



**Preparatory Meeting of the 2023 UN Peacekeeping Ministerial
Safety & Security of Peacekeepers
Co-Hosted by Pakistan and Japan
August 30 and 31, 2023, Islamabad**

Chair's Summary

Pakistan and Japan co-hosted a UN Peacekeeping preparatory meeting (August 30 and 31, 2023) in Islamabad, Pakistan on the theme, "Safety and Security of Peacekeepers". It was the third Preparatory Meeting of 2023, ahead of the Peacekeeping Ministerial Meeting in Accra, Ghana in December 2023. Along with high-ranking officials of the UN Secretariat, Member States of the UN Special Peacekeeping Committee on Peacekeeping Operations (C-34), local and international experts attended the event. The meeting consisted of 5 panel discussions on various sub-themes (as below) bringing together over 134 participants.

The meeting featured a lineup of keynote speakers who addressed the attendees in the following order: Minister of Defence H.E. Mr. Anwar Ali Hyder from Pakistan, followed by a video message from Parliamentary Vice-Minister of Defense H.E. Ms. Kimi Onoda of Japan. Subsequently, Under-Secretary-General for Operational Support Mr. Atul Khare represented the United Nations. The meeting participants were addressed by Director General Military Operation Mr. Major General Muhammad Avais Dastgir (Pakistan), and Mr. Faisal Shahkar, the Police Advisor in the Department of Peace Operations at the UN. The audience also heard insights from Minister of Foreign Affairs H.E. Mr. Jalil Abbas Jilani (Pakistan), State Minister for Foreign Affairs H.E. Mr. Kenji Yamada (Japan, via video message), Additional Secretary (UN&ED) Syed Haider Shah (Pakistan), and Permanent Representative of Pakistan Mission to the United Nations Ambassador Munir Akram. Mr. Bismark Anyanah, Minister Counsellor of the Permanent Mission of Ghana to the United Nations, followed, along with Director General of the International Peace Cooperation Headquarters Mr. Takehiro Kano from Japan. The final set of speakers included Foreign Secretary Mr. Muhammad Syrus Sajjad Qazi (Pakistan), Under-Secretary-General for Peace Operations Mr. Jean-Pierre Lacroix from the UN, and Chief of Army Staff General Syed Asim Munir (Pakistan).

The day facilitators were Director General of the United Nations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Usman Jadoon (Pakistan, Day-01) and Additional Secretary (UN&ED),

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Syed Haider Shah (Pakistan, Day-02).

Day 1

Session 1 – Challenges to Safety and Security of Peacekeepers and Need for Capacity Building

The session was facilitated by Brigadier General Waqar Najeeb, Deputy Contingent Commander, UN Mission Congo (Pakistan).

The session primarily centered on the challenges faced by peacekeepers operating in high-risk areas, including various threats such as violent incidents, accidents, and health issues, and how to effectively address these challenges. It underscored the importance of initially recognizing these challenges by appointing dedicated safety officers within missions to systematically document and address all associated risks through the UN's incident reporting system. Additionally, the session emphasized the significance of prioritizing comprehensive training, making use of tools like the UN Police Training Architecture program and the "UN deployment review mobile app," and optimizing officer rotations to ensure continuous knowledge transfer. Finally, it stressed the need to implement gender-responsive measures, encompassing areas such as camp design and healthcare, and to provide training on addressing internal issues like harassment, as key elements in ensuring the safety of women peacekeepers.

Major. General. Jai Shanker Menon from the UN Secretariat highlighted the challenges related to the mindset of peacekeepers in mission areas, particularly the issues surrounding undeclared caveats. He emphasized the critical role of community engagement in enhancing situational awareness, building trust within the local population, and fostering a deeper understanding of the local culture, as well as the political and social dynamics in the region.

Mr. Muhammad Talha, representing the Center for Strategic & Contemporary Research, pointed out that peacekeepers now face increasingly complex mandates, requiring them to grapple with a broad spectrum of issues. In response to these evolving challenges, he advocated for the establishment of a minimum training standard applicable to all peacekeepers, whether they belong to the military, police, or civilian sectors. This standard, he argued, should serve as a common foundation and should specifically address areas related to the protection of civilians and the prevention of gender-based violence.

