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**Comprehensive review of the whole question of
peacekeeping operations in all their aspects**

Implementation of the recommendations of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report, prepared pursuant to General Assembly resolution [78/291](#), highlights key developments in United Nations peacekeeping since the issuance of the previous report ([A/78/587](#)) and identifies issues for consideration by the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations.



I. Strategic context

A. Perspectives for peacekeeping following the Summit for the Future

1. Since its inception in 1948, peacekeeping has evolved to become a cornerstone of global efforts by the United Nations to maintain peace and security. Its unique international legitimacy and its pooling of global resources and expertise make it an enduringly relevant tool in addressing some of the world's most complex conflicts.

2. More than 68,000 uniformed and civilian peacekeepers from 121 Member States continue to serve with courage and dedication in 11 missions around the world, protecting civilians from imminent threats and creating conditions for sustainable conflict resolution. Peacekeepers work closely with partners and national stakeholders to rebuild trust and advance reconciliation between communities, making tangible contributions in peacebuilding; human rights; governance; the rule of law; disarmament, demobilization and reintegration; security sector reform; and the women and peace and security agenda. In the Middle East, the presence of United Nations peacekeepers along the Blue Line between Israel and Lebanon and in the Golan Heights is crucial in supporting efforts towards de-escalation and a return to a cessation of hostilities, as well as to ensure support to the protection of civilians.

3. Many peacekeepers continue to serve at great risk to their physical and mental well-being. While the number of peacekeeper fatalities from malicious acts declined significantly over the past 12 months compared with the previous two reporting periods, peacekeepers face a continuously evolving and increasingly sophisticated threat landscape. These threats include terrorism, transnational organized crime and the involvement of a wide array of Member States that back conflicting parties, and are exacerbated by rapid technological advances, including those that rapidly spread misinformation and disinformation. In addition, with each passing year the disruptive effects of climate change pose more urgent challenges in multiple operational settings, such as in South Sudan, where peacekeepers raced to fortify flood defences against unprecedented severe flooding in September and October to prevent compounding an already grave economic and humanitarian outlook.

4. The success of peacekeeping operations hinges on effective partnerships and committed and constructive engagement by all stakeholders. Peacekeeping requires unified, consistent political support by the Security Council and mandates that provide clear strategic direction and are achievable, prioritized and backed by adequate resources. A lack of unanimity among Council members can hinder peacekeeping operations from playing a more effective political role on behalf of the Council and the wider United Nations membership. The reduced trust of Member States in the United Nations poses challenges for the Organization when engaging in prevention and peacebuilding efforts, and can enable regional and national spoilers to undermine mandated activities, including during the closure of peacekeeping operations.

5. Against this backdrop, the Summit of the Future, held in New York on 22 and 23 September 2024, marked a once-in-a-generation opportunity for world leaders to rebuild mutual trust in international cooperation and reunite around the core tenets of the multilateral system based on the Charter of the United Nations. Through the Pact for the Future, adopted by consensus at the Summit, Member States strongly reaffirmed the continued relevance and value of United Nations peace operations as critical tools in maintaining international peace and security. Key recommendations from the Secretary-General's policy brief 9, entitled "A New Agenda for Peace", were echoed in the Pact for the Future, as Member States recognized the urgent need for peace operations to adapt to complex challenges. The Pact will shape the next phase

of the implementation of the Action for Peacekeeping initiative in the years ahead. Furthermore, the adoption of Security Council resolution [2719 \(2023\)](#) in December 2023 marked a milestone in the relationship between the United Nations and the African Union, enabling African Union-led peace support operations to potentially access United Nations-assessed contributions. With a strengthened and expanded toolbox for international peace and security, this partnership can play a central role in a more effective, networked multilateralism for the twenty-first century.

B. Implementation of the recommendations of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations

6. On 15 March 2024, the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations adopted a report ([A/78/19](#)) in line with General Assembly resolution [77/302](#). In accordance with its mandate, the Special Committee undertook a comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all its aspects and issued 121 recommendations aimed at enhancing United Nations peacekeeping. The Secretariat has endeavoured to implement these recommendations in the intervening period. The present report and its addendum provide an update on the measures under way for each recommendation.

7. The figures below provide information on the distribution of recommendations by implementing entity and Action for Peacekeeping theme. Most recommendations (76) are directed at the Secretariat. Five are addressed to key peacekeeping stakeholders such as troop- and police-contributing countries, host authorities, or regional organizations. Forty are collective recommendations.

Figure I
Recommendations of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations by implementing entity, 2024

(Number of recommendations)

■ Secretariat ■ Member States ■ Collective

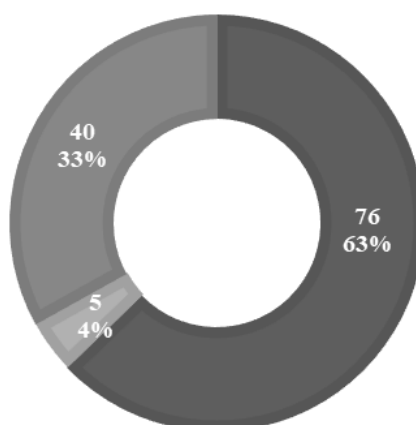
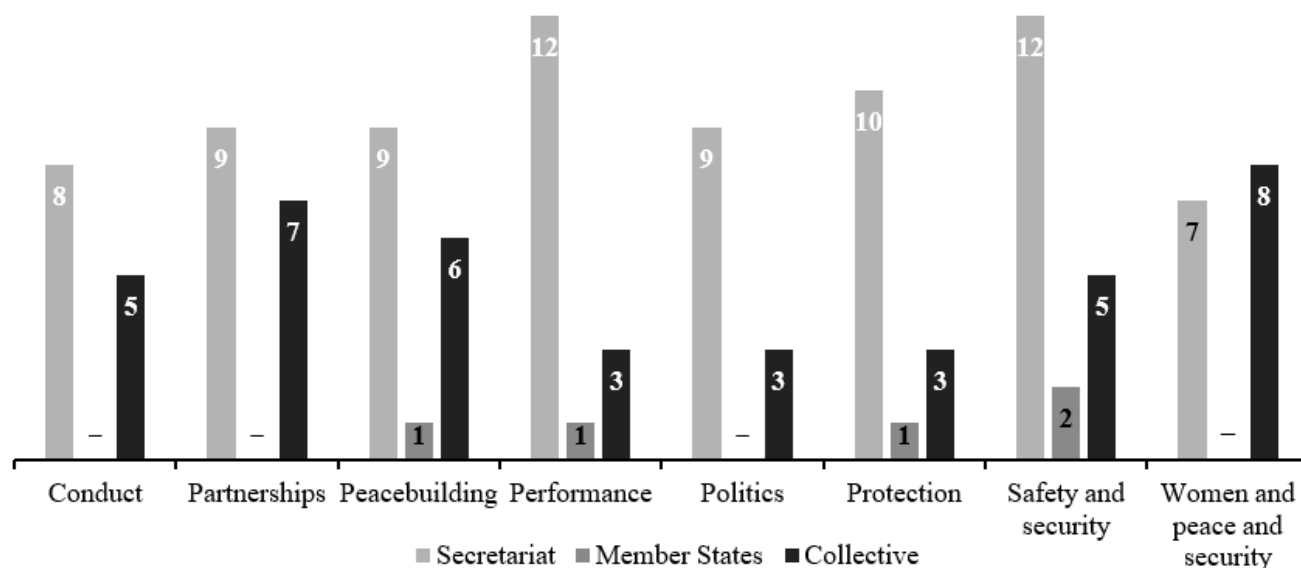


