

## Establishing the Policy and Operational Support Team in the Office of the Assistant Secretary-General for Rule of Law and Security Institutions

### (a) Brief description of the project

- Objective of the project

As a specialized capacity, the Office of Rule of Law and Security Institutions (OROLSI), located in the Department of Peace Operations (DPO), deploys peacekeepers and technical experts who, as early peacebuilders, assist conflict-affected countries in re-establishing the rule of law and security institutions necessary to build and sustain peace.

From operations to strategy, the Office oversees a wide spectrum of cross-cutting activities, including supporting peacekeeping operations and special political missions; recruiting thousands of professionals for international deployment; mobilizing resources for vital programmes; developing doctrine, guidance and training; and partnering with United Nations entities, Member States, regional organizations and academia. Through its five components — UN Police Division; Justice and Corrections Service; Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Section; Security Sector Reform Unit; and UN Mine Action Service — OROLSI field personnel comprises over 15,000 rule of law and security professionals. As of January 2019, the UN Secretary-General requested OROLSI to function as a UN system-wide provider for UN Mission and non-UN Mission settings.

In that context, a dedicated Policy and Operational Support Team (POST) was designed to help develop coherent cross-cutting OROLSI-wide policies and guidance aimed to improve the implementation of rule of law and security institutions mandates through sound impact-based interventions. The Team will also support the implementation of policies aimed at bridging the nexus between the peace and development pillars and identify ways in which OROLSI can support Member States achieve Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in particular SDG 16 as it calls for the promotion of rule of law at the national and international levels, violence reduction, and equal access to justice for all through the reduction of corruption, illicit arms flows, and organized crime; development of transparent institutions; enforcement of non-discriminatory laws; and fortification of national institutions and international cooperation to prevent violence and combat terrorism and crime.

- Why the project is necessary and how it relates to the implementation of the A4P commitments.

The establishment of POST is closely aligned with the UN Secretary-General's vision on conflict prevention and the Action for Peacekeeping (A4P) initiative. Through this project, OROLSI would contribute more to ensuring that the Department of Peace Operations maintains its relevancy as an expert-level service-provider capable of meeting the demands of Member States and the UN writ large on a rapid basis.

POST will have the primary responsibility of coordinating OROLSI's implementation of A4P. This includes developing policy for advancing political solutions to conflict; enhancing the political impact of peacekeeping through strengthened rule of law and security institutions; enhancing partnerships; supporting effective performance and accountability of rule of law and security institutions components of peace operations; strengthening the impact of security and judicial sectors on sustaining peace; enhancing the security of police components deployed in peacekeeping operations; and, coordinating OROLSI's implementation of the women and youth, peace and security agendas.

It would also enhance the collaboration between OROLSI and its strategic partners including international, regional and sub-regional organizations and arrangements, in particular, the European

Union (EU). This project aims to strengthen coordination of interventions in the Sahel region through OROLSI specialized capacities and modalities including its Standing Capacities and through the EU's regional coordination cell for the Sahel and the Partnership for Security and Stability for the Sahel (P3S). It would also achieve greater coherence within the UN through joint platforms, such as the Global Focal Point for the Rule of Law, which would benefit from more regular interactions with the EU. This project would ensure unity of action across the UN and EU in ROLSI areas.

The Team will coordinate and lead OROLSI's work in emerging workstreams, including but not limited to conflict prevention and early warning; sustaining peace; prevention of violent extremism/counter-terrorism; operating in complex, non-UN Mission settings; and, reconfiguring UN peace operations aimed at ensuring sequenced and rationalized mandates.

In addition, POST will elaborate an OROLSI advocacy plan and contribute toward the UN's broader strategic communications platforms, working closely with the Department's Strategic Communications Section.

- What is the expected impact of the project?

The expected outcome of the project is a more coherent and strategic policy and operational support unit capable of leading and coordinating OROLSI components as well as advising the Assistant Secretary-General for Rule of Law and Security Institutions, Member States and the UN system on innovative ways to strengthen rule of law and security institutions while, at the same time, empowering communities and preventing violence.

## **(b) Expected Outcomes, Outputs and Proposed Activities**

### Outcomes

- Greater policy and operational coherence is achieved both within OROLSI as well as in its partnership arrangements.
- UN conflict analysis, early warning and mission planning adequately integrate OROLSI perspectives and support.
- Joint projects are designed and implemented maximizing OROLSI value-added.
- Closer operational cooperation and joint analysis on ROLSI files, in areas of operation where the UN and EU are both deployed.
- Early warning mechanism established and ROLSI experts deployed to support host-governments, UN peace operations, UN country teams, UN good offices on a range of preventative, confidence-building and reconciliatory efforts.
- OROLSI components create a forum to exchange information and devise plans and advice to implement mandates and recommendations emanating from UN bodies.
- OROLSI evolves its outreach efforts by ensuring messaging and modalities are contemporary and content is tailored appropriately to a variety of audiences.

