



Content Concept Note:

UN Peacekeeping Ministerial (UNPKM) Preparatory Meeting on Women in Peacekeeping

On June 25-26, 2023 Bangladesh, Canada, and Uruguay will welcome participants from around the world for the first preparatory conference in advance of the 2023 UN Peacekeeping Ministerial Meeting (UNPKM) under Ghana's leadership. The theme of the meeting is *Women in UN Peacekeeping*. Representatives from the UN, troop and police contributing countries, and peacekeeping experts at the Director or Director General level will convene to discuss progress, challenges and good practices on increasing women's meaningful participation in UN peacekeeping, chart a path forward to continue to invest in and support implementation of the [Uniformed Gender Parity Strategy \(UGPS\)](#) and [UN Security Council Resolution 2538](#) on Women in Peacekeeping (2020), and formulate concrete pledges that respond to the barriers and obstacles facing uniformed women peacekeepers.

A number of barriers to full gender equality in peacekeeping persist. The Elsie Initiative for Women in Peace Operations is one initiative that has helped to catalyze action on the meaningful role of women in peace operations.

The 2023 UNPKM preparatory meeting will be an opportunity for delegates to learn and exchange views about contemporary opportunities and challenges related to gender equality in peacekeeping, in order to help shape commitments from Member States ahead of the next UNPKM. This preparatory meeting will also cover conduct and discipline among peacekeepers, including conduct that can negatively impact an enabling work environment for women peacekeepers such as discrimination and sexual harassment. The sessions will also include workshops in small groups where experts, the UN, and Troop and Police Contributing Countries (T/PCCs) alike can directly engage with each other, as well as provide a space for a peer learning exchange. The sessions will cover a broad range of topics, including:

- Understanding Barriers and Obstacles to Women's Participation in Peacekeeping;
- Enhancing the Meaningful Participation and Deployment of Women in Peacekeeping;
- Gender-Responsive Leadership and Inclusive Teams;
- Creating Enabling Environments for Gender Equality in Peacekeeping;
- Effective Partnerships for Strengthening Accountability for Conduct and Discipline in Peacekeeping;
- Achieving and Implementing the Uniformed Gender Parity Strategy (UGPS);
- Support for Contributing Countries in Implementing the UGPS;
- Developing Concrete Pledges to Address Existing Challenges.

It is the shared goal of Bangladesh, Canada, and Uruguay to positively contribute to the 2023 UN Peacekeeping Ministerial, hosted in Accra, Ghana on 5-6 December 2023, and ensure that meaningful considerations related to women in UN peacekeeping are a central part of discussions to support effective, inclusive, and successful UN peacekeeping.

Sessions:

Understanding Barriers and Obstacles to Women's Participation

Discussion of the major barriers facing the meaningful participation of women in peacekeeping. This session features an exchange of experiences between countries that have undertaken Measuring Opportunities for Women in Peace Operations (MOWIP) barrier assessments and researchers responsible for the Global MOWIP Report. They will be able to provide insights about the assessment process, and how their barrier assessment reports have informed their interventions to increase the meaningful participation of women in peacekeeping. Participants will also be invited to share insights from barrier assessments they have conducted.

Gender-Responsive Leadership and Inclusive Teams

The session will focus on the importance of gender-responsive leadership in UN efforts to promote gender equality and the meaningful participation of women peacekeepers. This panel is an opportunity to hear from senior UN leaders, both from HQ and missions, and practitioners about how to create more inclusive teams, and ensure decision makers avoid gender bias and stereotyping in their decisions on roles and functions women can play. The session will begin with a brief plenary and then provide an opportunity for participants to breakout into smaller groups to discuss the themes as they work towards developing concrete pledges.

Creating Enabling Environments for Gender Equality in Peacekeeping

This interactive breakout session will address three key topics about the creation of enabling environments for women personnel, with an opportunity for participants to exchange directly on the challenges and opportunities facing Member States and the UN. Outcomes of the discussions will be shared with the UN to better guide interventions and activities that support the Uniformed Gender Parity Strategy, Action for Peacekeeping+ and UNSCR 2538. The session will begin with a brief plenary and then provide an opportunity for participants to breakout into smaller groups to discuss the themes as they work towards developing concrete pledges.

Breakout session themes:

- Gender-responsive infrastructure and equipment
- Mental health and medical services
- Fostering inclusive teams, including addressing discrimination, harassment, sexual harassment

Effective Partnerships for Strengthening Accountability for Conduct and Discipline in Peacekeeping

This session on effective partnerships for conduct and discipline will situate behaviours of discrimination and sexual harassment within the broader context of accountability for upholding the United Nations' standards of conduct, including those prohibiting sexual exploitation and abuse, at the individual, command and leadership levels.

Participants will reflect on:

1. Good practices from Member States
2. Challenges experienced
3. Priorities for strengthening Member State and Secretariat partnership
4. Concrete pledges

Guiding questions (to be further developed)

- How good conduct and discipline by peacekeepers underscores supporting the communities we serve and effectively implementing peacekeeping mandates. The risks of misconduct must be continually managed through prevention, enforcement and support as well as assistance to victims. How can Member States partner with the United Nations to strengthen **risk management** across prevention and response in these areas, such as through strengthened pre-deployment training, targeted training for commanders, capacity-building of National Investigation Officers and facilitation of paternity and child support claims? What are the main challenges to progress in this area?
- What role can **senior leadership** play in reinforcing shared values around good conduct and discipline in UN peacekeeping and strengthening avenues for partnership?

The Elsie Initiative Fund for Uniformed Women in Peace Operations

Briefing from the Elsie Initiative Fund's Secretariat on the ongoing third programming round, and opportunities for Member States to access funding to increase the deployment of women personnel.

Enhancing the Meaningful Participation and Deployment of Women in Peacekeeping - Panel of Women Peacekeepers

Women personnel are dedicated to the mission of UN Peacekeeping, and can do the same job, to the same standard, under the same challenging conditions as their men counterparts. This panel ensures that the voices of women peacekeepers continue to be at the centre of our discussions and inform the direction of the UN Peacekeeping Ministerial Meeting. There will be an opportunity for questions and answers from the audience.