



United Nations Peacekeeping

Peacekeeping Ministerial Preparatory Meeting - 3 and 10 November 2020

CONCPET NOTE FOR THE UNITED NATIONS PEACEKEEPING MINISTERIAL PREPARATORY MEETING ON PEACEBUILDING AND SUSTAINING PEACE, CO-HOSTED BY THE GOVERNMENTS OF BANGLADESH, CANADA AND THE UNITED KINGDOM

Ministerial Background

Ministers from around the world will take part in the next UN Peacekeeping Ministerial, to be hosted by the Republic of Korea in 2021. In the context of the Secretary-General's Action for Peacekeeping initiative (A4P), the objective of the 2021 Ministerial is to strengthen UN peacekeeping, including by improving the performance and impact of UN operations; closing capability gaps through concrete pledges; facilitating new partnerships and strengthening existing ones; and promoting systemic changes that will improve operations.

Preparatory Meeting Objectives

The purpose of this officials-level preparatory meeting is to discuss the challenges peace operations face in implementing the 'Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace' pillar of A4P and to identify concrete steps that we can take to address them. The deliverables explored and the insights shared at this preparatory meeting will serve as a valuable groundwork for the 2021 Ministerial, which will be comprised of four main thematic sessions, one of which will focus on Sustaining Peace.

The preparatory meeting has three primary objectives:

- 1) Take stock of progress that has been made on integrating Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace throughout A4P, especially in mission transition environments
- 2) Equip Member States to prepare pledges they can make at the Ministerial in 2021 to support implementation of the Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace theme. This includes, but is not limited to, provision of specialists, financing and support to host governments.
- 3) Produce a co-chairs summary as an input to the 2021 Ministerial meeting and outcomes.

To encourage debate and ideas, the Republic of Korea commissioned a white paper on Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace in the context of A4P. The paper by Daniel Forti and Richard Gowan outlines many of the challenges that missions are facing and identifies potential pledges that member states can make to address them.

The paper along with the potential pledges identified therein, works as an important supporting document for the discussions. The 2020 Report of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations (C-34) and other agreed documents offer important bases for initiation of the discussion on peacebuilding and sustaining peace in the transition context, and potential pledges by the member States to advance sustainable transition. The report of the Secretary General on Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace ([A/74/976 - S/2020/773](#)) and the report on Women, Peace and Security (S/2020/946) also provide important inputs for the interaction.

Each member state will have different ideas on what they can commit to, based on their own national capacities and priorities. There is value in working together to maximize coherence and impact where possible. However, other pledges that strengthen the impact of peacekeeping on sustaining peace within peace operations are also welcome.

The Republic of Korea has confirmed that technology and medical capacity building will also be areas of emphasis throughout the 2021 Ministerial. In this context, member states are encouraged to consider these areas when formulating their potential pledges at the Ministerial. Member states can refer to the upcoming Peacekeeping Technology Strategy by the UN Department of Peace Operations, which is expected to come out in April 2021.

Background

“Sustaining Peace” is a broad concept, but the UN System defines it as:

“...a goal and a process to build a common vision of a society, ensuring that the needs of all segments of the population are taken into account, which encompasses activities aimed at preventing the outbreak, escalation, continuation and recurrence of conflict, addressing root causes, assisting parties to conflict to end hostilities, ensuring national reconciliation, and moving towards recovery, reconstruction and development, and emphasizing that sustaining peace is a shared task and responsibility that needs to be fulfilled by the government and all other national stakeholders, and should flow through all three pillars of the United Nations’ engagement at all stages of conflict, and in all its dimensions, and needs sustained international attention and assistance”.

And under the A4P declaration C34 members committed to:

“...support inclusive and participatory approaches by peacekeeping operations with the host government. We further support the inclusion and engagement of civil society and all segments of the local population in peacekeeping mandate implementation. We further commit to strong coordination, coherence and cooperation between the Security Council and the Peacebuilding Commission during peacekeeping mandates, as appropriate. During transitions from peacekeeping operations, we commit to support UN Country Teams to continue assisting host countries to build peace.”

The Secretary-General further developed this understanding when he presented his most recent Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace report ([S/2020/773](#)) to the Security Council and General Assembly. The principles of conflict prevention, peacebuilding, national ownership and a 'whole of UN approach' were clearly outlined. However, whilst taking a holistic perspective, increased focus on peacebuilding and greater coordination between the UN, host government and other actors is generally understood, it has not always been clear what this means in practical terms for TCCs and PCCs. For the UNSC, this is articulated in a UNSC presidential statement on the elements related to peacebuilding and sustaining peace to be considered when reviewing the mandates and configuration of peacekeeping missions ([S/PRST/2017/27](#)), as well as advice from the UN Peacebuilding Commission on specific contexts. Through the preparatory process, our intent is to articulate practical avenues for member state action, and to work together to take them forward.

