

Implementation of Security Council Resolution 2589 on Accountability for Crimes Against Peacekeepers

- **Brief description of the project**

- Objective of the project

Since 1948, 1,065 peacekeepers were killed as a result of malicious acts, including 331 since 2013. Several thousand more were injured. Very few of those responsible for these crimes have been brought to justice. For the period 1 January 2013 to 18 June 2023, 278 peacekeepers have died in the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Mali, or 84 per cent of all such casualties across peacekeeping operations for this period.

Through its resolution 2589, the Security Council has called for a renewed focus on measures to “bring to justice the perpetrators of the killing of, and all acts of violence against United Nations personnel” serving in peacekeeping operations. The Council has requested, or encouraged, specific actions by the Secretariat including: a) initiatives to “support and facilitate capacity building and technical assistance to host state authorities” (para. 3); b) reporting on “progress made by Member States hosting or having hosted peacekeeping operations in the prevention, investigation and prosecution of cases”, including support from the United Nations (para. 4); c) the establishment of a “comprehensive online database” on cases “accessible to Member States” (para. 5); d) immediate notifications of incidents to “relevant national authorities” (para. 8); and (e) the designation of mission focal points (para. 9).

The objective of this project is to ensure adequate Headquarters support for the full implementation of Security Council resolution 2589. This will be done primarily through activities set forth in the Strategic action plan to address crimes against peacekeepers (2023-2026) of the Department of Peace Operations and the Department of Operational Support. These activities will also serve efforts to strengthen accountability for crimes fueling conflict more broadly, including for crimes against other United Nations personnel and civilians.

- Why is the project required?

This project is required for the implementation of Security Council resolution 2589 through the strategic action plan to address crimes against peacekeepers (2023-2026). At this time, the Department of Peace Operations has no dedicated resources for the implementation of Security Council resolution 2589. This initiative would also complement mission-specific activities based on the requirements and mandates of concerned operations. Given the deterrent effect of accountability for crimes against peacekeepers, failing to ramp up our efforts risks the lives of United Nations personnel and civilians.

- What is the expected impact of the project?

Overall, increased accountability for crimes against peacekeepers through the following specific results:

1. Host countries increasingly take all appropriate measures to prevent crimes against peacekeepers and bring to justice perpetrators of criminal acts against United Nations personnel;
2. Increased engagement of Member States, including troop/police-contributing countries, to encourage accountability for crimes against peacekeepers;
3. Improved reporting to Headquarters;
4. Increased reporting to the Security Council;
5. Increased number of cases with confirmed investigations by host countries;

6. Increased number of convictions and alleged perpetrators identified and detained;
7. Dedicated human and programmatic funds in missions;
8. Expert capacities are made available to missions upon request;
9. Fully operational database for crimes against peacekeepers;
10. Group of Friends to Promote Accountability for Crimes Against Peacekeepers fully supported by the Secretariat;
11. Greater visibility and support are brought to the issue of crimes against peacekeepers and other United Nations personnel; and
12. Dedicated capacity established at Headquarters.

○ **Expected outcomes, outputs and proposed activities**

Outcomes	Outputs	Proposed Activities
Increased accountability for crimes against peacekeepers particularly in the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Mali	2024 activities of the strategic action plan on accountability for crimes against peacekeepers (2023-2026) are fully implemented	<p>Political advocacy and information-sharing</p> <p>Reinforcing support to host countries, including by mobilizing human and programmatic resources required to support the investigation and prosecution of cases</p> <p>Establishment of a comprehensive online database</p> <p>Supporting the Group of Friends to Promote Accountability for Crimes Against Peacekeepers Undertaking public information and strategic communication initiatives</p> <p>Reinforcing support capacities at Headquarters</p>
Improved capacities of host-countries (check UNSCR 2589) for the investigation and prosecution of priority cases	Specialized expertise provided	Providing specialized expertise, including through existing capacities where available (eg. Standing Police Capacity and the Justice and Corrections and Standing Capacity) for the investigation and prosecution of priority cases of crimes against peacekeepers and related cases against civilians, based on requirements from host-states

○ **Implementation timeline**

The project will be implemented over 12 months and is expected to be fully aligned with the implementation of the 2024 activities of the Strategic Action Plan on Accountability for Crimes Against Peacekeepers (2023-2026).

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

The project will be a central initiative for the implementation of A4P+ **Priority 4** on “Accountability to peacekeepers”, and more specifically **Result 4.1**. (“Progress in prevention, investigation and

prosecution of crimes against peacekeepers”), whereby under **Deliverable 4.1.1.** (“Implement Security Council resolution 2589 (2021) on crimes against peacekeepers, including through a comprehensive online database of crimes against United Nations peacekeepers, accessible to concerned Member States”) and **deliverable 4.1.2.** (Implement the standard operating procedures on the prevention, investigation and prosecution of serious crimes against UN personnel in peacekeeping operations and special political missions”) UNHQs will undertake the above-mentioned proposed activities.

- **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?**

The gender aspects have been fully taken into account in the design of the project and for its implementation. Ensuring accountability for crimes against peacekeepers will contribute to their safety and security and enable them to better implement their mandated responsibilities, including as part of the operationalization of the peace, women and security priorities of the Organization. Furthermore, this proposal is fully informed by the need to address the different situations of women and girls, men and boys, particularly as victims and witnesses. This initiative will also take into account the differing needs of women and men in prison settings. This project will be informed by a gender analysis throughout its implementation, including gender markers and gender-disaggregated data. This project will be fully informed by Security Council resolutions 1325, 1820, 1888, 1889, 1960, 2106, 2122, 2242, 2467, and 2493 and related issuances on women, peace and security.

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

At the strategic level, there is a fundamental risk of a lack of progress on accountability for crimes against peacekeepers if host countries do not prioritize this issue. The primary operational risk for the implementation of this project are related to the potential lack of political and/or financial support to implement the strategic action plan to address crimes against peacekeepers (2023-2026). Such a risk covers primarily two different aspects: 1) reinforcing support in host countries; and 2) reinforcing capacities at Headquarters.

Mitigation measures will be taken as follows: Continued engagement with Member States and United Nations legislative bodies; and implementation of a robust public information strategy.

- **Proposed budget**

Item	Brief Description	Total Amount
Substantive support to priority peacekeeping operations for the implementation of Security Council resolution 2589	In-person deployment of experts to mission settings to support the implementation of priority activities in the strategic action plan on accountability for crimes against peacekeepers (2023-2026)	\$48,000.00
Independent strategic assessment	Consultancy services and related travel costs for an independent, high-level, strategic assessment of the implementation of Security Council resolution 2589	\$250,000.00
Workshop in Entebbe, Uganda in 2024	Organize workshop with Member States, including host countries and TCCs/PCCs, missions and UNHQs personnel on key lessons-learned and proposed additional measures for the implementation of Security Council resolution 2589	<i>Seeking in-kind contribution</i>

Staffing for twelve (12) months	One P-5 Senior Judicial Affairs Officer, one PP-3 Judicial Affairs Officer (JCS), one P-4 Police Investigation Officer (PD) and one G-6 Information Assistant	\$1,053,125.00
Deployment of specialized technical expertise for the investigation and prosecution of priority cases	Consultancy services and/or travel costs for provision of specialized expertise, including through existing capacities where available (eg. Standing Police Capacity and the Justice and Corrections and Standing Capacity) for the investigation and prosecution of priority cases of crimes against peacekeepers and related cases against civilians, based on requirements from host-states	\$150,000.00
Programme Support Costs (13%)		\$195,146.25
	Total:	\$1,696,271.25