Enhancing Situational Awareness Capacity of the United Nations Police and its Responses to Cyber Risks in Peace Operations

o **Brief description of the project**

    o Objective of the project

To facilitate the continued implementation and integration of the Unite Aware platform in peacekeeping operations and special political missions. This initiative aims to increase the situational awareness capacity of the United Nations Police (UNPOL) through the development of a Unite Aware module dedicated for the police and reinforcement of the operational and technical capabilities of UNPOL to support host-State law enforcement agencies in implementing criminal peacekeeping-intelligence. The Police Division would collaborate with the Office of Information and Communications Technology (OICT) and the UN C4SIR Academy on Peace Operations (UNCAP) to develop the module and to organize capacity-building workshops for police officers from field missions. The project would occur in two phases: (1) a discovery phase, in which experts from the Police Division would conduct assessments in five missions to analyze UNPOL's information management processes in the Unite Aware platform, which has been initially piloted in UNFICYP and MINUSCA, to collect business requirements that would inform a potential subsequent phase in year two; and (2) an implementation phase, in which the dedicated police module would be developed, piloted and tested, with related capacity-building activities for UNPOL.

    o Why is the project required?

The project addresses three requirements. Firstly, the full realization of the Strategy for the Digital Transformation of UN Peacekeeping requires data-driven, innovative, and tech-enabled policing, which is a crosscutting priority within Action for Peacekeeping (A4P+). Secondly, the implementation of the Policy on Peacekeeping-Intelligence (2019) promotes a central role for UNPOL components to contribute to situational awareness and early warning to increase the security of UN personnel and advance mandate implementation. Thirdly, given the growing recognition of the risks posed by cyber criminals as spoilers of peace and security in post-conflict areas, as evidenced by Security Council resolutions 2185 (2014), 2382 (2017) and 2482 (2019), and the Secretary-General's reports on United Nations policing (2016 and 2018), the role of UNPOL in strengthening host-State police capacity to address these challenges has become more critical.

    o What is the expected impact of the project?

UNPOL will be better prepared to help host-State counterparts to enhance data-driven policing through the development of tools for data management and analysis and the greater use of the Situational Awareness Geospatial Enterprise (SAGE) and related peacekeeping databases by UNPOL. Reinforced responses to cyber threats, including misinformation and disinformation, by delivering as One UN and closer coordination with UNDP, OHCHR and UNODC through the Global Focal Point (GFP) arrangement and the Inter-Agency Task Force on Policing. Sustainable capacity for UNPOL through pre-deployment and in-service training on cyber security and criminal intelligence, thereby enhancing situational awareness and the safety and security of UN peacekeepers and host communities and advancing mandate implementation.

- o **Expected outcomes, outputs and proposed activities**

Outcomes	Outputs	Proposed Activities
Phase 1: Discovery Phase Greater use of SAGE and increased understanding of business and information requirements to inform the potential development of a police module in Unite Aware to enhance situational awareness and strengthen the safety and security of UN peacekeepers and host communities.	Identification of key information requirements for UNPOL to input information into the Unite Aware platform.	Engagement with field missions and experts to analyze existing situational awareness systems and applications in the mission prior to and during the roll-out of Situational Awareness (SA) capability to assess the mission's information management processes, to collect business requirements and to ensure the technical platform supports business processes once deployed.

Evaluation and support to UN missions in the integration/adaption of the UNPOL module into the mission's Unite Aware platform for the sustainable flow of information, thus enhancing the capacity of the module to support decision-making at both the strategic and operational levels. |
| **Phase 2: Implementation Phase** *(Based on the outcomes of business analysis in phase 1, the proposal will suggest technical development to be conducted in phase 2)* Reinforced operational and technical capability of UNPOL to support host-State law enforcement agencies for implementing criminal peacekeeping-intelligence and addressing cyber threats | Development of a UNPOL module in Unite Aware for integrated data management to monitor, analyze and report to support decision-making on safety and security for UNPOL leadership at UNHQ and in field missions.

A curriculum/guidance for a capacity-building workshop on criminal peacekeeping intelligence, cyber security, and analytical skills.

Increased collaboration with partners (DPO- or UN-wide as well as external) to address cyber threats more effectively. | Development of a Unite Aware module dedicated to UNPOL for centralized and integrated data/intelligence management, data visualization and analysis, and incident reporting, including data on criminal activities, including serious and organized crime, and police operations in peace operations.

Conduct of regular activities of the Serious and Organized Crime (SOC) Focal Points Network including monthly VTCs, newsletters and an annual workshop.

Development of a curriculum for capacity-building workshop on the police Unite Aware module focusing on crime peacekeeping intelligence, |

		cyber security, and analytical and technical skillsets. In cooperation with UNCAP, organization of one three-day workshop to enhance the capacity of SOC Focal Points on crime peacekeeping intelligence and cyber security.

- ○ **Implementation timeline**

One year (1 January 2024 to 31 December 2024).

- **Explain how the project will further the implementation of the A4P+ priorities**.

The project is aligned to the A4P and A4P+ shared commitments and priorities through the promotion of enhanced coherence and interoperability across police components' support to host-States in tackling transnational threats such as cybercrime. Further, data-driven, innovative, and tech-enabled peacekeeping is a crosscutting priority of A4P+. Enhancing UNPOL and host-State capabilities to identify and analyze the main drivers of conflict and spoilers to sustainable peace will help to achieve such outcomes. Strategic partnerships, particularly with UNODC and INTERPOL, allow for the development of joint activities and best use of comparative advantages.

- **How have gender aspects been included in the design and implementation of the project? How does it help the Department implement its women, peace and security and gender parity commitments?**

Cybercrime can have a disproportionate impact on women and children, for example, through victimization by trafficking and recruitment by armed groups. Effectively implemented cybercrime threat assessments will highlight specific threats to vulnerable populations by organized crime groups. This will enable host States to prioritize threats through analytical products and rationalize decision-making on how best to address such threats. Reducing the negative impact and fostering greater peace and security in conflict and post-conflict settings lays the foundation for women to participate in civil society and contribute to conflict prevention, peacebuilding, and peace sustainment. Gender aspects will be considered throughout the process, including through consultation with the Police Gender Officer, awareness-raising through female police networks and ensuring gender parity in terms of workshop speakers and participants. Promote and support the gender goals of A4P and A4P+ by adapting and expanding the capacity of the Women's Outreach Course (WOC) program to the C4ISR area of expertise by creating a new dedicated UNPOL course integrated into the WOC session.

- **Brief explanation of any risks that the implementation of the project may face and how to mitigate them.**

The high turnover in field missions risks the continuity of strengthened capacity implementing UNPOL module in Unite Aware. The project aims to overcome this, by fostering sustainability and continuity, to serve as a repository for any UNPOL officer assigned to criminal intelligence management and analysis.

- **Proposed budget**

Item	Brief Description	Total Amount
Travel	Five in-mission visits/assessments by UNHQ staff	$130,000.00
Consultant	Software developer (one year) to be embedded in the development team in Valencia	$90,000.00
Consultant	System analyst (one year), to be embedded in the development team in Valencia	$90,000.00
Travel	One workshop in Entebbe for about 20 UNPOL from field missions and key interlocutors, plus staff members from New York, on using the module	$90,000.00
Programme Support Costs (13%)		$52,000.00
	Total:	**$452,000.00**