



CAPACITY-BUILDING, PARTNERSHIPS AND THE FUTURE OF PEACEKEEPING

MONTEVIDEO, URUGUAY

10-11 DECEMBER

TUESDAY, 10 DECEMBER

9:00AM: WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

- Omar Paganini, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Uruguay
- Armando Castaingdebat, Minister of Defense, Uruguay
- Jean-Pierre Lacroix, Under-Secretary-General, UN Department of Peace Operations
- Atul Khare, Under-Secretary-General, UN Department of Operational Support (VTC)

9:30-11:30AM SESSION 1: FUTURE OF PEACEKEEPING, NEW MODELS AND RELATED CAPABILITIES

Background: Informed by the Independent Study on the Future of Peacekeeping, this session will explore what kind of innovative peacekeeping models could assist with addressing contemporary and emerging challenges and what capabilities are required now and in the future. In addition to specialized military, police and rule of law requirements, the independent study recognized that other key capabilities include integrated planning capacities, coherent and experienced leadership teams, and reinforced standby and rapid deployment capacities.

Key Questions: How can peacekeeping be reinforced to give it the capabilities and flexibility to respond to a range of complex issues? What does a modular and people-centered approach mean in practice? How can the discussions leading to Berlin help inform the review of peace operations called for in the Pact for the Future?

Chair: Jean-Pierre Lacroix, Under-Secretary-General, UN Department of Peace Operations

Panelists:

- Linda Darkwa, Senior Research Fellow at the Legon Centre for International Affairs and Diplomacy at the University of Ghana (via VTC)
- Malcolm Green, Ambassador of the United Kingdom to Uruguay
- Ai Kihara-Hunt, Professor, University of Tokyo, Member of the Independent Study Team
- Brigadier General Md Mostafizur Rahman, PhD, Bangladesh Army
- El-Ghassim Wane, Independent Study Team Leader (via VTC)

11:30AM COFFEE BREAK

11:45-1:00PM SESSION 2: THE FUTURE OF TRAINING AND CAPACITY-BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS

Background: UN peacekeeping operates in an increasingly complex and contested environment. New and emerging technologies, including IEDs, drones, and AI, terrorist and extremist violence, mis/disinformation and hate speech are some of the challenges faced by UN peacekeepers daily, further threatening their physical and mental well-being. To perform effectively and safely, peacekeepers must be prepared and equipped with right capabilities prior to their deployment. Appropriate training and capacity-building partnerships can fill the gap between their capabilities and expectations in delivering their mandates. Partnerships and capacity-building are crucial tools in accelerating the implementation of Women, Peace and Security (WPS) mandates and gender integration in the work of all peacekeeping components, a political and strategic imperative in peacekeeping.

Key Questions: What capabilities are needed to respond to new security challenges, such as IEDs, unmanned systems, mis/disinformation and hate speech? How can training and capacity-building partnerships better utilize data and digital technology? What steps can be taken to enhance the integration of gender, gender-responsive leadership, gender expertise and analysis to inform planning, analysis and operations (early-warning, community engagement, intelligence, patrolling) and enhance implementation of women, peace and security mandates through training and capacity-building partnerships? How can the role of civilian and uniformed gender advisors be strengthened? In what ways does the UN address physical and mental health challenges of peacekeepers?

Chair: Toru Morikawa, Director General, Secretariat of the International Peace Cooperation Headquarters, Cabinet Office of Japan

Panelists:

- Cheri Baker, Senior Peacekeeping Advisor, Office of Peacekeeping Operations, Bureau of International Organization Affairs, Department of State, United States
- Major General Cheryl Pearce, Acting Military Advisor, UN Department of Peace Operations
- Charles Sanz, Deputy Head, UN and Global Issues Unit, Ministry of Armed Forces, France
- Brigadier General Joyce Sitienei, Director, International Peace Support Training Centre, Kenya
- Dr. Adarsh Tiwathia, Principal Medical Officer and Deputy Director, Division of Health Management and Occupational Safety and Health, UN Department of Operational Support

1:00PM LUNCH

2:15-3:45PM SESSION 3: LESSONS FROM RECENT CAPACITY-BUILDING AND TRAINING PARTNERSHIPS

Background: The UN Secretariat offers multiple platforms and frameworks for training and capacity-building partnerships. For example, Integrated Training Service (ITS) develops training standards, guidance and materials, and delivers cross-cutting peacekeeping training. Light Coordination Mechanism (LCM) identifies training requirements and supports the coordination between capacity-building providers and T/PCC registered in the Peacekeeping Capability Readiness System. Triangular Partnership Programme (TPP) works with supporting Member States to enhance peacekeepers' capacity in areas of engineering, counter-IED, field medicine, C4ISR and camp security technologies through training, and provide telemedicine support to field missions. These initiatives were designed and developed to improve the ability of UN peacekeeping missions to operate more effectively on the ground and contribute to the implementation of the Action for Peacekeeping (A4P) and A4P+ agendas. Discussions drawing upon the actual practices will address practical ways in which training and capacity-building partnerships strengthen peacekeeping.