One area that is better developed conceptually is the importance of smooth UN transitions, during and following peacekeeping operations. The UN and member states have developed their understanding of these delicate phases in recent years and significant progress has been made in evolving the UN laydown, rather than reducing or closing missions and assuming the job has been done. The Secretary-General's planning directive is a critical part of this. However, this improved theoretical awareness doesn't always translate to more effective processes on the ground. Although peacekeepers understand the value of peacebuilding and conflict prevention, they aren't always resourced, best placed or mandated to deliver it themselves. This means that a multi-pronged approach to modernizing peacekeeping operations should prioritise engagement with UN agencies, NGOs and civil society. At the same time, more immediate tasks like protecting civilians, enabling humanitarian responses and responding to the global pandemic often dominate mission priorities. During mission drawdowns this can be particularly acute, as the logistical and administrative aspects of reducing their footprint also require attention.

Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace also reinforces the importance of national ownership. This is especially true during transitions, which should not just be viewed in the context of reducing the UN presence. Successful planning for the host government and other local actors to take on increased responsibility for security and development is key.

The importance of adopting inclusive approaches, in particular the value of gender-responsive action at all levels of planning and delivery, was also highlighted in the Secretary-General's report. In the 20th anniversary year of Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security, it is a good time to review progress that has been made and assess what more we can do to support women's empowerment and gender equality.

Preparatory Meeting Format

The 2021 Ministerial and its associated Preparatory Meetings are taking place in unprecedented times, as the COVID-19 pandemic places significant stresses on peacekeeping missions and host governments. It also limits our ability to meet in person, so the co-hosts have decided this Preparatory Meeting will be a virtual event comprised of two distinct webinar sessions on 3 & 10 November 2020. These are due to be held on Zoom.

The first session (3 Nov) will set the scene and outline the broad areas where progress can be made. Member states will then be encouraged to investigate potential pledges and discuss them further during the thematic breakout groups of the second webinar.

First webinar:

- Welcome and opening remarks from Preparatory Meeting hosts
- Scene-setting remarks from USG Lacroix and the Republic of Korea
- Presentation by Richard and Daniel on their white paper
- Speaker from PBSO
- UN speaker from the field

Second webinar:

- Breakout sessions covering different aspects of peacekeeping's impact on peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace
- Plenary session

Participants

The preparatory meeting is targeted at senior national experts on peacekeeping, peacebuilding and sustaining peace. **It is expected that participants from each member state will be based in capitals**, rather than their offices in New York. This can include civilian and military personnel, ideally at their national equivalent grade or rank of 'Counsellor'. Each member will be allowed an additional ten participants/observers who can join the webinars.

Further reading on Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace

White Paper by Daniel Forti and Richard Gowan

UNSC and UNGA joint resolutions on Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace: 2016 and 2018

UNSG reports on Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace: [2018, 2019 and 2020](#)

UN-World Bank joint report [Pathways for Peace: Inclusive Approaches to Preventing Violent Conflict](#)

ACTION FOR PEACEKEEPING

**United Nations Peacekeeping Ministerial
Preparatory Meeting on Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace
Session 1 – November 3 – Agenda**

08:00 – Overview of the Day and Introductory Remarks: Ambassador and Deputy Permanent Representative of Canada to the United Nations Richard Arbeiter

08:05 – Welcome Remarks: Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the United Nations Rahab Fatima

08:07 – Opening Addresses

- Jean-Pierre Lacroix, UN Under-Secretary-General for Peace Operations
- LEE Joon-ho, Director-General, 2021 UN Peacekeeping Ministerial Preparatory Secretariat, Republic of Korea

08:15 – Presentations by the Panelists

- Daniel Forti and Richard Gowan, authors of the White Paper on Sustaining Peace and UN Peacekeeping
- Katerina Limenopoulou, Chief of the Peacebuilding Support Branch, UN Peacebuilding Support Office
- Robert Pulver, Chief of the Justice and Corrections Service, UN Office of Rule of Law and Security Institutions
- Anita (Kiki) Gbeho, Deputy Joint Special Representative, African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur

08:45 – Questions to Panelists from Member States (Note: Please limit delivery of questions to one minute per Member State.)

09:40 – Closing Comments from Panelists

09:50 – Summary by the Moderator: Ambassador Arbeiter

09:55 – Closing Remarks and Next Steps: Neil Briscoe, Head, UN and Multilateral Department, Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, UK

10:00 – Meeting adjourns