Figure II
Recommendations of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations by thematic area, 2024

(Number of recommendations)



II. Overview of Action for Peacekeeping Plus priorities

Action for Peacekeeping Plus monitoring

8. Over the past year, the Secretariat and peacekeeping partners continued to enhance the effectiveness and impact of peacekeeping, in line with the Declaration of Shared Commitments on United Nations Peacekeeping Operations and the Action for Peacekeeping Plus implementation strategy, focusing on seven systemic priorities and two cross-cutting themes. Those priorities are: (a) ensuring collective coherence behind a political strategy; (b) enhancing missions' strategic and operational integration; (c) ensuring that peacekeeping missions have the right capabilities and mindsets for mandate implementation; (d) ensuring accountability to peacekeepers by improving their safety, security and well-being, including by bringing to account perpetrators of attacks against them; (e) upholding the accountability of all peacekeepers for their performance, conduct and discipline, and for the environmental footprint of their missions; (f) focusing on strategic communications; and (g) improving cooperation and constructive engagement with host countries. The implementation of the women and peace and security agenda and efforts to build a culture of data-driven and technology-enabled peacekeeping are being mainstreamed across these priorities.

9. Progress and challenges continued to be systematically tracked through the Action for Peacekeeping Plus monitoring framework. During the reporting period, two progress reports were shared with Member States. In the most recent report, issued in September 2024, several gains were noted. Peacekeeping missions mandated to pursue political solutions continued their political efforts at local and national levels, while those with more limited mandates, such as monitoring ceasefires, contributed to conducive environments for a political settlement. In regard to safety and security, as at 3 September, the percentage of peacekeeping fatalities resulting from malicious acts was notably lower, but illness (at 55 per cent) continued to be the largest cause of fatalities, requiring greater effort and attention. The Mine Action Service continued to

work closely with missions to mitigate the risk of explosive ordnance, including improvised explosive devices. In the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO), the Mine Action Service safely destroyed over 68,924 explosive items and delivered risk education to more than 81,000 people. United Nations peacekeeping operations continued to meet all targets of the uniformed gender parity strategy except for uniformed contingents. Missions were also increasing the role of engagement teams, each of which consists of more than 50 per cent female staff, to build trust with host communities and improve security. Of the 55 formed police units whose performance was evaluated between November 2023 and April 2024, none received a rating of “needs improvement”. United Nations peacekeeping digital channels gained 75,000 new followers, attributable to a continued focus on story-telling and the production of compelling content as part of a campaign-driven approach to communications.

10. Following the adoption of the Pact for the Future, the Department of Peace Operations will devise the next iteration of the implementation strategy for Action for Peacekeeping.

III. Political impact of peacekeeping

A. Advancing political solutions and complementary political objectives at the national and local levels

11. Where mandated, peacekeeping missions continued to advance and support political solutions to conflict and peace processes, often in partnership with regional actors and other partners. They helped to facilitate spaces for dialogue processes and peaceful resolutions despite increasingly challenging conditions. Across missions, recurrences of armed violence remained a concern.

12. MONUSCO engaged with national, provincial and local actors to address conflict drivers and protect civilians. The Mission supported local peace initiatives, established a dialogue mechanism in Ituri and developed a political strategy for South Kivu as part of its disengagement from the province by June 2024. The Mission provided expertise for the Nairobi process, promoted women’s and youth participation and supported preparations for the peacefully held December 2023 elections. MONUSCO also supported capacity-building for women, raised awareness against violence and advocated for a draft law against tribalism, racism and xenophobia amid instances of hate speech. The Mission’s good offices and expertise contributed to the implementation of the Luanda process, sharing its expertise on the presence and dynamics of relevant armed groups with the Angolan mediators. The Mission leveraged its presence to support Angolan and Congolese authorities in the establishment of pre-cantonment sites in North Kivu to host rebel forces willing to disarm in line with the Luanda road map and the Luanda communiqué of 23 November 2022. MONUSCO worked closely with the South African Development Community (SADC) Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo to exchange information and mutualize efforts to create an enabling environment for the implementation of the Luanda process. Pursuant to Security Council resolution [2746 \(2024\)](#), MONUSCO provided limited logistical and operational support to the SADC Mission without prejudice to the implementation of its mandated priorities, within the parameters set by the Security Council and in full compliance with the human rights due diligence policy.

13. The United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA) advanced the implementation of its multi-year political strategy through a decentralized approach. The Mission did so in close

coordination with Central African stakeholders and strategic partners, in particular to advance the peace and political process, support the extension of State authority and assist in preparations for local elections.

14. The United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS), through its mandate and role in the trilateral mechanism, contributed to promoting conflict prevention. At both the national and local levels, the Mission focused on advancing consensus-based political solutions and complementary objectives by supporting an inclusive, nationally and locally owned process, including by organizing workshops engaging all key stakeholders.

15. The United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA) prioritized efforts at intercommunal reconciliation in the face of regional developments, such as the Sudan conflict, which had an impact on community relations. Initiatives such as the pre- and post-migration conferences between the Ngok Dinka and Misseriya communities in Noong in central Abyei in December 2023 and May 2024, conducted in cooperation with United Nations entities and other partners, contributed to a reduction in violence between the two communities during the migration season.

16. The United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO) continued to advocate for and promote a cessation of hostilities and engagement with the peace process, led by the Personal Envoy of the Secretary-General for Western Sahara.

17. The United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) continued to operate in the face of daily exchanges of fire across the Blue Line. The mission continued its liaison and coordination efforts while working closely with the Special Coordinator for Lebanon and other relevant parties in support of efforts towards de-escalation and a return to a cessation of hostilities under the framework of Security Council resolution [1701 \(2006\)](#).

18. While Cyprus has seen little progress on its political process, the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) continued its efforts to create conditions conducive to negotiations and an eventual settlement. The mission sustained its efforts to maintain calm and stability on the ground, successfully preventing tensions from escalating during a politically sensitive time.

19. The United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) promoted intercommunal trust-building, including by facilitating the resolution of local issues and assistance to non-majority communities, empowering women and youth, and countering misinformation and disinformation. The strategic priorities of the Mission included supporting the European Union-facilitated Belgrade-Pristina dialogue.

B. Fostering regional approaches to conflict prevention, management and resolution

20. MONUSCO worked to strengthen coordination and information-sharing among national and regional forces present in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, including the East African Community Regional Force, whose mandate lasted from December 2022 to December 2023, and with the SADC Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, which began deploying in North Kivu in December 2023. MONUSCO supported the harmonization of regional political efforts, notably the Luanda and Nairobi processes, and undertook steps conducive to creating the conditions for engaging armed groups under these processes. The Mission continued to support the reinforced ad hoc verification mechanism aimed at overseeing the

implementation of the 30 July ceasefire agreement between Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

21. Within the trilateral mechanism, UNMISS played a key role in advancing the Intergovernmental Authority on Development-led peace process and fostering regional approaches to conflict prevention, management and resolution in South Sudan. The Mission supported regional efforts to build consensus among South Sudanese parties, including the Tumaini Initiative, focusing on urgent actions to implement the Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in South Sudan, establish a permanent constitution and prepare for elections.

