

Enhancing the capacity of peace operations in support of criminal accountability for serious crimes

(a) Brief description of the project (Not more than three paragraphs in total)

The United Nations Security Council has increasingly mandated peace operations to assist host authorities to develop national capacities to investigate and prosecute international and other serious crimes, including conflict-related sexual violence and other destabilizing crimes that fuel conflict, such as terrorism and transnational organized crime. Currently, five United Nations peace operations, in cooperation with partners, are supporting national accountability processes for serious crimes, including in the Democratic Republic of Congo, the Central African Republic, Mali, Darfur and South Sudan. The investigation and prosecution of serious crimes requires dedicated and specialized capacity throughout the criminal justice process. The absence of such capacity entails major risks, including disappearance or intimidation of victims and witnesses, disappearance of evidence, delayed proceedings, unlawful detention, other grave human rights violations, and ultimately a loss of trust in the legitimacy of the state and the peace process.

Notwithstanding considerable progress, peace operations continue to face key obstacles, including the timely and flexible deployment of specialized expertise in support of their mandates. Many requests for support are time-limited and require a high degree of specialization, which regular staff cannot be expected to meet. These include strategic mentoring and advising national authorities, including on investigative techniques (also within the prison system), prioritization and management of complicated cases, prosecutorial strategies; provision of mutual legal assistance; forensics and preservation of evidence; witness support and protection, including within the corrections system; court management and administration; and planning and management of programmes in support of accountability mechanisms. While some of this support could be (and is) provided by the Justice and Corrections Standing Capacity (JCSC)¹, certain of whose members have expertise in some of these areas, at its current capacity, JCSC is unable to effectively respond to the increased demand.

In response to these challenges, the Justice and Corrections Service (JCS) is launching an initiative to enhance the operational and strategic capacity of peace operations, including through increased timely, flexible or rapid deployment of specialized expertise, to meet the demands for increased support to national accountability mechanisms. Complementing other efforts in this regard, JCS is undertaking a comprehensive mapping of key partners and expertise within and outside the United Nations system, which will include existing specialized capacities amongst international accountability mechanisms and many Member States. Considering that the best capacity is primarily available in the short-term, the mapping would identify available experts who would deploy mainly through existing short-term modalities, such as cross-mission TDYs, consultancies and government provided-personnel, or through other alternative funding sources.

In support of this initiative, an essential part of the proposed project would be the funding of a Senior Investigation and Prosecution Adviser (P-4/P-5) post within JCSC to provide immediate operational capacity and lead efforts in support of criminal accountability at the national level.

(b) Expected Outcomes, Outputs and Proposed Activities

Outcomes	Outputs	Proposed Activities
Senior Investigation and Prosecution Adviser:		
Enhanced capacity of peace operations to support national authorities to investigate	Subject to terms of reference, may include leading efforts on developing investigation and prosecution strategies;	Activities will vary subject to terms of reference, and may include rapid deployment in the field; leading efforts to

¹ JCSC is a rapid response team that deploys to support UN peace operations, is part of JCS and is based at the UN Global Service Centre in Brindisi, Italy.

and prosecute serious crimes under international law Increase in investigation and prosecution of serious crimes	assessments and proposals for mechanism(s) to address serious crimes; planning and managing programmes in support of accountability mechanisms.	support investigation and prosecution of serious crimes; mentoring and advising on development of planning and programme management documents and tools; and programme implementation.
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(c) Implementation Timeline²

JCS is ready to on-board a Senior Investigation and Prosecution Adviser within JCSC at any time; ideally, the post will be funded for a minimum of two years.

(d) How does this project relate to internal (DPKO and DFS) and external United Nations partners (ie. DPA, DM, etc)?

In addition to assisting DPKO, the proposed project will directly benefit partners within the Global Focal Point arrangement for Police Justice and Corrections and other interlocutors (including Member States)

(e) How gender aspects been included in the design and implementation of the project?

The Secretariat is committed to achieving 50/50 gender balance in its recruitment. Female candidates will be strongly encouraged to apply for the JCSC position.

(f) Brief explanation of any risks that the implementation of the project may face and how to mitigate them.

If JCS does not secure the requested post and the funding pool, justice and corrections components will continue to support criminal accountability mandates with their current complement of staff, but will be unable provide the required specialized expertise and flexible support.

(g) Proposed Budget

Items ³	Brief Description	Total Amount
Senior Investigation and Prosecution Adviser	Net salary (P-5) including staff assessment, common staff costs, and total standard costs	\$281,595
	Travel to field missions (four trips per year)	\$40,000
	Subtotal	\$321,595
Programme Support Costs (13%)		\$41,807
Total		\$363,402

² Determine whether the project will be implemented in a calendar year or longer and whether there are any dated events that may limit the timing of the funding. For instance, the project will fund a conference already schedule and therefore the funds are required before the conference. There is no need to provide a detailed timeframe of events.

³ Post estimates need to include salary for the period together with standard costs, which include the following costs: (i) Rental Premises; (ii) Office Supplies; (iii) Telephone and Fax; and (iv) Computing Services. For the most recent scale of salaries and standard costs, please consult with the Executive Office. If you need a salary list, please contact OCOS or the EO.