Key Questions: What are the lessons learned and best practices from ongoing training and capacity-building partnerships? What achievements have been made to meet A4P and A4P+ priorities, such as the safety and security of peacekeepers? What are the challenges for improving the capabilities of peacekeepers and what are the ways to increase the effectiveness of training and capacity-building partnerships?

Chair: Patrick Carey, Director, Administration and Division of Special Activities, UN Department of Operational Support

Panelists:

- Takakazu Ito, Triangular Partnership Program, UN Department of Operational Support
- Malinda Kosal, Deputy Director General of the National Center for Peacekeeping Forces, Mine and Explosive Remnants of War Clearance, Cambodia
- Colonel Machiko Kawasaki, Commander of Military Medicine Research Unit, Japan Ground Self-Defense Force
- Herbert Loret, Light Coordination Mechanism, UN Department of Peace Operations

3:45PM COFFEE BREAK

4:00-5:30PM SESSION 4: ENHANCING WOMEN'S ROLES IN PEACEKEEPING

Background: As the 25th anniversary of Security Council Resolution 1325 approaches, the panel will focus on the progress and ongoing challenges related to women's full, equal, and meaningful participation in peace operations. This session will offer insights on implementing innovative, sustainable strategies for increasing women's access to leadership and operational roles and creating enabling environments for their participation, highlighting the importance of gender-responsive leadership and the role of institutional leaders in advancing this agenda, with a view to inspiring concrete pledges and commitments for further action. Through sharing experiences and successful approaches from various countries, participants will explore how peacekeeping operations can not only bring more women into their ranks but ensure they hold diverse roles, including in leadership, strategic planning, and operational capacities; and on how T/PCCs and the UN can build safe and enabling environments, including by preventing and addressing sexual harassment. The session will emphasize the value of cross-regional partnerships, technical support, and collaborative strategies to ensure progress toward gender parity and enabling environments in peace operations. Additionally, the session aims to create a space for forward-looking discussions about the future of peace operations, women's evolving role within them and the importance of building safe and respectful work environments. Finally, participants will explore pathways for collaboration with the United Nations, regional organizations, and other member states to advance these goals.

Key Questions: What are the key challenges faced in promoting women's roles, especially in leadership and operational positions, and what specific strategies have you implemented to address them? What specific strategies, including those related to preventing and addressing sexual harassment, have been implemented to create safe and enabling work environments to support not only women's meaningful participation but also improved work environments for all peacekeepers? How can Member States and the UN leverage the role of institutional leaders in these areas? What opportunities exist to establish or deepen partnerships with other countries, regional organizations, or the United Nations to support gender parity and equality in future peace operations?

Chair: Ambassador Martin Vidal, Uruguay

Panelists:

- Jean-Pierre Lacroix, Under-Secretary-General, UN Department of Peace Operations
- Amit Lakhar, Ministry of External Affairs, India
- Marta Helena Lopez, Assistant Secretary-General for Human Resources, UN Department of Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance
- Ambassador Jacqueline O'Neill, Canada
- Captain María Paz, Combat Engineer Company Commander, Uruguayan Army

WEDNESDAY, 11 DECEMBER

8:30-10:30AM SESSION 5: PROTECTION OF CIVILIANS: 25 YEARS OF POC MANDATES

Background: This year marks 25 years since the United Nations Security Council first added of the protection of civilians (POC) in armed conflict to its agenda and explicitly mandated the UN peacekeeping mission in Sierra Leone to protect civilians from the threat of physical violence. Operationalizing POC in UN peacekeeping has required consistent innovation, development, and adaptation. POC has become a strategic priority of peacekeeping operations, and its implementation has led to the development of policies, doctrine, guidance, and training to meet the increasing complex threats of violence against civilians in conflict.