22. In the Middle East, the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO) maintained regional liaison with the five parties to the General Armistice Agreements of 1949. The deployment of UNTSO military observers to assist the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force and UNIFIL in the implementation of their respective mandates contributed to regional de-escalation efforts.

C. Strengthening analysis, strategic and operational planning and integration

23. The Department of Peace Operations continued to strengthen integration, strategic and operational planning and analysis. Exemplifying current best practices in planning, MINUSCA continued to implement and monitor performance under its mission plan for the period 2023–2028 based on its political strategy. To strengthen the clarity, coherence and impact of mandate delivery and to offer missions a planning tool to enhance mission implementation under the current liquidity challenges, the Department of Peace Operations expects other peacekeeping operations to consider adopting best practices in planning from MINUSCA, tailoring them to specific contexts and ensuring alignment between key strategic and planning documents and processes guided by senior leadership.

24. The three integrated multidimensional peacekeeping operations – MONUSCO, UNMISS and MINUSCA – continued to implement the revised Policy on Integrated Assessment and Planning. The Missions actively engaged with United Nations country teams on the development and implementation of United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks and the monitoring and evaluation of deliveries on identified common priorities. Joint forums were maintained at the senior leadership and working levels to ensure joint analysis, planning and action. At Headquarters, integrated task forces met regularly, serving as strategic forums for discussion on United Nations-wide assessment and planning issues.

25. The Secretariat is undertaking a review of the policy on United Nations transitions in the context of mission drawdown and withdrawal. The review is being conducted with the objective of providing better guidance based on lessons learned and good practices from recent transition contexts. The review will seek to reframe transition planning throughout all phases of a mission's life cycle, including beyond drawdown and withdrawal, in a forward-looking and integrated manner with relevant country team and Government counterparts. The revision will consider important lessons from the withdrawal of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) where, despite the accelerated timelines, existing guidance and support from Headquarters facilitated the elaboration, by MINUSMA, of a plan for the transfer of the Mission's tasks to Government counterparts and agencies, funds and programmes (see [S/2023/611](#)), and specific financial and operational arrangements with the Resident Coordinator's office and the United Nations country team for the post-mission phase. These cross-pillar approaches and insights will inform the policy revision with a view to strengthening

the impact of missions on the broader United Nations system's efforts to sustain peace and development gains during mission transitions.

26. The Department of Peace Operations is working with the African Union Commission on the development of African Union-United Nations joint planning guidelines, which will aid the strategic planning and operation of African Union-led peace support operations by allowing them to access funding through assessed contributions under Security Council resolution [2719 \(2023\)](#).

D. Strategic communications and countering misinformation, disinformation and hate speech

27. Proactive, comprehensive and impactful strategic communications remained a critical component of the Secretariat's efforts to build support for and strengthen the understanding of peacekeeping. The award-winning advocacy campaign, entitled "Peace begins with me", used a campaign-driven approach to reach target audiences across both traditional media and digital platforms. During the reporting period, the Secretariat continued to provide support on crisis communications, including in the context of the drawdown and closure of MINUSMA, to manage risks and highlight achievements. In January 2024, an interactive microsite featuring a visually dynamic overhaul of the United Nations peacekeeping's global communications campaign was launched. To improve the integration of strategic communications at all levels, new training courses were developed and rolled out, including core predeployment training and digital modules for UNMISS and UNISFA, along with guidance for all peacekeeping components on digital story-telling. Strategic communications training sessions for communications experts in the field on the prohibition of sexual exploitation and abuse continued in collaboration with the Department of Global Communications. The policy on the roles and responsibilities of military strategic communications officers was finalized and implementation has begun, including the delivery of regular training and upskilling initiatives for uniformed communications personnel.

28. To strengthen coordination and communication across peacekeeping operations and special political missions, the Department of Peace Operations, in collaboration with the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs and the Department of Global Communications, developed a policy on strategic communications in peace operations that was promulgated in June 2024. The Department of Peace Operations produced communications guidance related to the repatriation of contingents following instances of misconduct. Creative advocacy efforts relating to the women and peace and security agenda included large-scale, arts-based activations in New York and Geneva; engagement with Member States, academia and the broader public on issues of women's participation; and campaigns and other advocacy efforts.

29. Harmful information remains a significant threat to the safety and security of peacekeepers and to the implementation of mandates, fuelling distrust and hostility, undermining mandate implementation and contributing to violence against peacekeepers and their assets. The Department of Peace Operations provided missions with multidisciplinary guidance, tools and training. An overarching policy on information integrity and addressing misinformation, disinformation and hate speech in peacekeeping settings has been developed, with implementation expected to begin by the end of 2024. Digital analysis tools have been deployed in missions, and training sessions on enhanced prevention, risk management and mitigation have been delivered in MINUSCA, MONUSCO, UNMISS, UNISFA, UNFICYP and UNMIK, resulting in greater tracking of emerging harmful narratives, and guiding responses. Integrated mission working groups are coordinating the management of harmful information.

30. Missions made progress in addressing misinformation, disinformation and hate speech, including through proactive communications. A range of actions were taken. Based on social media trends, MONUSCO conducted a media literacy radio programme addressing hate speech, held sensitization workshops with civil society and ran a social media campaign to raise awareness of misinformation and disinformation and manage expectations. UNIFIL has worked since October 2023 to address misinformation and disinformation, including on its posture, through public statements, interviews and background interactions with the media and Lebanese authorities. UNMIK has fostered inter-ethnic trust-building through hosting a forum and follow-up discussion on media and misinformation, and has supported youth media literacy through training on critical thinking.

IV. Women and peace and security

A. Ensuring the full, equal and meaningful participation of women in peace and political processes

31. United Nations peacekeeping continued to advance gender equality and the women and peace and security agenda as political and strategic imperatives. This commitment continues to be shared by many Member States, which made 65 pledges relating to women and peace and security at the 2023 United Nations Peacekeeping Ministerial held in Ghana in December. Political and peacebuilding spaces for women were expanded through effective leadership engagement, strategic communications, advocacy and the provision of technical support to host Governments and women leaders, peacebuilders, human rights defenders and their organizations. Nevertheless, missions faced challenges stemming from increased insecurity, elevated protection risks for women, funding constraints and a global pushback on gender equality.

32. Following years of advocacy for women's participation in decision-making bodies by women leaders, MINUSCA and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), the Government of the Central African Republic established the National Parity Observatory and in July 2024 introduced an alternating candidate lists system (man/woman) for municipal elections in its electoral code. MONUSCO advocated for women's political participation, and in April 2024 the national Cabinet surpassed the 30 per cent quota for women's representation. MONUSCO, including through United Nations police community-engagement activities, engaged men in promoting gender equality to transform patriarchal structures that limit women's participation in peace processes. In Abyei, UNISFA facilitated the increase of women's participation from 19 per cent in the pre-migration conference in November 2023 to 30 per cent in the post-migration conference in Noong in May 2024. UNMIK convened women leaders to enhance the integration of gender perspectives into the European Union-facilitated dialogue on the normalization of relations between Serbia and Kosovo.¹ In Cyprus, UNFICYP facilitated intercommunal initiatives with women's civil society groups and youth networks to build trust across communal divides. Missions also continued to support women's participation in the security sector. UNMISS established a national security sector women's network and supported the National Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Commission in promoting gender responsiveness, and engaged women, including ex-combatants, in community violence reduction projects. MINUSCA successfully advocated for the integration of gender provisions into the national defence policy of the Central African Republic and helped establish the country's first all-women rapid intervention team in the national prison service.

