

“Towards a Safer and More Effective Peacekeeping: Use of Technology and Integrated Approach”

Preparatory Meeting for the 2025 UN Peacekeeping Ministerial
Co-hosted by the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the Republic of Korea (RoK)
15-16 April 2025 in Islamabad, Pakistan

Background

UN Peacekeeping is one of the most effective tools to maintain international peace and security and to assist host countries navigate the difficult path from conflict to peace. Today's peacekeeping operations are called upon not only to maintain peace and security, but also to facilitate the political process, protect civilians, assist in the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of former combatants; support the organization of elections and assist in restoring the rule of law.

UN Peacekeeping has been a success story. There is a clear correlation between deployment of peacekeeping missions and lower levels of violence in conflicts. Currently, the United Nations has 11 peacekeeping missions deployed around the globe – missions that are making extraordinary contribution to containing violence amid a surge in conflicts worldwide.

The ultimate objectives of all peacekeeping operations are political. The primary goal is to assist in the resolution of conflicts by helping the warring parties reach and implement the kind of agreements that help establish durable peace. In order to achieve such sustainable peace, peacekeeping missions often need to employ an integrated approach. The performance of peacekeepers and partnerships with regional and cross regional organization play an important role in achieving the objective of durable peace.

Peacekeepers provide necessary space for achieving the political objectives. However, the threat landscape has become increasingly complex for the peacekeepers to operate. It is characterized by a surge in armed conflicts, proliferation of armed groups, violence against civilians, increasingly internationalized and urban conflict, weaponization of new and emerging technologies (For example, IEDs, drones, AI, mis- and disinformation), transnational organized crime, and public health emergencies. Therefore, the safety and security of the peacekeepers has assumed central importance in the debates on future of peacekeeping.

The Preparatory Meeting in Islamabad for the forthcoming UN Peacekeeping Ministerial (scheduled to be held in Berlin on 13-14 May 2025) will provide a platform to experts and practitioners to discuss the important considerations for making the future of peacekeeping safer and more effective by using technology and integrated approach to peace, as well as addressing needs and gaps identified in the [UN pledging guide](#).

Format of the Meeting

The Preparatory Meeting will take place in-person in Islamabad on 15-16 April 2025. Invitees will include all Member States of the UN Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations, senior officials from the UN Department of Peace Operations (DPO) and Department of Operational Support (DOS) – both from the headquarters and the field – and select representatives from academia and civil society. Participation from the capitals is highly encouraged at the level of Directors-General or above. Discussions will be held in the format of six panel discussions. Each Panel will be followed by interactive deliberations among the participants on the thematic issues covered by the panels. Moderators will conclude the sessions in their personal capacity and feed the inputs to the Berlin Ministerial.

Themes/Sessions

Session 1: Evolving Challenges to Peacekeeping Operations

The session will set scene for the next two sessions focused on the safety and security of the peacekeepers by taking stock of recent attacks on the peacekeepers and evolving challenges in peacekeeping operations. It will cover an update on the fatalities across missions over time, a briefing to cover contexts and recent challenges in peacekeeping missions, such as UNIFIL, MINUSCA and MONUSCO. The session will also include insights from TCCs and Member States on the challenges and recommendations for overcoming them.

Session 2: The Future of Peacekeeping: the role of technology

The world has seen a rapid evolution in technology in the past few years. This advance with the emergence of Generative Artificial Intelligence is revolutionizing every aspect of human life. Technology will play an important role in enhancing both the effectiveness and efficiency of missions and ensuring the safety and security of peacekeepers. The session will focus on the role of technology in improving safety and security of peacekeepers including: i) medical issues like occupational safety and health, MEDEVAC/CASEVAC, telemedicine, ii) possible use of Generative Artificial Intelligence; iii) use of Drone/ Counter-drone; and iv) digital transformation, including aspects of using technology to enhance peacekeepers' security; v) integration of innovative technological solutions, such as the implementation of Smart Camp. The session will also focus on the role of advanced technologies such as drones, artificial intelligence (AI) and surveillance systems in providing peacekeepers with real-time situational awareness, enabling them to monitor conflict zones more effectively, as well as carry out timely MEDEVAC/CASEVAC of peacekeepers.

Session 3: Countering threats to safety and security using technology

Building on previous sessions, the discussion will focus on leveraging technology to counter threats to safety and security. In peacekeeping operations, the operating environment for peacekeepers remains volatile with evolving threats to peace and security. Peacekeepers are deployed in deteriorating and complex political and security environments, face asymmetrical threats, and have increasingly become a target. The session will focus on importance of training, including cross-pillar training integrating Counter-IED considerations, training and equipment for counter drone capabilities and resources for the safety and security of the peacekeepers in the face of the weaponization of new and emerging technologies primarily focusing on Counter-IED and ammunition management. The guiding questions for the session will be on how to strengthen IED threat mitigation and responses, as well as, provide missions with consistent and adequate C-IED/combat convoy capabilities?

Session 4: Role of regional and cross regional organizations on supporting UN Peace Operations

Regional approach to peacekeeping offers a promising avenue. Peace processes in host countries benefit from a coalition of international and regional partners, alongside coordinated diplomatic engagement. Regional organizations including their Member States are important partners for the UN to complement its efforts in peacekeeping and enforcement. The adoption of UN Security Council Resolution 2719 (2023) was a significant milestone in this regard; however, its implementation has proven to be complicated. The session will discuss the issues in implementation of UNSCR 2719 and the role that various regional organizations can play in making peacekeeping more effective. Regional training partnership initiatives can also enhance information sharing and cooperation, including for the training and preparation of peacekeepers. Ultimately, whichever form a peace operation takes, it must be anchored in and contribute to an overarching political solution.

Session 5: Partnerships and performance for more effective peacekeeping

The performance of the peacekeepers has direct bearing on mission's effectiveness and the impact it has on ground. The session will focus on issues of performance and selection of uniformed peacekeepers, capability requirements, triangular partnership programme and other partnerships and capacity building initiatives including Mobile Training Teams (MTTs) in mission and in support to national pre-deployment training programmes. The guiding questions will be how to improve the selection process of peacekeepers, how to strengthen the linkage between training and selection, ensuring that

better trained and equipped troops are deployed, and how to better collaborate with different actors to make peacekeeping more effective.

Session 6: Towards an integrated approach: peacekeeping, prevention, and peacebuilding

Peacekeeping missions are among the UN's most prominent peacebuilding actors. There is a strong link between peacekeeping and building sustaining peace. Taking place in the context of the ongoing 2025 Peacebuilding Architecture Review (PBAR), this session will explore ways to strengthen the synergies between civilian, uniformed, logistical, and financial capacities within peacekeeping and the broader peacebuilding ecosystem. It will consider how to improve the link between peacekeeping operations and peacebuilding instruments, including through its uniformed capabilities, programmatic funding and cooperation with the UN country team, the Peacebuilding Commission, the Peacebuilding Fund and the Peacebuilding Support Office.

Moreover, this session will also explore ways to incorporate an integrated strategy in designing peace operations, which can be developed in consultation with the Security Council, TCCs/PCCs, and other relevant bodies such as the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) and international financial institutions.

The Peacekeeping is evolving with the evolving nature of requirements. The future of peace operations requires a comprehensive approach to peace, robust resources and new capabilities for the missions, and an integrated framework for peacebuilding and conflict resolution. This will ensure that the UN's peacekeeping efforts remain effective in addressing the evolving and increasingly complex nature of contemporary global conflicts.
