

UNITED NATIONS CHIEFS OF POLICE SUMMIT

CHAIR'S NOTE

NEW YORK, 3 JUNE 2016

Ministers of the Interior, Chiefs of Police and high-level officials from more than 100 Member States gathered at the United Nations Headquarters in New York to review the evolution of today's operating environment of the United Nations Police. During this daylong event, we heard participants:

- Acknowledge the exponential growth of the United Nations Police numbers and tasks;
- Recognize the central role of the United Nations Police in helping to rebuild, reform and restructure criminal justice chains;
- Reaffirm the operational necessity of gender-sensitive policing, the nomination of gender focal points and women's participation in United Nations policing to ultimately reach the goal of 20 per cent;
- Commend the United Nations Police Division for its efforts to increase the effectiveness and efficiency of United Nations Police, tackling both doctrinal and capability gaps in the field; and
- Look forward to the Secretary-General's report on United Nations Police and encourage him to endorse the external independent review report recommendations by proposing concrete initiatives to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of United Nations Police.

Many of the findings of the Police Division's external independent review were also broadly welcomed.

In addition, high-level discussions stressed the increased contribution of United Nations Police to building and strengthening the capacities of host-State institutions. They made particular mention of the issue of transnational organized crime, which has emerged as a major threat to sustainable peace in many post-conflict societies. Representatives of Member States hosting a United Nations Police presence reaffirmed their commitment to take full advantage of United Nations Police's capacity-building and development efforts on the basis of the commonly agreed police development plans.

It was reiterated that the promotion, protection and respect for human rights form part of the core business of United Nations Police. United Nations Police officers were urged to act as role models to their host-State counterparts and, especially, raise human rights issues if confronted with violations. The obligation of all United Nations Police officers to adhere to the Secretary-General's Zero Tolerance Policy on sexual exploitation and abuse was stressed. Concurrently, there were vocalizations of commitment to support United Nations conduct and discipline initiatives in this area.

Fostering partnerships

Participants recognized that strengthened partnerships between the United Nations Police, the African Union, AFRIPOL, AMERIPOL, ASIANAPOL, EUROPOL, the European Union, the International Association

of Chiefs of Police, INTERPOL, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe as well as other partner organizations will yield greater impact, playing to respective comparative advantages.

Strengthening the police policy framework

Also under discussion was the Strategic Guidance Framework for International Police Peacekeeping (SGF), an overarching policy architecture that harmonizes approaches to mandated policing tasks. Participants stressed the importance of finalizing and, more importantly, implementing the guidelines on police command, police administration, police operations and host-State police capacity building and development. In addition, the development of standardized and commonly agreed manuals and training materials in particular police specializations may further deepen the doctrinal foundation of the United Nations Police. Participants stressed the benefits of ensuring – with the assistance of the United Nations Police Division – that every officer deployed on assignment with the United Nations receives and is oriented to a suite of United Nations Police policy documents starting from 2017.

Streamlining nomination and recruitment

Participants also considered the need for concerted attention to be paid to United Nations Police recruitment and selection, focusing on demand-driven skillsets and priorities expressed by the host-State. It was noted that the success of the United Nations Police in the field is closely correlated with the leadership and professional skills of its senior commanders. The participants took note of the recent guidance from the Police Division, which articulates command philosophy and requirements, and commended the establishment of a Senior Recruitment Roster. All Member States were strongly encouraged to nominate at least two senior police officers, including at least one female officer, to this roster by the end of 2016.

High-level officials and police executives expressed concern about the continued underrepresentation of women officers in the United Nations Police, despite the concerted efforts of the United Nations Police Division. They stressed that gender underrepresentation within United Nations Police represents a significant operational gap and acknowledged the need to reinvigorate efforts to nominate women officers.

Summit participants noted that police officers on assignment with the United Nations deserve the fullest support and respect. There was recognition that officers on United Nations Police assignments acquire unrivalled operational knowledge and experience. All Member States were urged to create or reinforce incentives and promotion opportunities for police officers, especially for female officers, to go on United Nations Police deployments, by the end of 2017. They were also encouraged to share their national incentive and promotion models with the United Nations Police Division, so that it can compile and circulate a survey of good practice to all Member States.

Supplying quality Formed Police Units

Summit participants noted the contribution of Formed Police Units (FPUs) in assisting national authorities to maintain law and order in mission areas, deter forceful attempts to disrupt the political process and protect civilians under imminent threat of physical attack. The obligation of police-contributing countries to supply highly qualified, well-trained, medically fit and well-equipped

FPU personnel who possess the highest standards of integrity was discussed. Summit participants were further urged to expeditiously rectify any operational capability and capacity shortcomings. These deficits not only run the risk of derailing peacekeeping efforts and the implementation of mandates given by the Security Council but also put the lives of FPU personnel and others in danger. The provision of self-protection equipment to enhance the resilience against asymmetric threats in mission environments was deemed particularly vital.

Improving and expanding training

It was reaffirmed that the responsibility to deliver mandatory pre-deployment training of high quality lies with police-contributing countries and that such training is key to the implementation of United Nations policing mandates. The United Nations Police Division proposed that a course on international police peacekeeping be developed and incorporated in the curricula of national police and law enforcement training institutions by 2020. The United Nations Department of Peacekeeping Operations and Department of Field Support agreed to support the development of this course through guidance on the curriculum and the provision of UN-specific training material.

Discussions also reflected the strong support from Member States for the United Nations Police to continue the fight against the scourge of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) by prioritizing this area in its operational and development assistance to the host-State police and other law enforcement agencies. Moreover, it was further underlined that all police officers should receive United Nations Department of Peacekeeping Operations and Department of Field Support approved SGBV training prior to their deployment. Participants also expressed support to strengthening partnerships with regional and specialized international organizations in the area of training.

Tackling transnational organized crime

High-level officials and police executives acknowledged the need to deploy more specialized expertise – based on specific capacity gaps of national institutions and priorities requested by host States – and called for enhanced data management and analysis capacities on transnational threats for United Nations Police, including through better connections to the existing tools and networks, such as INTERPOL. Some reaffirmed the importance of intelligence-led policing, including enhancing the effectiveness of United Nations Police through technology and innovation.

Increased advocacy with United Nations legislative bodies

Participants underscored the importance of clear and achievable mandates, as well as adequate financial and human resources and political support to enable United Nations Police to carry out the tasks entrusted to them. Discussions at the Summit also highlighted the need for the United Nations Police Division to be provided with the personnel strength commensurate with its increasing backstopping responsibilities.

To increase advocacy for police-related issues within the United Nations, Member States were also strongly urged to include Police Advisers in their Permanent Missions to the United Nations in New York. This would considerably enhance communication with the Secretariat on international police peacekeeping matters.