¹ References to Kosovo shall be understood to be in the context of Security Council resolution 1244 (1999).

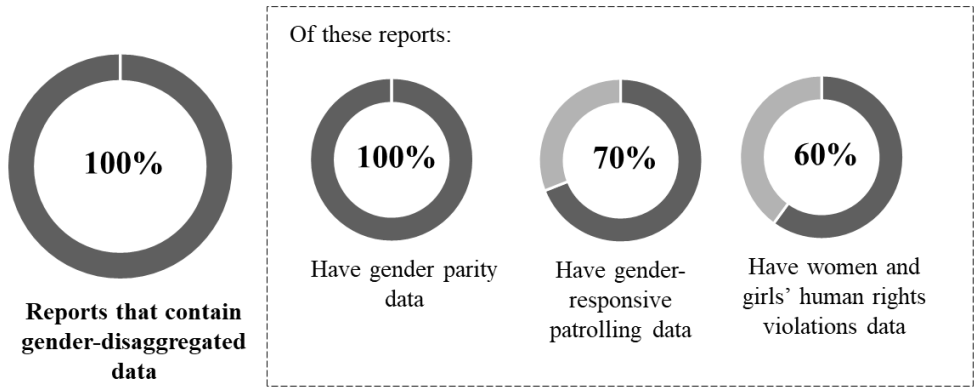
33. The Department of Peace Operations and missions will accelerate efforts on gender equality and women and peace and security as informed by the revised gender-responsive United Nations peacekeeping operations policy, the New Agenda for Peace and the Pact for the Future. This means ensuring gender-responsive approaches through leadership, resources and expertise in the context of protection of civilians, stabilization, political processes, ceasefire monitoring and support to regional organizations and ensuring that gains are sustained in transition processes.

B. Integration of a gender perspective into analysis, planning, implementation and reporting

34. The Department of Peace Operations and missions continued to integrate gender perspectives across all aspects of mandate implementation. In May 2024, a revised gender-responsive United Nations peacekeeping operations policy was adopted to bolster gender-responsive approaches in missions, including strengthening gender-responsive leadership and ensuring a well-resourced gender architecture with civilian, police and military gender advisers and women protection advisers, who are critical in implementing the women and peace and security mandates and taking gender integration forward. That same month, the Department launched a handbook of gender case studies. Personnel further benefited from training and cross-mission learning through a community of practice.

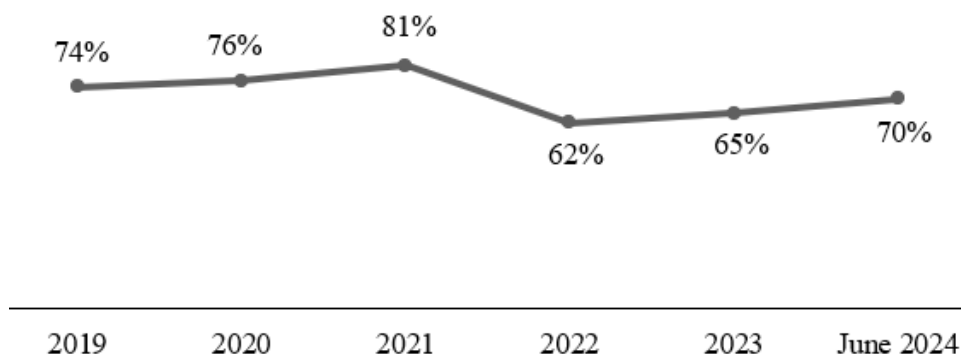
35. To enhance performance and accountability, a Department of Peace Operations gender task force was convened as the most senior accountability mechanism for integrating gender considerations into decision-making. Decision-making by the leadership, performance, reporting and analysis and the monitoring of progress and gaps were informed by gender data collected by missions. All reports by the Secretary-General on peacekeeping operations published between January and June 2024 contained gender-disaggregated data and 70 per cent featured gender and women and peace and security sections, while 80 per cent included gender-sensitive recommendations. In this regard, enhancing comprehensive gender analysis to show the impact of gender-responsive processes remained a priority.

Figure III
Use of gender-disaggregated data in reports of the Secretary-General, January to June 2024



Source: Department of Peace Operations Gender Unit.

Figure IV
Reports of the Secretary-General that contain dedicated gender and women and peace and security sections, 2019 to June 2024



Source: Department of Peace Operations Gender Unit.

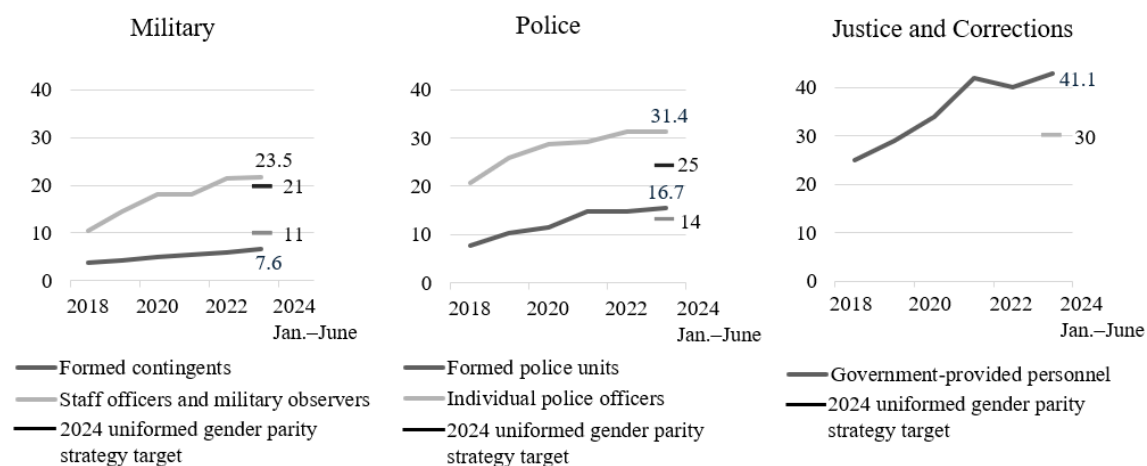
36. Integrating gender considerations increased the impact of the work of peacekeeping. In South Sudan, women were able to safely report cases of sexual and gender-based violence in May 2024 to a mobile court deployed in Koch County in part as a result of targeted patrolling by UNMISS. In Abyei and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, early-warning alerts and patrolling tailored to women's needs were made possible through regular consultations with women leaders. Community members in Diffra agreed to take steps towards ending female genital mutilation following sustained support to increase community knowledge and understanding, which included a UNISFA-facilitated workshop. In November 2023, the Inter-Agency Working Group on Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration adopted a revised module on women, gender and disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, as part of the new integrated disarmament, demobilization and reintegration standards.