### Outputs

- Routine reporting to ensure leadership is kept apprised of developments and is provided sound advice to support interventions.
- UNLOPS reporting on developments in Brussels through targeted communications.
- Regular meetings with EEAS and Commission Services, EU Member States, NATO as well as the Brussels based UN agencies, funds and programmes.
- OROLSI contributions are consistently integrated into meetings/events held by the Security Council Working Group on Peacekeeping Operations.
- Experts deployed for operational support in Mission and non-Mission settings.

- Knowledge hub for OROLSI is established hosting best practices and lessons learned collected from the field, UNLB-based Standing Capacities, UNLOPS and HQ.
- OROLSI advocacy plan is developed to guide outreach efforts and support OROLSI contributions to DPO Strategic Communications Section.

#### Activities

- Senior Officer (P5), serving as the Team Leader and liaison with all relevant UN offices, will operationalize existing strategic partnerships and forge new collaborations with UN and other stakeholders. Main areas of focus include coordinating OROLSI engagements with Member States including regional arrangements; the Global Focal Point for the Rule of Law; as well as in UN response planning processes for both Mission and non-Mission settings.
- Political Affairs Officers (P4) will monitor developments in the Security Council and within European Union fora; liaise with Council Members, including the Chair of the Working Group on Peacekeeping Operations; support cooperation between UN peace operations and EU Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) missions and operations; coordinate working relations with UN agencies, funds and programmes located in Brussels; prepare project proposals for collaboration with EU instruments; respond to requests pertaining to EU operations and programmes; identify ROLSI tools, approaches and entry points for conflict prevention interventions; develop engagement criteria for rapid deployment of ROLSI expertise to support preventative, confidence-building and reconciliatory efforts.
- Advocacy Officer (P3), will coordinate and support the design of OROLSI components' communications contributions to DPO SCS and DGC; support the ASG's outreach to Member States; prepare and design knowledge products; organize events/media encounters at Headquarters and in Brussels; and support the more senior-level POST colleagues in activities noted above.

#### **(c) Implementation Timeline**

The activities and outputs in this proposal are envisaged as a multi-year project but is initially budgeted for one year.

#### **(d) How does this project relate to internal and external United Nations partners?**

With regard to partnerships, the Team will operationalize existing strategic partnerships with UN and external entities, including with CTED, UNODC, UNOCT, PBSO, UNDP, NATO, and the EU. It will forge new collaborations and develop strategies to generate programmatic resources for field components.

#### **(e) How gender aspects been included in the design and implementation of the project? How does it help the Department to implement their Women, Peace and Security and Gender Parity commitments?**

Within its remit to provide policy advice and operational support on peacekeeping, peacebuilding and sustaining peace action in UN Mission and non-UN Mission settings, OROLSI POST ensures due consideration of gender dimensions and compliance with all relevant UN policies and guidance pertaining to gender equality, responsiveness, mainstreaming and parity.

#### **(f) Brief explanation of any risks that the implementation of the project may face and how to mitigate them, including with regards to the impact of COVID-19.**

In terms of operational support, the implementation of the project may be constrained in case of a serious deterioration of the security situation. OROLSI POST, in close cooperation with relevant DPPA and DPO sections, will monitor the situation to identify potential risks and adjust strategic

advice, planning, and activities accordingly. Experts can provide remote support to when travel may be restricted.

**(g) Proposed Budget**

<b>Item<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Brief Description</b>	<b>Total Amount</b>
Staffing costs	Senior Officer/Team Leader (P5), HQ-based	\$277,000
	Political Affairs Officer (P4), HQ-based	\$236,300
	Political Affairs Officer (P4), UNLOPS-based	\$202,500
	Advocacy Officer (P3), HQ-based	\$196,400
	Administrative Assistant (G6), HQ-based	\$107,600
Travel	Operational resources for emerging and/or surge technical support in both UN Mission and non-UN Mission settings	\$20,000
Programme Support Costs (13%) <sup>2</sup>		\$135,174
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$1,174,974</b>

---

<sup>1</sup> 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 ODCSS or the EO.

<sup>2</sup> Mandatory Programme Support costs to be calculated against the subtotal of the programme support costs.