



U.S.-Rwanda Preparatory Meeting for the 2021 Peacekeeping Ministerial Partnerships for Performance and Accountability



**Wednesday, July 21 and Thursday, July 22, 2021
9:00 – 11:00 a.m. EDT each day**

Concept Note

In advance of the December 2021 UN Peacekeeping Ministerial in Seoul, South Korea, the U.S.-Rwanda preparatory meeting will focus on the role of long-term partnerships in enhancing performance and accountability in peacekeeping. Our meeting will highlight concrete examples of success from the U.S.-Rwanda and other capacity-building partnerships. The co-hosts will produce a report of the meeting and submit it before the Ministerial to inform the agenda and objectives of the Ministerial.

The operating environment for peacekeepers remains hostile with evolving threats to peace and security. To meet these challenges, peacekeeping missions require professional uniformed and civilian personnel to plan and work together at all levels. They also must have the right capabilities and training, and the right mindset to do what is necessary to protect vulnerable civilian populations in a gender-responsive manner. Over the past several years progress has been made on enhancing the performance and accountability of peacekeepers, including through commissioning the December 2017 report on Improving the Security of United Nations Peacekeepers (better known as the “Cruz Report”), the March 2018 launch of the Secretary-General’s Action for Peacekeeping Initiative (A4P), the adoption in September 2018 of UN Security Council Resolution 2436 on peacekeeping performance, the September 2020 launch of the Integrated Peacekeeping Performance and Accountability Framework, and the UN Secretariat’s new “A4P+” initiative. Better information and data on the performance of troop- and police-contributing countries (T/PCCs) has helped inform the UN Secretariat on performance challenges and enhanced accountability. With these measures in place, this preparatory meeting aims to demonstrate how “effective partnerships” can lead to better trained, better equipped, and more capable troops and police. We will examine this issue with an eye towards concrete changes on the ground that will make peacekeeping personnel more effective, safe, and secure.

Goals: This preparatory meeting will have three primary goals:

- Examine how to enhance the preparation, deployment, and sustainment of high-performing peacekeepers in UN peacekeeping missions.
- Lay the foundation for and encourage meaningful capacity-building pledges at the 2021 Ministerial to strengthen institutional capacity for peacekeepers.
- Explore how the UN Light Coordination Mechanism (LCM) can serve an important role in conveying capability gaps and facilitating capacity-building partnerships to connect those willing to provide assistance with those needing that specific support.

Given the importance of technology and medical capacity-building to UN peacekeeping, those issues will also be areas of emphasis throughout the 2021 Ministerial and this preparatory meeting. The preparatory meeting will feature discussions on how better preparing and equipping peacekeepers with appropriate and effective medical and technological capacities leads to higher-performing peacekeeping personnel and more effective implementation of peacekeeping mandates.

Participation: The preparatory meeting is intended for senior national experts on peacekeeping, peacebuilding, and sustaining peace. We welcome member state participants from both their capitals and their offices in New York. This can include civilian and military personnel, ideally at their national equivalent grade or rank of “Counselor” or military O6 and O7. Each member state will be allowed 10 participants/observers who can join the two-session event.

Format: This preparatory meeting will take place virtually over the Zoom platform over two days. The engagements will be held in English, with French language interpretation available.

AGENDA

- Moderator: Jake Sherman, Senior Director for Programs and Director of the Brian Urquhart Center for Peace Operations, International Peace Institute

WEDNESDAY, JULY 21

- **9:00 a.m. Welcoming Remarks** (25 minutes): To provide an overview of Prep Meeting objectives
 - Major General Albert Murasira, Minister of Defence (Rwanda)
 - Ambassador Peter Vrooman, United States Ambassador to the Republic of Rwanda (United States)
 - Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield, Representative of the United States to the United Nations (United States)
 - Jean-Pierre Lacroix, Under-Secretary-General for Peace Operations (UN)

- **9:25 a.m. “The View from Kigali”** (10 minutes)
 - A video tour of Rwanda’s training, facilities, and equipment for peacekeepers, and current U.S.-Rwandan partnership programs