C. Gender parity within United Nations personnel

37. The Department of Peace Operations continued to strengthen the participation of uniformed women in peace operations. The Department met the 2024 targets of the uniformed gender parity strategy for all personnel categories deployed in the field, except military troops, which constitute the majority of peacekeeping deployments and where women continue to be starkly underrepresented in national armed forces. Through strategic partnerships with countries contributing troops, police and corrections personnel, the Secretariat sustained its recruitment initiatives to increase women's representation. Efforts included the recently updated United Nations policewomen command development courses, the sixth of which took place in August 2024 and targeted Francophone women police officers. The courses have benefited over 200 senior women police officers, and the second regional corrections officer recruitment exercise that took place in Kenya led to a twofold increase in the number of rostered women corrections officers ready for deployment, from 32 to 64. The Department has advocated for the increased use of mixed engagement teams made up of at least 50 per cent women. By the end of 2023, MONUSCO had established 16 such teams covering all mission sectors, which has strengthened the collection of security information, in particular on conflict-related sexual violence, leading to adaptive patrol routes and more effective protection measures.

Figure V
Representation of uniformed women in peace operations since the launch of the uniformed gender parity strategy, 2018 to June 2024

(Percentage)



Source: Uniformed strength reporting module and other Department of Peace Operations databases, and Action for Peacekeeping Plus monitoring.

Note: Data reflect annual averages unless otherwise indicated. Special political missions are included.

38. The Secretariat remains committed to actively recruiting and retaining more women in civilian peacekeeping positions, where women currently constitute 33 per cent of personnel, an increase from 31 per cent in the previous year. As of October 2024, women represented 35 per cent of all Heads and Deputy Heads of Mission in peacekeeping operations, compared with 29 per cent in December 2023. Five military-led missions have been and continue to be encumbered by men. While progress can be tenuous and easily reversible, given the low number of senior leadership positions and the complex environments, the Secretariat has sought to expand and diversify the pool of candidates for Special Representatives, Deputy Special Representatives and Special Envoys of the Secretary-General in field missions through additional outreach efforts, including through the Secretary-General's 2024 global call for nominations. The senior women talent pipeline continues to provide customized recruitment support, training and development opportunities to a geographically diverse pool of women leaders, with 84 selections of members from the pool to senior-level positions since 2014, mainly at the D-1 and D-2 levels, in peace operations and United Nations offices in the field. Member States' support in building larger pools of women who are eligible for deployment and increasing nominations of women to senior positions is crucial.

39. Missions continued to prioritize the creation of enabling environments to enhance the provision of support mechanisms for uniformed women. Seven in-mission networks for uniformed women have been established, including the cross-component pilot network for women peacekeepers launched in UNMISS in November 2023. Feedback so far has indicated that the pilot network has positively contributed to and strengthened the Secretariat's understanding of the deployment experience of uniformed women in the Mission. Engagement with senior uniformed leadership on the role of gender-responsive leaders continued to be further strengthened. A mentoring programme was also put in place for female corrections government-provided personnel in MONUSCO.

40. The Department of Operational Support supported gender-sensitive healthcare in field missions through a women's health online training course that benefited 450

medical personnel and is the cornerstone of a training project aimed at empowering field medical staff with delivering quality healthcare tailored to the specific needs of women. The Department's Elsie Initiative for Women in Peace Operations in field missions improved working and living conditions through the establishment of gender-sensitive accommodations, ablutions units, recreational spaces and camp layouts in MINUSCA, MONUSCO, UNFICYP and UNISFA. On average, 40 per cent of accommodations, 53 per cent of ablutions units, 40 per cent of recreational spaces and 43 per cent of camp layouts in missions reflected gender-responsive design recommendations.

V. Protection

A. Overview

41. United Nations peacekeeping operations continued to support host States in fulfilling their primary responsibility to protect civilians, promote and uphold human rights, protect children in armed conflict and prevent and respond to conflict-related sexual violence. Missions implemented protection mandates with limited resources in complex environments where civilians and peacekeepers were targeted by parties to conflict and threatened by harmful information, and where accelerated transitions and drawdowns posed new challenges to continuity of protection efforts. Despite these challenges, United Nations peacekeeping operations continued to implement protection of civilians mandates, including through early warning, facilitating political engagement and dialogue, conducting mine action activities and contributing to addressing impunity for serious human rights violations and abuses.

42. Through a comprehensive and integrated approach, and in coordination with host States, United Nations country teams and other actors, United Nations peacekeeping missions adopted proactive deployment postures, de-escalated tensions and continued efforts to mitigate harm to civilians. In the context of the adoption of Security Council resolution [2719 \(2023\)](#), the United Nations will continue to explore methods to strengthen the partnership with the African Union on the protection of civilians. Adequate capacities and political support are crucial for peacekeeping operations to effectively fulfil their protection mandates.

B. Protection through dialogue and engagement

43. United Nations peacekeeping operations utilized verified data from human rights monitoring mechanisms to drive dialogue and engagement with parties to the conflict, in support of protection mandates. UNIFIL continued to use its liaison and coordination mechanisms to mitigate the risk of violence and prevent further escalation. The mission also coordinated with the parties to facilitate civilian humanitarian activities in areas close to the Blue Line. To support locally driven efforts to reduce communal violence, build trust and improve protection of civilians, MINUSCA supported several agreements among communities in Bangui, Ndélé and Batangafo, promoting peaceful coexistence between armed groups in these areas.

44. In November 2023, MINUSCA and its partners convened a high-level round table to support the development of a revised national action plan to prevent and respond to conflict-related sexual violence from 2024 to 2028. The action plan was presented to the President of the Central African Republic and adopts a victim-centred approach, prioritizing the strengthening of national capacities to investigate conflict-related sexual violence.

45. UNMISS continued to support the Government of South Sudan in the implementation of the 2020 Comprehensive Action Plan to End and Prevent All Grave

Violations against Children through training, support for age verification of security forces and advocacy. Between November 2023 and June 2024, MONUSCO supported the release of 1,351 children from armed groups and helped finalize agreements to end child recruitment with four armed groups.

C. Provision of physical protection

46. Physical protection was prioritized in mission contexts where civilians faced threats of violence. UNMISS supported the South Sudan authorities' efforts to maintain law and order and protect civilians within and outside protection of civilians/internally displaced persons camps. During July and August 2024, UNMISS conducted 4,932 patrols, including 160 integrated patrols comprising United Nations police and civilian personnel, for protection of civilians' purposes. UNMISS also sustained its capability to respond in a crisis by maintaining a mobile and responsive force, which was achieved through 1,975 force protection and domination patrols. MINUSCA patrols prioritized urban hotspots and internally displaced persons camps, maintaining a continuous presence to protect vulnerable communities in coordination with national defence and security forces. MONUSCO continued its support to the authorities of the Democratic Republic of the Congo in protecting civilians. During August 2024 alone, Congolese security forces, MONUSCO and humanitarian actors responded to three quarters of the 185 alerts received through the Mission's community alert system in Ituri and North Kivu Provinces. In North Kivu, MONUSCO continued to prioritize the defence of Goma and its more than 1 million residents and the protection of displacement sites sheltering more than 800,000 people. In Ituri Province, MONUSCO ensured the physical protection of approximately 100,000 civilians residing in internally displaced persons sites, while also responding rapidly to early warning alerts.

47. The use of explosive weapons remained a serious concern in peacekeeping missions, endangering displaced populations, restricting access to agricultural lands and worsening food insecurity. The community violence reduction programme launched by MINUSCA, through innovative weapons collection efforts, contributed to the creation of weapons-free zones in key areas. From its launch in November 2016 until the end of the 2023/24 financial year, 602 combat weapons, 15,494 traditional weapons, 33,262 rounds of ammunition and 8,555 explosives were collected from parties to conflict.

