all peacekeeping stakeholders to continue to take A4P forward in operational terms, including by seeking the support of UN legislative bodies needed to take A4P forward.

**Outcome and Format**
The event aims to generate, at the highest level, a recognition of the value of peacekeeping as a tool to promote international peace and security, and the renewal of political support needed from all stakeholders to address contemporary challenges facing peacekeeping. To do so, the event will facilitate a dynamic exchange between peacekeeping stakeholders both showcasing the achievements of UN peacekeeping and holding a forward-looking discussion on the collective action needed by all peacekeeping stakeholders to address the challenges faced by our peacekeeping operations and make them fit to confront present and future challenges.

The event will be held at the level of Heads of State and Government. All Member States have been invited to the high-level event, as well as select intergovernmental organizations. Major troop and police contributing countries, permanent members of the Security Council, major financial contributors, donors, the group of ten A4P partner Member States, the C34 Chair, the African Union, the European Union, the International Organisation of La Francophonie have been invited to deliver remarks.

**Envisioned Program**
The event will be opened with a short video that showcases peacekeeping achievements and outlines the main challenges that require all peacekeeping stakeholders collective support. This will be followed by brief opening remarks delivered by the Secretary-General, which will showcase the progress the Secretariat and peacekeeping operations have been making on Action for Peacekeeping and highlight some of the Secretariat’s commitments contained in the Declaration of Shared Commitments. The Secretary-General’s opening remarks would be followed by a brief intervention by President George Weah of Liberia which would highlight

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1 Bangladesh, Brazil, Cote d’Ivoire, Ethiopia, France, Indonesia, Netherlands, Rwanda, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uruguay
successful role of UNMIL in promoting peace, stability and development in Liberia.²

Heads of State and Government will speak for no longer than three minutes each. The speaker’s list will give due consideration to the inclusion of a selection of the key peacekeeping stakeholders; rank and protocol as well as the country’s contribution to peacekeeping will be taken into account in determining the speaker’s list. The total number of speakers will be limited to a manageable number, ideally with no more than 40 speakers over the course of the four-hour event.

² Assistant-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations Bintou Keita has discussed this possibility with the Permanent Representative of Liberia, who responded positively and will inform once a response is received from Monrovia.