

Security Sector Reform Standing Capacity

(a) Brief description of the project

(i) Objective of the project:

The Security Sector Reform Unit (SSRU) in DPO/OROLSI proposes to extend funding for the position of the senior SSR officer at P-5 level embedded with the Standing Police Capacity (SPC) and Standing Justice and Corrections Capacity (SJCC) based in Brindisi¹. The Senior SSR Officer will also respond to requests from Member States, peacekeeping operations, special political missions, regional political offices and UN country teams for in-country, short-term SSR and Defence Sector Reform (DSR) expertise, and will complement the expertise available through the SPC and SJCC in the areas of shared concern.

(ii) Why the project is necessary and how it relates to the implementation of the A4P commitments.

SSRU provides policy guidance, advice and technical support on SSR to Member States, peacekeeping operations, special political missions, regional political offices and United Nations country teams. The Unit is a member of the Global Focal Point for Rule of Law, and as such, responds with OROLSI and UN system partners to requests from Member States and field operations for comprehensive support with start-up of missions or advisory capacities, transition planning and draw down of missions, capacity assessments that underpin national plans to implement SDG 16. Unfortunately, the Headquarters SSR team is small, stretched, and lacking in travel funds to respond to the many requests from the field for surge or specialist expertise

The SSR/DSR standing capacity, like the other two standing capacities, has developed a consistent approach to working horizontally with UN partners on these recurring planning processes, and will help ensure that the development and delivery of rule of law and security sector reform initiatives are holistic and make best use of each UN partner's comparative advantage. There is, for example, much overlap in the work of the SSR and police reform teams in the field, and we will produce more efficient plans and staffing structures for the field if we take a needs-based approach to our assessment and planning processes, instead of a siloed and supply-driven approach.

In line with A4P commitments and revised priorities in the time of COVID-19, the SSR/DSR standing capacity will reinforce the capacity of UN peacekeeping operations, particularly MINUSCA, MINUSMA, MONUSCO and UNMISS, to facilitate and support the implementation of defence and security elements of peace agreements and political settlements. It will also provide advice and technical assistance on planning and implementation of security-related elements of Member States COVID-19 preparedness, prevention and response plans.

(iii) What is the expected impact of the project?

The continued employment of the SSR standing capacity senior expert would increase the overall SSRU responsive capacity and would deliver support to field operations and national authorities in non-mission settings consistent with UN SSR policies, guidance and best practice. The rapidly deployable expert would join police and rule of law experts engaged in mission start-up, planning, transition or drawdown processes, to ensure a coherent approach to these inter-linked areas of work.

¹ Through the generous contribution of the Italian Government, funding for the duration of six (6) months of project implementation has been secured in 2019. While the standing capacity has not been able to commence operations, this project seeks to secure funding to beyond the six (6) months, and secure predictable operations by the SSR standing capacity once COVID-19 related restrictions on hiring and travel have been lifted.

(b) Expected Outcomes, Outputs and Proposed Activities

Outcomes	Outputs	Proposed Activities
Peacekeeping and special political missions and host governments in non-mission settings obtain rapid, high-quality SSR expertise on-site, on demand.	SSR and DSR standing capacity experts deploy to the field for 70% of the year in response to requests for support from peace operations and host governments in non-mission settings. .	SSR and DSR experts are recruited and undergo training with the standing police, justice and corrections capacities in Brindisi to develop common approaches to providing support on overlapping areas of work (e.g., advising on institutional reform, planning and budgeting for security-related reform efforts in missions, joint programming in security-related areas, transition planning for the security sector)
	SSR elements of UNAMID and MONUSCO transition plans are designed and implemented efficiently.	Deployment to MONUSCO (4 months) Deployment to UNAMID or successor presence (4 months)
	Advice and technical assistance to national authorities in “sustaining peace” contexts (The Gambia, Burkina Faso) on development and implementation of national security policy / strategy and SSR strategy.	Deployment to Burkina Faso (2 months) Deployment to The Gambia (2 months)
	Advice on the design of confidence building measures to advance transitional security arrangements in Central African Republic and Yemen provided to mission leadership.	Deployment to MINUSCA (4 months) Deployment to SESG-Y (2 months)
	Contribute to guidance development together with police, justice, corrections and other Global Focal Point partners during the remaining 30% of the time, including through reports of lessons learned of SSR in peace operation settings	Support to DSR policy review

(c) Implementation Timeline

This project is designed to be implemented over a period of two years, but this proposal is budgeted for one year, with the option of extending to a second year if funding is made available.

(d) How does this project relate to internal and external United Nations partners?

The SSR standing capacity experts would respond to requests from DPO and DPPA-led peace operations, and UN Resident Coordinators and Country Teams in non-mission settings. The expert would be a resource for the Global Focal Point on Rule of Law and would liaise with PBSO as appropriate to combine specialist expertise with programmatic funding available from the PBF.

(e) How gender aspects been included in the design and implementation of the project? How does it help the Department to implement their Women, Peace and Security and Gender Parity commitments?

SSRU will conduct outreach to identify qualified female candidates and will ensure the experts are trained and accountable for providing gender-responsive advice and support.

(f) Brief explanation of any risks that the implementation of the project may face and how to mitigate them, including with regards to the impact of COVID-19.

The success of this initiative will be a function of the quality of expertise we are able to recruit, our ability to retain the expert long enough to reap the benefit of their exposure to multiple contexts and their accumulation of institutional knowledge, and our ability to mobilize funds to cover the cost of deployments. Peace operations budgets are contracting and travel funds are often unavailable to cover the cost of standing capacity deployments. Travel funds are also scarce for UN country teams requesting support. SSRU is approaching donors to obtain travel cost support, and will also reach out to partners, including PBF and UNDP, to support the cost of deployment to non-mission settings. SSRU would also rely on UNDP to provide logistic support to the standing SSR expert in non-mission settings.

There is a low risk that there are periods of low demand for the standing capacity experts. SSRU will mitigate this risk through active outreach to peace operations and non-mission settings, and through active engagement in the Global Focal Point arrangement, to ensure that they budget for this service, and make full use of it.

There is a low risk that travel restrictions enacted by Member States in response to the COVID-19 pandemic will impede the deployment of SSR Standing Capacity experts to the field. Experts will provide remote support to UN peace operations and country teams through MS Teams, Zoom and other ICT platforms when unable to travel.

(g) Proposed Budget

Item²	Brief Description	Total Amount \$
1 SSR expert	12 months @ P5 salary/Brindisi	270,000
Travel costs	6 trips (airfare+DSA) @\$5000	30,000
Other project costs	Rental of office space, communication and IT services, office furniture and supplies, medical and security services	8,300
Programme Support Costs (13%) ³		40,079
Total		\$348,379

² Post estimates need to include salary for the period together with standard costs, which include the following costs: (i) Rental Premises; (ii) Office Supplies; (iii) Telephone and Fax; and (iv) Computing Services. For the most recent scale of salaries and standard costs, please consult with the Executive Office. If you need a salary list, please contact ODCSS or the EO.

³ Mandatory Programme Support costs to be calculated against the subtotal of the programme support costs.