48. In January 2024, clashes in central and southern Abyei left at least 38 civilians dead, 61 others injured and thousands displaced. Further clashes in February resulted in 27 deaths and 11 injuries. UNISFA protected 2,031 civilians who sought shelter at its bases in Dokura/Rumajak and gave temporary shelter to over 2,300 internally displaced persons in its bases in southern Abyei, provided medical assistance to injured individuals, deployed quick reaction forces to stabilize areas and intensified ground and aerial patrols to protect civilians.

49. Amid increasing exchanges of fire across the Blue Line and instances of civilians seeking shelter at UNIFIL positions, UNIFIL enhanced its coordination with the humanitarian country team in Lebanon on the protection of civilians. Approximately 90 Lebanese civilians sought shelter at UNIFIL positions on several occasions in 2024, including on 23, 24 and 30 September, and on 3, 6–9, 12, 14, 18 and 19 October 2024 for a few hours each.²

² Some remained outside United Nations premises, while others were admitted.

D. Establishment of a protective environment

50. United Nations peacekeeping operations contributed to the establishment of a protective environment in several ways. MONUSCO organized capacity-building activities for 1,567 (1,145 men; 422 women) representatives of civil society organizations and the National Human Rights Commission, increasing awareness of election-related human rights monitoring and countering hate speech. UNMISS supported security sector reform in line with the Revitalized Agreement through capacity-building, co-location and mentoring activities that contributed towards the professionalization of the South Sudanese security forces. UNMISS, through the Mine Action Service, supported the South Sudan People's Defence Forces with the destruction of their unwanted ammunition upon request, thereby mitigating threats to the local population. The Mission provided child protection training to 2,592 (2,067 men; 525 women) stakeholders, and supported preparations for upcoming elections with training on election security, crowd management and strategic communications. Peacekeeping operations also established protection programmes for journalists and human rights defenders, and for victims and witnesses involved in judicial proceedings.

51. Peacekeeping missions supported national authorities in their duty to ensure safe, secure and humane detention conditions. MONUSCO and MINUSCA supported the construction of cell blocks for high-risk prisoners in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Central African Republic, respectively. Similarly, the missions promoted accountability and the re-establishment of criminal justice chains. MONUSCO provided technical and financial support to Congolese military justice authorities, which resulted in the convictions of 29 Congolese soldiers, 4 Congolese police officers, 162 armed group members and 15 others for their involvement in serious human rights violations and abuses, including conflict-related sexual violence. In the Central African Republic, the Appeals Chamber of the Special Criminal Court, supported by MINUSCA and partners, upheld the 2022 conviction of an armed group commander for rapes perpetrated under his command.

52. Missions continued to advocate for the adoption and codification of international human rights standards in national legal frameworks. MONUSCO, for example, contributed to the adoption of a law that enhanced the protection of human rights defenders and expanded their roles in monitoring, engagement and advocacy to improve protection efforts.

VI. Safety and security

A. Trends on security and safety of peacekeepers

53. The number of United Nations peacekeeper fatalities from malicious acts significantly decreased compared with the previous reporting period. However, hostile acts, including indirect fire, increased by about 20 per cent. The reduction in fatalities can be credited to enhanced safety and security measures for peacekeepers. The closure of MINUSMA, which reduced exposure to threats from improvised explosive devices, likely also contributed to this decrease. Missions reported 723 hostile acts during the reporting period, resulting in 4 fatalities and 66 injuries.

54. The exchange of fire along the Blue Line poses a significant risk to the safety and security of UNIFIL peacekeepers. These exchanges have led to peacekeeper casualties and damage to UNIFIL facilities. In response, UNIFIL has implemented extensive contingency planning and enhanced force protection measures, remaining committed to its mandate. UNIFIL is continually conducting risk assessments and adjusting its operations to minimize risk exposure. The mission has adapted its force

protection measures in response to escalating exchanges of fire since 8 October 2023. In 2024, it registered 89 instances of impacts on United Nations positions and 13 peacekeepers injured.³ Tensions in the Democratic Republic of the Congo led to 135 hostile acts against the United Nations, resulting in 10 injuries. Efforts are under way to address misinformation and disinformation, which may exacerbate negative attitudes towards MONUSCO. In January 2024, an explosive device killed one peacekeeper and injured five other peacekeepers in the Central African Republic. The accelerated withdrawal of MINUSMA and the lack of authorization for overhead aerial support flights of convoys significantly increased the exposure of peacekeepers to improvised explosive devices and ambush attacks, leading to 43 hostile acts that resulted in 35 injuries. Notably, the Mission was successful in ensuring that the drawdown was completed in six months without a single fatality.

55. Fighting in the Sudan, against the backdrop of a volatile social, political and economic environment, continued to fuel violent intercommunal conflict. This led to spillover effects, including refugee crises and in some cases increased risks of instability in some neighbouring countries.

56. The use of unmanned aircraft systems for apparent surveillance operations over peacekeeping bases grew alongside an increase in reports of the use of armed drones in peacekeeping areas of operations. MONUSCO reported incidents involving unmanned aircraft systems within its areas of operations. In the Central African Republic, periodic flights of unidentified unmanned aircraft vehicles over United Nations bases were observed.

B. Occupational safety and health of peacekeepers

57. More than half of the 4,380 peacekeeper fatalities since 1948 have been due to illness or accidents. With illness and accidents continuing to be the primary cause of United Nations peacekeeper fatalities, in particular for uniformed personnel, the occupational safety and health of peacekeepers remained a priority. Several initiatives were undertaken during the reporting period. MONUSCO, with the support of the Department of Operational Support, launched a pilot programme to integrate occupational safety and health risk management processes and protocols into a single system. Online training courses on occupational safety and health, specifically on general awareness and incident and hazard reporting, were partly rolled out. To enhance technical and operational support to missions, occupational safety officers and support staff in field missions will need to be increased. Improvements to online tools for incident reporting, risk assessment and statistical reporting continued.

Figure VI

Total peacekeeper fatalities since 1948 by incident type



Source: United Nations Peacekeeping website, at <https://peacekeeping.un.org/en/fatalities>.

³ Including one peacekeeper injured on 28 March, one language assistant and three military observers on 30 March, three peacekeepers on 18 August, and five peacekeepers since 1 October.

Mental health strategy for United Nations peacekeepers

58. In line with the Pact for the Future, in which Member States decided to take concrete steps to improve the access of peace operations personnel to health facilities, including mental health services, and recognized the significant psychological stress faced by uniformed personnel due to the challenging environments in which they operate, the Department of Operational Support, with the sustained support of Member States, developed two innovative initiatives: (a) a mental health strategy for United Nations uniformed personnel; and (b) the United Nations MindCompanion digital platform. These initiatives align with World Health Organization principles, emphasizing prevention, protection, promotion and support. They are designed to be culturally sensitive, gender-inclusive and universally implementable. Together, these initiatives increase the promotion of mental health literacy, break barriers to seeking help for mental health issues and provide accessible resources for mental wellness.

59. The United Nations MindCompanion launched in 16 languages on World Mental Health Day and will enable wider mental health support to uniformed personnel.

