

**UN PEACEKEEPING PREPARATORY MEETING
ON SAFETY AND SECURITY OF PEACEKEEPERS**

30-31 AUG 2023

Sub-themes for discussion and panelists

Day 1 (30 August) – Main moderator: Mr. Usman Jadoon, Director General (UN), MoFA, Pakistan

Session-1: Challenges to Safety and Security of Peacekeepers & Need for Capacity Building

Peacekeepers are deployed in challenging and volatile security environment, face asymmetrical threats, and often get subjected to violent actions. By identifying challenges to safety and security, peacekeepers will be better positioned to deliver on their mandates, including the protection of civilians.

- **Challenges & Threats to Safety & Security of Peacekeepers**. Discussion on identification of threats being faced by peacekeepers in conflict environment. Safety measures such as illness and accidents (including road traffic) incur significantly more deaths, injury, and illness and associated costs than malicious acts. All possible threats (physical, mental and material issues that can endanger safety and security of peacekeepers) need to be identified and elaborated. The most effective way to do so is by having a dedicated (force) safety officer in missions recording incidents and their impact (death, disability, medevac, repatriation etc) in the UN's existing incident reporting system.
- **Training and capacity Building Needs and Identification of Gaps**. While focusing on safety & security of peacekeepers through comprehensive training regime and capacity building, measures are needed to improve safety & security of peacekeepers. This may include UNPOL Training Architecture programme. Discussion of lessons learned including “UN deployment review mobile app”. While not a direct capacity development solution, a combination of longer and/or staggered rotation of staff officers in key positions will facilitate knowledge transfer and operational continuity. The former indirectly contributes to capacity building.
- **Safety & Security of Women Peacekeepers**. Women, Peace and Security are one of the core priorities. Women peacekeepers face special safety and security challenges that can be mitigated through mainstreamed and targeted measures, such as i) gender responsive camp planning and infrastructure design, ii) gender responsive healthcare, and iii) measures to prevent sexual harassment, and investigate and hold the perpetrators accountable (as per 2023 C34 report, para 42). Sexual harassment and other forms of misconduct may occur within the Mission

such as bullying. Training/sensitization sessions should be delivered to all peacekeepers irrespective of gender.

Guiding questions

- How is the UN addressing security challenges and what further steps are needed, including related to capacity building?
- What steps can be taken to ensure that working and living facilities for peacekeepers are safe, gender-sensitive, and conducive to their well-being?
- How can Member States use training to effectively avoid and address instances of sexual harassment by adopting a zero-tolerance approach?

▪ **Moderator: Brigadier Waqar**, Pakistan Army, Former Sector Commander in Congo

▪ **Speakers**

- **General J Menon**, Office of Peacekeeping Strategic Partnership (OPSP), Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPO)
- **Dr. Muhammad Talha**, Director Research and Academics, Center for strategic and Contemporary Research, Islamabad
- **Ms. Flaminia Minelli**, Chief Policy and Best Practices Service, Policy, Evaluation and Training Division (DPET), DPO

Session-2: Safety & Security of Peacekeepers; International law Perspective

- **Safety & Security of Peacekeepers under International Law**. Explore the broad contours of the current international legal regime, including Geneva Conventions, the law of armed conflict; their impact on safety and security of the Peacekeepers, and the extent of protection afforded by various international legal instruments.
- **Accountability for crimes against peacekeepers**. Discussion may focus on challenges faced by most countries in the investigation and prosecution of crimes against UN peacekeepers and ways and means to improve political support as well as assistance through the provision of technical and material assistance based on national plans and priorities. This discussion should provide an opportunity to consider existing and new approaches for such support including the deployment of specialized personnel who can assist national authorities in the investigation and prosecution of these cases, or the provision of transport, communication or forensic equipment to facilitate those processes. This would provide an opportunity to exchange views on innovative approaches such as the establishment of stand-by teams of investigation and prosecution experts capable of providing prompt support to a host country, bilaterally or through the concerned peacekeeping operation.

Guiding questions

- How can Member States support host states with investigating and prosecuting crimes committed in their country?

- What are the existing legal frameworks to ensure accountability of those who commit crimes against peacekeepers?

▪ **Moderator: Mr. Adeel Mumtaz Khokhar**, Director (UN), MoFA, Pakistan

▪ **Speakers**

• **Mr. Faisal Shahkar**, UN Police Adviser, DPO

• **Mr. Syed Haider Shah**, Additional Secretary (UN & ED), MoFA, Pakistan

• **Mr. Daniel Mainguay**, Professor International Law, University Paris 1 La Sorbonne

Session-3: Enhancing Medical Capacity of peacekeepers to ensure their safety and security

Appropriate medical capacity of peacekeeping missions and peacekeepers is essential to ensure safety and security of peacekeepers in case of attacks. In the same context, effective gender responsive healthcare in Missions is also of critical importance.

