

Peacekeeping Ministerial 2023 Side Event  
**2023 UNITED NATIONS PEACEKEEPING MINISTERIAL**  
**Improving Environmental Management in Peacekeeping**

Date: 5 December 2023

Time: 1400-1600

Location: Accra International Conference Center, Accra, Ghana

**Background**

Environmental management is a cross-cutting issue that impacts peacekeeper safety and security, mission operations, and the legacy that peacekeepers leave behind. In its 10-year UN Secretariat Climate Action Plan (UNSCAP), the UN committed to transforming its operations to achieve a 45 percent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions and sourcing 80 percent of electricity from renewable energy by 2030. Contingent-owned equipment (COE) generators account for around 40 percent of mission electricity production and a significant percentage of missions' overall environmental footprint. Transitioning COE to renewable energy sources is, thus, an essential component of meeting UN climate targets. However, upgrading equipment and adapting operations to incorporate newer, sustainable technologies raises practical and financial challenges for troop- and police-contributing countries (T/PCCs), as new equipment can be costly and may require additional training. **This action-prompting side event for the 2023 Peacekeeping Ministerial will explore ways that innovative partnerships can contribute to the efforts of T/PCCs to meet key UN environmental management goals.**

**Event Overview and Objectives**

This side event will identify concrete opportunities for member states, including T/PCCs and donor partners, to support UN environmental goals, with a specific focus on the transition of COE to more environmentally sustainable solutions. Event objectives include:

- Reinforcing the operational benefits of adopting more environmentally sustainable COE, including the impact on peacekeeper safety and security;
- Highlighting examples of practical, cost-effective, and maintainable technologies available in the areas of power generation, as well as water and waste management in temporary operating bases;
- Raising awareness of changes to the COE manual, as well as T/PCC Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) negotiation opportunities, to support the transition from traditional to more sustainable equipment;
- Encouraging the development of projects by T/PCCs to deploy with renewable energy and effective waste and wastewater management capacities
- Generating concrete T/PCC and donor partnerships to promote the transition from traditional to more sustainable COE.

Presentations will highlight innovative partnerships and projects that are already building more energy-efficient, environmentally sustainable peacekeeping capabilities and equipment, showcasing initiatives such as the Nepal-U.S.-UN partnership to transition diesel generators to a hybrid solar power generator system, the pilot solar projects implemented by Bangladesh in

South Sudan, and the Republic of Korea's efforts to strengthen UN Department of Operational Support capacity in this area and to pilot a UN Smart Camp. To foster greater awareness of available technologies, the event will also feature the rollout of a website, pamphlets, and/or on-site exhibits to demonstrate sustainable products that are commercially available, with an emphasis on cost effective, maintainable solutions that T/PCCs can realistically adopt.

The event will encourage other member states to articulate new, concrete actions they will take to support the UN Secretariat's Climate Action Plan. Engagement activities leading up to this Ministerial Side Event will socialize event objectives and encourage member states to come prepared to announce pledges. Consistent with the UN's *Pledging Guide for the 2023 United Nations Peacekeeping Ministerial*, member states will be encouraged to support UN efforts aimed at reducing the environmental footprint of missions, including through a transition to renewable energy; a reduction in electrical demand, water consumption, and solid waste generation; and improvement in wastewater, solid waste, and energy management.

### **Participation**

All member states invited to the UN Peacekeeping Ministerial will be invited to participate in the side event.

### **Draft Agenda and Anticipated Speakers**

The agenda for this event is being finalized in coordination with event co-hosts and partners, but a draft agenda is outlined below.

- Opening Remarks
- Featured Speaker: High-Level Representative on Environmental Issues TBD
- The UN's Environment Strategy and Commitment to Improving the Environmental Impact of Peacekeeping Missions:  
UN Under-Secretary-General for Operational Support Representative Atul Khare
- Transitioning to Sustainable Technologies:  
Stimson Center Representative
- Panel Presentation: Ongoing Initiatives to Improve Environmental Management in Peacekeeping
- Delegation Interventions: Highlighting New Commitments to Improve Environmental Management in Peacekeeping
- Closing Remarks