- **9:35 a.m. Panel 1: Building Effective Partnerships to Promote Mission Performance and Accountability** (75 minutes; brief opening remarks followed by Q&A)
 - Panelists:
 - Chantal Ujeneza, Deputy Commissioner General of Police and Deputy Inspector General, Rwanda National Police (Rwanda)
 - Stan Brown, Acting Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Political-Military Affairs Bureau, Department of State (United States)
 - Colonel Domingo Antonio Monterrosa Ramirez, Army of El Salvador (El Salvador)
 - Major General (Ret.) Jai Shanker Menon, Director of the Office for Peacekeeping Strategic Partnerships (United Nations)
 - This session will focus on measuring effectiveness and creating a culture of accountability within our peacekeeping capacity-building partnerships. The discussion will explore how ongoing initiatives have an impact on key factors, such as leadership, command and control, basic soldier and police skills, conduct and discipline, and safety and security. Rwanda and the United States will share their experiences on how they developed a joint commitment to shared partnership objectives – what worked, and what did not – and provide concrete examples of how their partnership has enhanced performance in peace missions.
 - Guiding questions:
 - What persistent mission shortfalls or gaps need to be better addressed?
 - How do we ensure capacity-building efforts are appropriately structured to address specific performance and accountability needs? How do we define clear, measurable objectives for such investments?
 - Should capacity-building investments be linked to performance and how?

- How can we shape additional, future partnership activities to reinforce mission performance and accountability mechanisms?
- How can capacity providers best help T/PCCs to enable women peacekeepers to undertake meaningful roles at all ranks in peacekeeping?

THURSDAY, JULY 22

- **9:00 a.m. Opening Remarks/Recap of Day 1** (5 minutes)
- **9:05 a.m. UN Video on Uniformed Capability Requirements** (8 minutes)
- **9:10 a.m. Panel 2: Enhancing Protection of Civilians through Effective Partnerships** (45 minutes; brief opening remarks followed by Q&A)
 - Panelists:
 - Lieutenant General Sidiki Daniel Traore, MINUSCA Force Commander (Burkina Faso)
 - Fanny Aboagye, Director of the International Relations Directorate, Ghana Police Service (Ghana)
 - Major General (Ret.) Patrick Cammaert (The Netherlands)
 - This session will focus on enhancing the protection of civilians by strengthening peacekeeper performance through capacity-building partnerships. The discussion will explore which key capabilities peacekeepers need to implement their protection of civilians (POC) mandates, how partner countries can work together to build those capabilities, and the role of the UN in identifying those gaps and facilitating effective partnerships to address them.
 - Guiding questions:
 - How can member states identify opportunities to establish new / strengthen existing capacity-building partnerships to address specific needs that would improve POC efforts?
 - How can missions better measure the effects of their POC efforts?
 - How can missions strengthen data and information collection, and integrate data analysis into mission planning and early warning systems?
 - How can peacekeepers improve whole-of-mission POC efforts through building trust with local communities and strengthening early warning systems and community alert networks?
- **10:00 a.m. Panel 3: Next Steps: Aligning Partners, Capabilities, and Mission Needs** (45 minutes; brief opening remarks followed by Q&A)
 - Panelists:
 - Lisa Bittenheim, Assistant Secretary-General for Support Operations, Department of Operational Support (United Nations)
 - David Haeri, Director, Division of Policy, Evaluation, and Training (DPET), Department of Peace Operations (United Nations)
 - Kyudok Hong, President of the International Policy Studies Institute and Professor at Sookmyung Women's University (Republic of Korea)

- This session will focus on how capacity-building donors can more effectively work with T/PCCs to address mission-specific needs and capability gaps. Panelists will address persistent capability requirements and shortfalls in current UN missions, and discuss how both T/PCC and donor capacity-building efforts might be better shaped to meet mission needs.
- Guiding Questions:
 - How can we continue to employ and strengthen the UN's Light Coordination Mechanism to support these requirements?
 - Based on the UN's analysis of persistent mission gaps, how could T/PCCs shape their national capacity-building efforts to better address capability shortfalls? How should capacity-building donors more effectively target their assistance to support such efforts and build self-sustaining national capacity?

➤ **10:45 a.m. Closing Remarks: Conclusions and Next Steps for the Ministerial**

(15 minutes)

- Mr. Chang Wook-jin, Director-General for International Organizations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Republic of Korea)
- Ambassador Valentine Rugwabiza, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Rwanda to the United Nations (Rwanda)
- Ambassador Erica Barks-Ruggles, Senior Bureau Official, Bureau of International Organization Affairs, Department of State (United States)