C. Action plan to improve the security of peacekeepers

60. Under the action plan to improve the security of United Nations peacekeepers, and in line with the Pact for the Future, in which Member States decided to take concrete steps to ensure the safety and security of the personnel of peace operations, the Secretariat continued its efforts to strengthen mechanisms for capturing lessons learned with the aim of building on effective approaches, addressing gaps and improving responses on the ground. Work to improve casualty evacuation continued, with significant progress made in MINUSCA and UNISFA, where casualty evacuation coordination cells were established, training was conducted and stress test exercises were performed. Additional missions will receive similar support to strengthen their casualty evacuation systems. Review of the casualty evacuation policy is set to begin during 2024.

61. The sixth implementation workshop on the action plan, held in April 2024, focused on learning to improve security, integrated base defence, ammunition management, addressing violations of status-of-forces-agreements and managing threats based on lessons learned from MINUSMA best practices. To better understand how lessons from security incidents are captured, analysed and disseminated, a cross-departmental working group was established that decided to establish a new mechanism to ensure a systematic procedure following security incidents. The Secretariat is working to implement the recommendations of the workshop, which include improving ammunition management by revising mission standard operating procedures, improving the storage of contingent-owned ammunition and exploring methodologies to ensure timely approval by host States for disposal.

62. The Secretariat is also working to counter the increase in threats associated with the use of unmanned aircraft systems. A working group within the Department of Peace Operations and the Department of Operational Support is developing a counter-unmanned aircraft systems strategy, reviewing rules of engagements and exploring immediate and long-term measures for countering such threats.

D. Independent strategic review on improvised explosive devices

63. The Secretariat continued to make progress in implementing the recommendations of the independent strategic review of the United Nations response to explosive ordnance threats (see [S/2021/1042](#)). In April 2024, the Department of

Peace Operations finalized the counter-improvised explosive device strategy, which forms the basis for the Departmental approach to countering threats from improvised explosive devices and, together with the manuals and guidelines of the Office of Military Affairs that are currently under review, will formalize many of the strategic review recommendations into official policy.

64. The Department of Peace Operations-led working group composed of Headquarters and mission staff recommended the closure of 26⁴ of the 50 cross-cutting recommendations in the strategic review. Of the 11 recommendations for improving explosive ordnance planning and operations, 10 were implemented, along with all 7 of the recommendations relating to enhancing medical support. While progress has been made towards each of the 12 recommendations on generating and improving police and military capability, 11 still remain open for continued monitoring, while the working group proposed dismissing the recommendation for a regional laboratory.

E. Accountability for criminal acts against United Nations peacekeepers

65. During the reporting period, progress was made in bringing perpetrators of crimes against United Nations peacekeepers to justice in the Central African Republic. The number of alleged perpetrators identified or detained saw an increase, as did the percentage of cases that had confirmed national investigations. Since 2020, 97 individuals have been convicted in the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Lebanon and Mali in relation to the killing of 34 peacekeepers and two United Nations experts. In December 2023, the United Nations adopted a strategic action plan to address crimes against peacekeepers for the period 2023–2026. A database on accountability for crimes against peacekeepers, mandated under Security Council resolution [2589 \(2021\)](#), is in the final stages of development and will be made available to Member States in 2024.

66. MONUSCO and MINUSCA supported their host Government counterparts in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Central African Republic in implementing resolution [2589 \(2021\)](#). MONUSCO played a pivotal role in assisting the host Government in enhancing its crime investigation capacity. Through various initiatives aimed at improving crime scene management, evidence collection, investigation techniques and interviewing procedures, MONUSCO significantly strengthened the ability of local authorities to conduct more effective investigations and prosecutions of crimes against United Nations personnel. Similarly, MINUSCA, with the help of its two specialized police teams, provided crucial support to the Government of the Central African Republic in strengthening national forensic capabilities. By assisting security forces in identifying and implementing best practices for post-blast investigations and ensuring proper evidence handling, MINUSCA enhanced the capacity of national authorities to carry out thorough investigations.

F. Situational awareness

67. United Nations peacekeeping missions continue to draw on technology to enhance situational awareness. The Situational Awareness and Geospatial Enterprise database, deployed to all peacekeeping missions, continues to be used to collect and analyse incidents, events and activities. The enhancing situational awareness programme, part of the digital transformation of United Nations peacekeeping, continued its support to UNFICYP and consolidated gains made since the launch of the Unite Aware platform there in 2022. Notable improvements include Unite Aware

⁴ Of the 26 recommendations, 16 were completed, 1 was dropped as an alternative approach was adopted and 9 were incorporated into other recommendations.

maps that overlay hotspots in the buffer zone with patrols in the vicinity, and the ability to track patrols in real time and visualize completed patrol routes. The programme progressed in MINUSCA, where implementation focused on increasing the adoption of the Unite Aware platform by substantive sections, enhancing patrol management and supporting peacekeeping-intelligence functions. A scoping visit to UNMISS was undertaken in May 2024 to assess the feasibility of rolling out Unite Aware to the Mission later in 2024.

G. Peacekeeping-intelligence

68. Support to United Nations peacekeeping operations in enhancing peacekeeping-intelligence was increased significantly through the creation of the Peacekeeping-Intelligence Academy, which has now trained 225 personnel, and also offers online courses. The Department of Peace Operations is working to better link training and recruitment for peacekeeping-intelligence experts in missions and partnering with Member States to ensure more efficient predeployment training. The Department also worked with missions to develop action plans to increase mission peacekeeping-intelligence capabilities and identify and address security threats and challenges to the safety and security of peacekeepers and the protection of civilians.

VII. Performance and accountability

A. Integrated peacekeeping performance and accountability framework

69. The integrated peacekeeping performance and accountability framework captures the wide range of existing mandates, guidance and tools for assessing the performance of United Nations peacekeeping operations. The framework collects in one place existing performance evaluation methodologies and tools. With the aim of strengthening peacekeeping performance and accountability across the Department of Peace Operations, the Department of Operational Support and the Department of Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance, the framework is applicable to substantive civilian, uniformed and support components and is revised on an annual basis. The Secretariat reviewed and updated the framework in November 2023, closing 1 priority project and updating the remaining 12 projects. A comprehensive review of the framework is planned for November 2024, and the results will be disseminated to Member States and all missions.

B. Strengthening accountability for performance

1. Performance assessment of civilian personnel and leadership

70. The agile performance approach continues to support the Organization's shift to a culture of accountability and empowerment built on ongoing performance conversations to help the Organization better deliver on its mandates. The Department of Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance promulgated a new United Nations Values and Behaviours Framework and has revised the policy on performance management to, inter alia, incorporate the Framework therein, thus further supporting the Organization's performance system.

71. The Department of Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance and the Office of Internal Oversight Services continue to support peacekeeping missions in implementing the administrative instruction on evaluation in the United Nations Secretariat (ST/AI/2021/3). Support was provided to 10 peacekeeping operations during the 2023/24 budget cycle. To allow for a robust risk management approach

focused on mandate delivery, all peacekeeping missions now have an enterprise risk management process in place and have created risk registers that include dedicated governance structures for managing risks.

72. Eleven heads of mission in United Nations peacekeeping operations signed compacts with the Secretary-General for the 2023/24 cycle, setting out the personal commitments of each head of mission to effectively deliver results. The cycle saw the introduction of an additional indicator to assess the commitment of heads of peacekeeping missions to United Nations coherence.