This session will examine the journey of POC mandates within peace operations, assessing both successes and ongoing challenges. It will underscore the critical need to sustain these achievements while exploring opportunities to strengthen and adapt POC efforts across a broader spectrum of peace operations. Additionally, the session will discuss key factors essential for future POC mandates, including required capabilities, updated training, and capacity-building initiatives. Given the current geopolitical context, this is a pivotal moment to consider POC's evolving role and how peacekeeping operations can maintain their focus on civilian protection amid shifting global priorities.

Guiding questions: Reflecting on the past 25 years, what have been the most significant achievements in implementing POC mandates in UN peacekeeping? What key challenges have persisted or emerged, and how have peacekeeping stakeholders addressed them? What capabilities and resources are necessary to enhance POC by UN peacekeeping operations in today's complex conflict environments? How are peacekeeping operations understanding and responding to the different protection concerns and needs of different parts of the population, including women, men, boys and girls, as well as other distinct and/or vulnerable groups? How can new or different models of peace operations deliver against the POC imperative? How can partnerships with regional and sub-regional organizations strengthen POC? What other partnerships are critical to strengthen POC?

Chair: David Haeri, Director, Division for Policy Evaluation and Training, UN Department of Peace Operations

Panelists:

- Colonel Ismael Andres, Deputy Director of the National System of Peacekeeping Operations (SINOMAPA), Uruguay
- Colonel Lamine Diouf, Military adviser/Minister counsellor, Permanent Mission of Senegal to the United Nations
- Hiroko Hirahara, Director of Civil Affairs, United Nations Mission in South Sudan
- Lisa Sharland, Senior Fellow and Director of the Protecting Civilians & Human Security program, Stimson Center

10:30AM COFFEE BREAK

10:45-1:15PM SESSION 6: THE FUTURE OF PEACEKEEPING POLICING: CURRENT AND FUTURE REQUIREMENTS

Background: Over the past two decades, police and other rule of law related mandates have evolved and have grown more complex. At the same time, Member States have invested considerable political and financial capital to build a UN police peacekeeping infrastructure and to make UN police more effective and efficient. They have also recognized the need for corresponding support in the area of justice and corrections. The New Agenda for Peace calls on UN peace operations to become more versatile, nimble and adaptive to be better placed to contribute to maintaining international peace and security amidst new levels of global complexity. This requires innovation in learning to scale new solutions in ways that adapt to the complex and varied scenarios in which UNPOL operate. As noted in the Independent Study on the Future of Peacekeeping, future models could entail more targeted, specialized deployments, whether in smaller configurations or around specific topics, for example, crime intelligence, transnational organized crime, forensics, community-oriented policing or rule of law. In this vein, the UN can support preventive efforts through rapid policing responses to emerging crises, working alongside other rule of law professionals to ensure that the progress in the area of policing be sustained by parallel progress in other areas of the criminal justice system, i.e. the court system, prosecution, and penitentiary.

Key Questions: Given the demand for police assistance globally, can the international community take advantage of the UN's expertise to make UNPOL and other rule of law tools available outside the traditional peacekeeping milieu? What would be the advantages and challenges related to police or rule of law-only missions? Is there a role for UNPOL to support prevention through rapid responses to emerging crises? What are the police and rule of law-related capability needs now and in the future? Given the scarcity of specialized police capacities domestically, how can the UN and Member States work in partnership to generate required capacities to better respond to host state needs? How can the Secretariat and Member States prepare officers with required specialized skillsets for more targeted deployments and further facilitate the development of peacekeeping models that are more gender responsive? How can we strengthen gender-responsive approaches to the work of policing, on expertise and programs?

Chair: Miroslav Jenča, Assistant Secretary-General for Europe, Central Asia and the Americas, UN Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs and Department of Peace Operations

Panelists:

- Ai Kihara-Hunt, Member of Independent Study Team on Future of Peacekeeping
- David Menkel, Deputy Director, International (Border) Police Cooperation, Federal Ministry of Interior and Community, Germany
- Robert Pulver, Chief of the Justice and Corrections Service, UN Department of Peace Operations
- Brigadier General Ronald Rwivanga, Head of the Public Affairs Department and the Spokesperson of the MOD, Rwanda
- Faisal Shahkar, UN Police Adviser and Director of the Police Division, Department of Peace Operations

1:30 – 2:30PM CLOSING AND LUNCH

- Gen. (R) Marcelo Montaner, Vice-Minister of National Defense, Uruguay
 - Malcolm Green, Ambassador of the United Kingdom to Uruguay
 - Toru Morikawa, Director General, Secretariat of the International Peace Cooperation Headquarters, Cabinet Office of Japan
 - Jean-Pierre Lacroix, Under-Secretary-General, UN Department of Peace Operations
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