Chairs' Summary

United Nations Peacekeeping Preparatory Conference

25-26 October 2021

'Safety and Security' and 'Protection'

The Islamic Republic of Pakistan (Pakistan) and the Kingdom of the Netherlands (the Netherlands) co-hosted a virtual Preparatory Conference on the 25th and 26th of October 2021. Some 50 UN Member States took part in the conference, as well as representatives from the United Nations and civil society.

The aim of the conference was to focus on two elements of the UN Secretary General's 'Action for Peacekeeping' agenda, namely 'Safety and Security' and 'Protection'.

Progress has been made on improving the safety and security of peacekeepers and the protection of civilians, and efforts have been made to address deficiencies in the field of training, capacity, leadership (at all levels), performance and accountability, medical capacities, equipment and resources. At the same time, further attention is required to examine how to further enhance the safety and security of peacekeepers and the protection of civilians.

The conference aimed to lay the foundations for, and encourage, meaningful pledges on these topics in advance of the UN Peacekeeping Ministerial in Seoul, Republic of South Korea, on the 7th and the 8th of December 2021.

Both days of the conference were made up of the same structure: a plenary opening session led by a day-moderator, three parallel break-out sessions featuring panelists and led by a moderator, and a plenary closing session led by the day-moderator. The conference also featured a number of high level speakers including the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Pakistan and the Netherlands, the Minister of Defense of Pakistan, the Under-Secretary-General for Peace Operations, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Mali, the Assistant Secretary General for Supply Chain Management and the Permanent Representatives of Pakistan and the Netherlands.

A brief overview of the conference can be seen below, including a non-exhaustive overview of conclusions and challenges that were mentioned during the conference.

Day 1 – 'Safety and Security'

The first day of the conference focused predominantly on 'Safety and Security'. The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Pakistan, His Excellency Mr. Mahmood Qureshi, and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands, His Excellency Mr. Ben Knapen, opened the conference. Following the opening, the Under-Secretary-General for Peace Operations, Mr. Jean-Pierre Lacroix, provided

introductory remarks and a keynote speech was delivered by Mr. El-Ghassim Wane, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Mali and Head of MINUSMA.

The speakers spoke about experiences within the UN-system in New York and at mission-level in the field. All speakers emphasized the importance of sustained cooperation, continued attention for the safety and security of peacekeepers and the protection of civilians, and the imperative to contribute tangible pledges at the UN Peacekeeping Ministerial. The keynote speaker emphasized among others also the importance of increased mobility of the mission in order to improve mandate delivery.

The three break-out sessions that followed the plenary opening session focused on: Peacekeeping Training and Capacity Building for Protection of Civilians and Safety and Security, Health and Medical Support, and Operational Integration.

Day 2 – 'Protection'

The second day of the conference focused predominantly on 'Protection' and was opened by Pakistan's Minister of Defense, His Excellency Pervez Khattak, and the Netherlands' Director General of Policy at the Ministry of Defense, Mr. Joep Wijnands.

Following the opening, the first keynote speech was delivered by the Assistant Secretary-General for Supply Chain Management, Mr. Christian Saunders. Mr. Saunders emphasized the necessity to jointly improve and standardize capabilities, (pre-deployment) training and the use of new technologies to minimize discrepancies between missions and units and to increase missions' use of sustainable energy resources.

The second keynote speaker, the UN Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Protection and Operations, Mr. Khassim Diagne, noted that protection-approaches need to be context-specific, fully integrated into missions and based on clear strategies.

The three break-out sessions that followed the plenary opening session focused on: Technology for Safety and Security of Peacekeepers and Protection of Civilians, Performance for Protection of Civilians, and Community Engagement.

Conclusions

In the discussions, speakers, panelists and participants addressed a broad range of issues.

The list below provides an overview of the main points:

- Adequate and context-specific (pre-deployment) <u>training and capacity building</u> is critical to ensure the safety and security of peacekeepers and the ability to deliver on protection-mandates. Member States can benefit from further support to developing national, and ultimately self-sustaining, training facilities that meet UN-standards. In addition, mission-specific analyses and evaluations of training and capability requirements can be of value, as can stronger integration of technology.

- Strengthened <u>health and medical support</u> within UN-missions requires a systematic approach which entails, but is not limited to, pre-deployment training, provision of adequate first-aid kits and forward medical teams, as well as enablers such as air assets. Consistent integration of, and attention to, peacekeepers' mental health considerations is key – as is the role of mission-leadership to ensure that peacekeepers are adequately prepared to fulfill their duties under stressful circumstances. Lastly, the importance of integration of new technologies into missions, such as telemedicine, was emphasized.

- Integrated training, analysis, planning, monitoring and evaluation are imperative to deliver on mandates. To achieve strengthened <u>operational integration</u> requires both a robust and a comprehensive planning cycle with the formulation of clear goals. Integrated leadership within the mission is of utmost importance.

- Investing in new <u>technology for the safety and security of peacekeepers and the protection of civilians</u> is of vital importance. Technology within UN-missions need further harmonization and integration, as the technological landscape continues to evolve. Training is key, as is the timely signaling of mission-specific technological requirements.

- To enhance <u>performance on protection</u> of civilians, linking protection-focal points within missions to the mission-components that conduct performance-monitoring is necessary. This can lead to valuable protection performance measurements that assess effects and outcomes, instead of focusing mostly on activities.

- A crucial element of protection-work by peacekeepers lies in <u>community engagement</u>, which can be further strengthened by the use of adequate information-systems. Considering the turn-over within missions, recording and using available information is of strategic value when engaging with surrounding population. In addition, community engagement by joint patrols (military, police, civilian) and mixed-engagement teams was underlined, as was the importance of integrating local staff more strongly into missions to sensitize peacekeepers' regarding their surroundings.

- The importance of having the <u>right enablers</u> such as helicopters, armored personnel carriers and mine protected vehicles was underlined.

Recommendations

In the discussions, speakers, panelists and participants mentioned recommendations to ensuring the safety and security of peacekeepers and protection. A number of recommendations were identified, amongst others:

- The capabilities of different mission components need to be integrated into the mission.

- Adequate, standardized (pre-deployment) training and training facilities need to be in place.

- Missions should be equipped with adequate resources and guided by tailored mandates.

- Missions should be provided with consistent mandates that clearly guide protection-work.

- When deciding on troop levels due consideration should be given to peacekeepers safety and security.

- Peacekeeping Missions should be driven by a clearly defined political strategy.

- Standards and procedures when it comes to acquiring, financing, maintaining and integrating new technologies need to be developed.