

**The Future of UN Peacekeeping:
Preparatory Conference for the 2025 UN Peacekeeping Ministerial
Co-hosted by the People’s Republic of Bangladesh, the Republic of Indonesia, the Kingdom
of the Netherlands,
and the United States of America**

4-5 February 2025 in Bogor, Indonesia

BACKGROUND

The United Nations (UN) has played a key role in addressing challenges to peace and security through peacekeeping missions, doing so in more cost-effective ways than any other international alternative. These missions combine unique capabilities and capacities honed through decades of lessons learned from UN operations around the globe. Over their long history, UN peacekeeping missions have created space for political dialogue between parties to a conflict; facilitated and acted as guarantors for peace agreements; deterred spoilers; fostered regional stability by containing the spread of violence within and beyond national borders; worked with host states to help them rebuild governance structures and meet the needs of their populations, thus bolstering national sovereignty; protected civilians under threat of violence; and promoted human rights and accountability, including by supporting national efforts through capacity-building and other initiatives.

However, the political and security landscape in which UN peacekeeping missions are deployed evolves continuously, and particularly so in recent years. The changing conflict landscape and emerging threats are new drivers of conflict, and changes in situations have led to peacekeeping missions being confronted with new challenges that require new approaches.

Against this backdrop, ensuring that UN peacekeeping can continue to effectively support countries and people in need to work towards durable peace, even in increasingly challenging environments, remains a key concern across intergovernmental bodies, including the UN Security Council, the UN Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations, and the Fifth Committee of the General Assembly. In his New Agenda for Peace, the Secretary-General called for “a serious and broad-based reflection on [peacekeeping’s] future... with a view to moving towards nimble adaptable models.”

Central to this call are several fundamental questions: What changes are needed to ensure that peacekeeping remains fit for the future, including responses to emerging threats such as terrorist groups, misinformation and disinformation, and the weaponization of new and emerging technologies? How can troops, policy, and contributing partners calibrate peacekeeping capacities to better meet today’s evolving multidimensional challenges such as the need to improve cooperation of host states and other critical parties, increase trust among stakeholders, and manage local and international expectations? What institutional structures at UN Headquarters are needed to deploy and better sustain these missions swiftly? What training and capabilities must be provided by Member States to enable these missions? The UN Department of Peace Operations’ (DPO) commissioned an independent study in advance of the 2025 UN Peacekeeping Ministerial in Germany, which provides

reflections and ideas in response to these and other questions, and the findings and approaches of the study provide food for thought for the UN and Member States heading into the Ministerial. Of equal importance is the need for a stakeholder assessment of necessary capabilities and needs of current and future UN peace operations. All of this must be considered while maintaining the centrality of peacekeeping operations' role in contributing to political solutions – the only option for sustainable peace.

OBJECTIVE OF THE MINISTERIAL PREPARATORY MEETING

The objective of the preparatory meeting is to bring together Member States and stakeholders in advance of the 2025 Ministerial to discuss the future of UN peacekeeping, with a goal of sharing ideas and proposing courses of action for adapting models, Secretariat structures, processes, and responsibilities and identifying the necessary resources and Member State capabilities to ensure that UN peacekeeping can respond to evolving multidimensional challenges and remain fit for purpose. Stakeholders include troop- and police-contributing countries, former and current host countries, financial contributors, Secretariat officials, academics, and representatives from civil society.

The content from these discussions, together with the outcomes of the Summit of the Future and the New Agenda for Peace, will inform the 2025 Ministerial. While the Berlin Ministerial will serve as a high-level political forum to discuss the future of peacekeeping and for Member States to express and demonstrate their political support, the preparatory meeting in Jakarta will focus on an in-depth engagement with the key findings of the independent study commissioned by DPO, how future peacekeeping missions might operate, and a discussion of capabilities and potential pledges needed for the future of peacekeeping.

