



## **CHAIRS' SUMMARY OF THE PREPARATORY MEETING FOR THE 2021 SEOUL UN PEACEKEEPING MINISTERIAL: PARTNERSHIPS FOR PERFORMANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY, CO-HOSTED BY THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE UNITED STATES AND RWANDA**

Over 400 participants from approximately 70 countries took part in the 2021 Preparatory Conference on Partnerships for Performance and Accountability, co-hosted by the governments of the United States and Rwanda July 21-22, 2021. The main findings of the conference of the co-Chairs are summarized in this report.

The following keynote speakers addressed the conference in order as listed: Under-Secretary-General for Peace Operations Jean-Pierre Lacroix, U.S. Representative to the United Nations Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield, U.S. Ambassador to Rwanda Peter Vrooman, Rwanda Minister of Defense Major General Albert Murasira, Republic of Korea Director-General for International Organizations Chang Wook-jin, Rwanda Representative to the United Nations Ambassador Valentine Rugwabiza, and U.S. Department of State Senior Bureau Official for International Organization Affairs Ambassador Erica Barks-Ruggles.

Speakers highlighted the role of the Secretary-General's Action for Peacekeeping and Action for Peacekeeping Plus initiatives as the framework for the December 2021 Seoul UN Peacekeeping Ministerial. These initiatives demonstrate the close links between enhanced performance and strong partnerships among capacity-building providers and troop- and police-contributing countries. Speakers emphasized the importance of long-term, sustainable partnerships to build institutional capacity and address concrete, targeted goals. Speakers called on member states to consider announcing such new or enhanced partnerships as pledges at the Seoul ministerial.

The conference also featured three expert panels facilitated by Mr. Jake Sherman, Director of the Center for Peace Operations at the International Peace Institute:

- Building effective partnerships to promote mission performance and accountability,
- Enhancing protection of civilians through effective partnerships, and
- Next steps: aligning partners, capabilities, and mission needs.

### **Building Effective Partnerships to Promote Mission Performance and Accountability**

Panelists included: Chantal Ujeneza, Deputy Commissioner General of Police and Deputy Inspector General of the Rwanda National Police; Colonel Domingo Antonio Monterrosa Ramirez of the El Salvador Army; Stan Brown, Acting Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Bureau of Political-Military Affairs, United States Department of State; and Major General (Ret.) Jai Shanker Menon, Director of the UN Office for Peacekeeping Strategic Partnerships.



#### Key points:

- Beyond pre-deployment training, partnerships must invest in broader capacity-building efforts to prepare peacekeeping personnel to implement peacekeeping mandates more effectively. Pre-deployment training is critical but, insufficient alone to prepare peacekeeping forces. To deploy effective peacekeepers, troop- and police-contributing countries (T/PCCs) require adequate institutional capacity for force generation, training, sustainment, and resource management.
- It is critical to establish training programs through partnerships that focus on uniformed women. Given the benefits to the presence of uniformed women in UN peacekeeping operations, capacity-building providers and troop- and police-contributing countries must take action to increase the number of women deployed.
- Partnerships for training and capacity building must be long-term, sustainable, and targeted to the specific needs of each troop- and police-contributing country and address mission-specific needs and capability gaps.

#### **Enhancing Protection of Civilians through Effective Partnerships**

Panelists included: MINUSCA Force Commander Lieutenant General Sidiki Daniel Traore of Burkina Faso; Fanny Aboagye, Director of the International Relations Directorate of the Ghana Police Service; and Major General (Ret.) Patrick Cammaert of The Netherlands.

#### Key points:

- Effective protection of civilians requires a proactive, flexible, mobile, and agile force footprint. This requires quick reaction capabilities, but also the correct tools and mindset.
- To combat a risk-averse mindset for troops and police, partnerships should enhance training on the rules of engagement and incorporate practical guidance on how they should be employed. Training should be tailored, where possible, to address the unique challenges of each mission and operating environment. Troops and police must also be provided with the necessary technologies to promote their safety, security, and threat anticipation, as well as the training to effectively use these technologies.
- Troops and police that deploy with caveats have a negative impact on operational effectiveness. Caveats, whether declared or undeclared, are a political issue that must be addressed at the political level at UN headquarters, but force commanders must also be empowered to identify and respond to these caveats when they affect mission operations.

#### **Next Steps: Aligning Partners, Capabilities, and Mission Needs**

Panelists included: Assistant-Secretary-General for Support Operations Lisa Bittenheim, David Haeri, Director of the Division of Policy, Evaluation and Training of the UN Department of Peace Operations, and Kyudok Hong, President of the International Policy Studies Institute and Professor at Sookmyung Women's University in the Republic of Korea.



Key points:

- Drawing on the range of available performance-related data sources, the UN should ensure a strong and continuous feedback loop for T/PCCs and capacity-building partners that informs training, preparations, and future deployment planning.
- Capacity-building can take place through bilateral or multilateral partnerships and can also take place within UN frameworks to increase troop- and police-contributing countries' capabilities.
- It is important that T/PCCs clearly communicate their gaps and challenges to the UN to facilitate the creation of partnerships that can help address those challenges and to maximize the utility of the Light Coordination Mechanism.

**Preparing for the Ministerial**

- The 2021 Seoul UN Peacekeeping Ministerial, scheduled for December 7-8, will feature the UN Secretary-General's Action for Peacekeeping and Action for Peacekeeping Plus initiatives as its thematic agenda for discussion, along with cross-cutting themes of technology and medical capacity building.
- Member states are encouraged to make pledges in line with these themes by establishing new or strengthening existing capacity-building partnerships that build institutional capacity of peacekeepers and address mission-specific needs and capability gaps, while also taking into account the mainstreaming of the women, peace, and security agenda.