Ms. Flaminia Minelli, representing the UN Secretariat, brought attention to the specific challenges encountered by women peacekeepers. She put forth recommendations to address these challenges, including the provision of gender-responsive accommodation and healthcare that is free from sexual harassment. Furthermore, she underscored the urgency of addressing mission fatalities, despite a decrease in total numbers since 2020. She noted the potential for an increase in such incidents with the drawdown of

MINUSMA and stressed the significance of enhancing base defense and improving situational awareness regarding the threats posed by improvised explosive devices (IEDs).

Session 2 – Safety and Security of Peacekeepers; International Law Perspective

The session was facilitated by Mr. Adeel Mumtaz Khokhar, Director United Nations of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Pakistan).

In Session-2, the focus shifted towards examining the safety and security of peacekeepers within the purview of international law. The discussion delved into the intricacies of the present international legal system, encompassing foundational texts like the Geneva Conventions, the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel, and the laws of armed conflict. The objective was to assess how these legal frameworks impact the safety and security of peacekeepers and to measure the extent to which these legal instruments provide protection for them.

[Mr. Faisal Shahkar](#), representing the UN Secretariat, emphasized the importance of accountability for crimes committed against peacekeepers. He also highlighted the UN Secretariat's collaborative efforts with Member States and UN legislative bodies to implement Security Council Resolution 2589. Mr. Shahkar further announced the upcoming launch of a comprehensive online database focused on this issue, which is expected to be available later this year.

Mr. Syed Haider Shah, Additional Secretary (UN&ED) at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Pakistan), outlined five key factors related to legal aspects in peacekeeping. These factors included international legal frameworks, the evolution of peacekeeping mandates, the behavior of peacekeepers, the current environment and context, and the concept of accountability. Additionally, Mr. Shah underscored the role of the Convention on the Safety of the United Nations and Associated Personnel and drew attention to its limitations in terms of ensuring the safety and security of peacekeepers.

Mr. Daniel Mainguay, from the University Paris 1 La Sorbonne, noted that while the Convention on the Safety of the United Nations and Associated Personnel does define certain crimes, it doesn't encompass contemporary threats like disinformation or misinformation campaigns, which could indeed jeopardize the safety and security of peacekeepers. He further stressed the importance of establishing a consistent and clear definition for what constitutes a crime against peacekeepers, emphasizing the need for updated legal frameworks to address evolving challenges.

Session 3 – Enhancing Medical Capacity of Peacekeepers to ensure their Safety and Security

The session was facilitated by Brigadier General Muttahhar Asim Niaz, Head of Surgery Department and Laparoscopic Surgeon (Pakistan).

During Session-3, the central theme revolved around the crucial role of medical capacity in ensuring the safety and security of peacekeepers, particularly in the face of adversities such as attacks. The discussions emphasized the vital need for mission-specific, gender-responsive healthcare services, recognizing the unique requirements of both male and female peacekeepers in the field.

Under-Secretary-General (USG) Khare stressed the importance of enhancing medical facilities in field hospitals and expediting evacuation processes to prevent peacekeeper casualties, with a particular focus on the critical first 10 minutes. He also emphasized the utilization of technology, like telemedicine, and the provision of high-quality medical equipment to further bolster the capabilities of these hospitals.

[Major Kohei Yamada](#) of the Japan Ground Self-Defense Force highlighted the significance of the Field Medical Assistance Course (FMAC) within the framework of the UN Triangular Partnership Programme (TPP). This course aims to train non-medical personnel to deliver advanced care capabilities beyond basic first aid. Major Yamada proposed the expansion of training opportunities for instructors to address shortages and underscored the importance of feedback from FMAC graduates. Such feedback, he noted, could serve as a valuable resource for enhancing the program further.

Brigadier Farah Naz of the Pakistan Army brought attention to the challenge of insufficient local medical resources faced by peacekeepers in remote regions. She stressed the critical importance of telemedicine and teleconsultation, facilitated by real-time communication networks, along with the development of standardized protocols. Brigadier Naz also emphasized the need for gender-sensitive healthcare and education, particularly in the context of reproductive health, to better address the unique needs of peacekeepers in such areas.