ENVISIONED FORMAT

The Ministerial Preparatory Meeting will take place in-person in Bogor, Indonesia on 4 - 5 February 2025. Invitees will include all Member States in the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations, UN Secretariat peacekeeping leadership, and select representatives from academia and civil society. Capital-level participation is highly encouraged. Anticipated level for head of delegations is Director-General level or above.

Discussions will be in a panel discussion format. Each panel will be followed by interventions from the delegation representatives on their view regarding the issues discussed during the panels. Moderators will conclude the sessions by encouraging further discussion amongst participants in the lead-up to the Berlin Ministerial.

THEMES / SESSION OUTLINE

1. Stakeholder Reflections on Key Elements of the Future of Peacekeeping Study

This panel will explore the main ideas and suggestions of the recently published independent study on “The Future of Peacekeeping, New Models, and Related Capabilities”. The discussion, which will feature El-Ghassim Wane, lead of the study, will also encourage the participation of Preparatory Conference attendees to solicit diverse perspectives on

applying those models. Panelists and attendees will focus on key capabilities and factors of success emerging from the study.

2. Current and Evolving Challenges and Requirements in Today's Peacekeeping Missions

Modern UN peacekeeping is in a state of flux. Conflicts are increasingly complex, with challenges including inter- and intra-state conflict and the trend towards their regionalization, their protractedness, capability-gap expectations, technology serving as a positive enabler or utilized as a threat, and a changing profile of armed groups. Current and future peacekeeping missions must adapt to tackle these issues. This panel will examine efforts to address challenges and gaps in peacekeeping, and the commitments required from stakeholders to achieve success.

3. New Models and Modalities: Capability Requirements and Success Factors for Future Peacekeeping Operations

Innovative approaches will be required in future peacekeeping missions. New models and means of conducting peacekeeping must be adaptable and nimble to respond to the evolving nature of conflicts while recognizing the importance of understanding the needs of host states. Operational effectiveness and efficiencies, standardization of advanced technologies, and new innovative methods of operating to ensure safety and security must play a significant role. Similarly, pre-deployment training, including through bi- and multi-lateral training initiatives, must prepare peacekeepers for diverse, complex and challenging environments. Finally, timely and strategic planning for peace operation transitions, including transitions between different mission phases, will remain important. This session will provide an opportunity to discuss a common vision and identify potential pledges needed to actualize the future of peacekeeping.

4. Support Capabilities, Including Operational Resilience and Environmental Management

UN peacekeeping operations rely on systems and capacities to provide or procure support to UN and non-UN missions, including for medical services, casualty evacuation, aviation and transport, rations, accommodation and facilities (with accompanying management of the energy, water, waste, and environmental footprint). It's important to look at rapidly accessible support capabilities that field missions require. In addition, the continued integration of sustainable practices within peacekeeping operations is necessary to enhance mission effectiveness and leave a positive legacy in the field. The adoption of renewable energy sources, waste management systems, and water conservation techniques are critical in current and future missions. The dual benefits of these practices affect the operational environment and improve the resilience and self-sufficiency of peacekeeping forces. This panel will discuss the need for policies that ensure environmental considerations are embedded in all stages of mission planning and execution.

5. Success Factors and Priority Reform Areas for Current and Future Missions

Stakeholders agree that while new models and modalities are explored, reforms are needed to enhance the effectiveness of peacekeeping operations. And while A4P(+) priorities remain highly relevant, questions remain as to what reforms should be prioritized in the near future. What can we collectively do to enable our missions to support durable political

solutions better? How can we ensure that protection of civilians remains at the heart of our work? How can we ensure women's meaningful participation in peacekeeping and political solutions? How can we strengthen and improve our communications, to communicate our successes and manage expectations? How can we advance the digital transformation of peacekeeping? How do we assure accountability for conduct and performance through prevention, accountability, and support for victims? This session will highlight the importance of continuing to work towards political solutions, improving the performance, effectiveness and efficiency of peacekeeping and the indicators of success.

Note: The UN's pledging guide distributed in December 2024 focuses on needs and gaps for current missions. The discussions listed above are expected to feed into an updated pledging guide to inform Member State pledges at the Peacekeeping Ministerial.