- **Identification of Current Challenges in Peacekeeping Missions.** On ground experiences of peacekeepers help in identification of needs and gaps in training of personnel. Furthermore, learning from prevalent good practices in capacity building will help in enhancing medical capacity and hence lead to an efficient medical response. Understanding the challenges faced in a mission- environment help identify specific needs and gaps for peacekeeping missions, to better prepare for a timely and proper medical response, including the following: a) Causality Evacuation (CASEVAC); b) Medical Evacuation (MEDEVAC); and c) Equipment Tools and Training.

- **Training and capacity building opportunities for peacekeepers.** Understand the capacity gaps that Troops/Police Contributing Countries suffer from and discuss how they can be addressed through training and capacity building opportunities on the basis of good practices and through innovative ideas.

Guiding questions

- What steps is the UN undertaking and how can Member States enhance the occupational safety and health capabilities of peacekeepers?

- What measures can the UN and Member States take to improve the provision of medical care to peacekeepers, particularly in high-risk settings

- How is the UN using technology, such as telemedicine in providing timely medical support to peacekeepers in remote areas and how can Member States support this?

- **Moderator: Brig Asim Niaz**, CMH Sialkot, Pakistan
- **Speakers**
 - **Mr. Atul Khare**, Under-Secretary-General, Department of Operational Support (DOS)
 - **Mr. Yamada Kohei**, Doctor at Ground Self-Defense Force Medical School, Ministry of Defense, Japan
 - **Brig Farah Naz**, CMH Gujranwala, Pakistan
 - **Dr. Michael Rowell**, Senior Medical Officer, Division of Healthcare Management and Occupational Safety & Health, DOS

Recap of Day 1 - Mr. Usman Jadoon, DG (UN), MoFA, Pakistan

Day 2 (31 August) - Main Moderator: AS (UN&ED), MoFA, Pakistan

Session-1: UN Pledging System and C-IED Session

(1) UN Pledging System

Understanding the pledging system requirements for different domains of peacekeeping as a precursor to main Ministerial meeting planned in Ghana, in December 2023.

Guiding questions

- How does the pledging process work for the 2023 UN Peacekeeping Ministerial and what are needs and gaps to strengthen UN Peacekeeping?

- **Moderator: Col Takekuma Kohei**, Director, Peacekeeping Training and Research Center, Joint College, Ministry of Defense, Japan

▪ **Speakers**

- **Mr. Hubertus Juergenliemk**, Strategic Force Generation Cell, DPO
- **Mr. Naeem Sabir**, Counsellor, Parepun New York

(2) Threat of IED and Measures to Counter the Threats

Peacekeepers across the globe are confronted with multifarious threats during deployment. Among these, threats by Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) remain the most dangerous, owing to the nature of injuries/casualties it can inflict. Threat of IEDs can be mitigated using latest technological means and formulation of stringent operating procedures.

Guiding questions

- What steps can Member States take to enhance pre-deployment training in countering the threat of IEDs?

- How can the UN and Member States leverage technology and specialized training in peacekeeping missions effectively, including to counter the threat of IEDs?

▪ **Moderator : Col Takekuma Kohei**

▪ **Speakers**

• **Brigadier Sajid Butt**, Dir CIEDO, Pakistan

• **Mr. Seamus Mc Menamin**, Operations Officer, UN Mine Action Service (UNMAS), DPO

• **Major General Silver M Kayemba**, Military Adviser, Permanent Mission of Uganda to UN

Session-2: Enhancing Safety & Security of Peacekeepers by leveraging technology & training

Digital technologies and advanced equipment offers new opportunities to enhance safety and security of peacekeepers, improves situational awareness, strengthens field support and facilitates UN mandate delivery in a safe manner.

- **Use of New Technologies / Advanced Equipment**. Use of Equipment for safety and security including night vision surveillance equipment, tactical drones, counter drones systems, APCs with blast protection, and jammers play a vital role towards ensuring safety and security of peacekeepers. New innovative ideas to ensure safety and security can also be explored.

- **Leveraging Technology & Training for Peacekeepers**. Development and delivery of courses / training packages in UN peacekeeping encompassing the use of new technologies, enhancing situational awareness, peacekeeping intelligence and data analysis to ensure safety and security of peacekeepers.

- **Importance of Strategic Communication**. Strategic communication is crucial for missions to explain their role, share and protect vital information, manage expectations and garner trust and support among relevant stakeholders, notably local communities. Efforts to strengthen strategic communication and to address misinformation and disinformation have a direct impact on the safety and security of UN peacekeepers.

Guiding questions

- How can missions effectively counter mis- and disinformation targeting peacekeepers?

- What steps are needed to further improve situational awareness and mandate implementation through the use of technology, including digital tools and intelligence?

- What are capacity gaps peacekeeping missions face in ensuring safety and security of peacekeepers? How are they identified and what are specific challenges for military / police/ civilians?

▪ **Moderator: Maj Wajiha Irshad** – ISPR Directorate, Pakistan

▪ **Speakers**

• **Mr. Jean Pierre Lacroix**, Under-Secretary-General, DPO

• **Mr. Herbert Loret**, Light Coordination Mechanism, ITS, DPET, DPO

• **Mr. Patrick Schuler**, Deputy Director, Global Peace Operations Initiative (GPOI), USA

Recap of Day 2 - Ambassador Munir Akram, Permanent Representative, Pakistan New York