[Mr. Michael Rowell](#), from the UN Secretariat, underscored a crucial observation: a greater number of casualties are linked to workplace hazards as opposed to security threats. He also noted the development and current utilization of the Incident Reporting System within mission contexts.

Day 2

Session 1 – UN Pledging System/Threat of Improvised Explosive Devices & Countermeasures

The session was facilitated by Colonel Koichi Takekuma, Director of the Japan Peacekeeping Training and Research Center (Japan).

The session was structured into two segments: the UN Pledging system and addressing the Threat of IEDs along with Countermeasures. The first part of the session primarily concentrated on enhancing comprehension regarding the requirements of the pledging system across different peacekeeping domains, in preparation for the main Ministerial

meeting scheduled for December 2023 in Ghana. The guiding questions aimed at shedding light on how the UN Peacekeeping Ministerial pledging process for 2023 operates and what steps are necessary to strengthen UN Peacekeeping.

[Mr. Hubertus Juergenliemk](#), representing the UN Secretariat, clarified that Member States should present their government's most up-to-date commitments during the Ministerial meeting in Ghana. He encouraged Member States to engage in prior consultations with the UN Secretariat to provide insights into the nature of their pledges.

[Mr. Naeem Sabir](#), Counsellor at the Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the UN, outlined Pakistan's commitments in various domains, including the deployment of personnel, training, policy planning, and the provision of equipment.

Brigadier Sajid Butt of CEIDO shared the historical perspective of IEDs and the current situation in which various forms of IEDs have been developed and introduced the analysis, research, and training related to IEDs which CEIDO conducts.

[Mr. Seamus Mc Menamin](#) of the UN Secretariat pointed out the increase in casualties caused by IEDs in MINUSMA after 2018 and highlighted the importance of training for personnel to search for IEDs and equipment such as armored vehicles needed for patrolling. He especially indicated the significance of mission-specific training and analyzing information to properly leverage it.

[Major General Silver Kayemba](#), representing the Permanent Mission of Uganda to the UN, drew attention to the significant threat posed by IEDs, particularly in regions like Somalia. He underscored the critical importance of having an attainable mandate, an adequate supply of equipment, dedicated personnel, and specialized training to effectively counter the threats posed by IEDs.

Session 2 – Enhancing Safety and Security of Peacekeepers by Leveraging Technology, Training and Strategic Communication

The session was facilitated by Major Wajiha Arshad, former Military Public Information Officer, UN Mission Cyprus (Pakistan).

The session emphasized the significant potential of digital technologies and advanced equipment in enhancing the safety and security of peacekeepers. These technologies were noted for not only improving situational awareness but also for strengthening field support and enabling the effective and safe execution of the UN mandate. Vital tools and equipment, including night vision surveillance gear, tactical drones, counter-drone systems, armored personnel carriers (APCs) with blast protection, and signal jammers, were underscored as essential elements for the protection of peacekeepers. The session also provided an opportunity to explore creative ideas and strategies aimed at further enhancing their safety.

Under-Secretary-General (USG) Lacroix pointed out the rising threats, including disinformation, improvised explosive devices (IEDs), and unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs). He stressed the crucial need for countering these threats using digital technology, Public Key Infrastructure (PKI), and other methods. USG Lacroix also discussed the thought processes of individuals, their information processing capabilities, and the importance of mitigating negative impacts through effective training.

[Mr. Herbert Loret](#), representing the UN Secretariat, introduced the Light Coordination Mechanism designed to streamline bilateral and multilateral partnerships between Troop- and Police-Contributing Countries (T/PCCs) and Member States for the purpose of training and capacity building support. He also emphasized the launch of the Deployment Review Mobile App, a tool aimed at facilitating the exchange of feedback and information between T/PCCs.

Mr. Patrick Schuler from the United States Department of State emphasized that the United States has been actively engaged in countering disinformation and improvised explosive devices (IEDs). Additionally, they have focused on enhancing medical capacity and implementing measures for addressing environmental concerns, all within the framework of the Global Peace Operations Initiative (GPOI).