2. Comprehensive Planning and Performance Assessment System

73. All United Nations peacekeeping missions continued to implement the Comprehensive Planning and Performance Assessment System, which enables impact assessments while contributing to the digital transformation of United Nations peacekeeping.

74. When conducting periodic impact assessments using the Comprehensive Planning and Performance Assessment System, staff from across the mission analyse data; identify trends, challenges and opportunities; assess mission performance; and propose recommendations on where and how to adjust operations to strengthen impact. Between the establishment of the System in mid-2018 and August 2024, 80,000 data points were recorded in the System across all mission indicators. Seventy-one impact assessments were conducted. All missions regularly inform their leadership on the outcomes of assessments, including recommendations for operational adjustments towards more effective mandate implementation. Missions have increasingly relied on the System's data and impact assessments to inform Member States, including by using data, analysis and visualizations in reports of the Secretary-General and fact sheets in Security Council briefings. Six missions included data visualizations in their reports. Twenty-six fact sheets have been developed since 2022 to support briefings to the Security Council and other high-level meetings. The Department of Peace Operations continues to provide regular training sessions to missions and is designing a training package for uniformed components.

3. Integrated performance assessment of uniformed personnel

75. Assessing and improving the performance of personnel from troop- and police-contributing countries is a priority for the United Nations. The Secretariat has collaboratively developed comprehensive military performance standards for nine types of military units,⁵ including specialized units. The heads of military components in field missions are tasked with conducting unit evaluations, the results of which are included in mission-specific reports of the Secretary-General. If serious and systemic performance shortfalls are identified, enhanced accountability mechanisms are activated, including targeted political engagement with the troop-contributing countries concerned and pre-rotation visits that focus on the validation of military skills – a critical component in assessing the mitigation measures implemented by troop-contributing countries to address previously identified performance shortfalls. Of the military units currently deployed, six have been identified as having critical performance shortfalls and are being monitored, including through monthly integrated performance meetings, to address deficiencies through targeted remedial measures. The Department of Peace Operations continued to hold integrated performance feedback meetings for troop- and police-contributing countries, including on identified shortfalls and good practices. Quarterly integrated performance briefings to the leadership of the Department of Peace Operations, the

⁵ Infantry; quick reaction force; engineering; explosive ordnance device; aviation; logistics; combat transport; peacekeeping-intelligence surveillance and reconnaissance; and signals.

Department of Operational Support and the Department of Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance on performance trends and issues continued. These draw from performance data in the Department of Peace Operations troop- and police-contributing countries knowledge-management system.

76. A standard operating procedure for recognizing the outstanding performance of uniformed units is being finalized for dissemination.

77. Enhancing uniformed personnel performance was a key topic of discussion during the fourth United Nations Chiefs of Police Summit, which took place in June 2024. An annual workshop on the performance of United Nations chiefs of police in peacekeeping operations, which took place in Abu Dhabi in October 2024, also covered performance matters, ensuring that United Nations police have the capabilities, mindsets and capacities to meet ongoing and future challenges. During the reporting period, two performance assessment and evaluation team visits to review the management, administration and operational effectiveness of United Nations police, including formed police units, deployed to MINUSCA and UNMISS.

C. Working with Member States to strengthen the performance of uniformed personnel

1. Strategic force generation

78. The Secretariat and Member States worked jointly to maintain military and police units at appropriate levels of readiness for deployment to field missions. Support for all missions' uniformed capability demands was addressed through the Peacekeeping Capability Readiness System, through which all new units were deployed. Nearly 250 pledges were registered in the System at the beginning of the 2024/25 fiscal year. Twelve military units and two police units are at the rapid deployment level. Strategic assessment and advisory visits to seven Member States allowed 30 military and police pledges to be verified and helped Member States prepare for future contributions. Two units that were repatriated from MINUSMA during its withdrawal were also reassessed and pledged back to the System in December 2023 and March 2024, respectively. All units at the rapid deployment level received either in-person or remote verification visits after updated military and police requirements were issued in August 2023. The assessment and advisory visit standard operational procedure was revised and reissued in 2024.

79. The 2023 United Nations Peacekeeping Ministerial Conference, held in Ghana in December, generated pledges from 60 Member States and significant new commitments in critical areas, such as aviation, quick reaction forces and rapidly deployable units, as well as the delivery of specialized training sessions, to help missions become nimbler and more robust in responding to threats.

2. Predeployment preparations

80. During the reporting period, two predeployment visits and three pre-rotation visits were conducted, aimed at assessing and validating predeployment preparedness in training, conduct and discipline, human rights, equipment readiness, gender inclusivity and military skills. In addition, the operational readiness of military units for initial deployment and rotating units that had previously identified performance shortfalls was validated during five military skills validations for three infantry battalions, one quick reaction force company and one tactical intelligence unit.

81. The Department of Peace Operations continued its efforts to generate and maintain a qualified and geographically balanced pool of police personnel. A mandatory online exam on the Strategic Guidance Framework for International

Policing for prospective applicants/nominees was launched, and job-specific training modules were developed in the areas of police capacity-building and development; monitoring; mentoring and advising; and community-oriented policing under the United Nations police training architecture programme, in alignment with police recruitment procedures. The Department carried out in-person predeployment readiness assistance and assessment missions to Member States and extensive training to enhance the skills of police and military personnel in crucial operational areas, and strengthened the capacities of Member States to deliver predeployment training by conducting 21 training-of-trainers courses to over 300 military trainers and 90 police trainers from 67 Member States. A total of 32 training recognition processes were completed for courses delivered by 22 Member States.

82. Police training focused on command skills, including specifically for women officers, investigative techniques and child protection, thereby preparing officers for leadership and operational challenges. Military training included protection of civilians and peacekeeping-intelligence training aimed at strengthening operational capabilities and strategic planning. Joint training sessions in logistics, force protection and engagement platoon operations promoted a unified approach among peacekeepers. These comprehensive programmes are designed to build core competencies and advanced skills, and therefore increase the effectiveness and readiness of peacekeeping personnel.

83. From July 2023 to June 2024, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) conducted 27 human rights training sessions, including 11 in collaboration with the Department of Peace Operations, for military, police and civilian personnel, benefiting 421 participants (including 374 uniformed personnel) comprising 241 men and 180 women. These sessions leveraged multiplier effects through training-of-trainers sessions, the piloting of new courses and the training of senior mission leaders in areas such as international legal frameworks, human rights and peacekeeping-specific guidelines and policies, while also covering a range of specific topics.

84. The development of specialized training materials included the review of the human rights and international law modules of the comprehensive predeployment training materials.

3. Capacity-building and training

85. The Department of Peace Operations focused on enhancing instructional capabilities and updating training materials to meet evolving needs. Uniformed personnel from Member States engaged in workshops and consultancy sessions to develop and validate training materials. The review of the core predeployment training materials continued with the development of 34 lessons and a validation seminar held with Member State trainers in May 2024. The materials will be finalized and rolled out to Member States in early 2025. New training materials on misinformation, disinformation and hate speech were developed for both military and police and will be rolled out to Member States through regional training-of-trainers sessions. The roll-out of the new training packages on force protection for military and police is ongoing, with three training-of-trainers sessions held to date. OHCHR refined the legal frameworks of various training courses, including the United Nations Staff Officers Course and the United Nations Police Commanders Course.

86. The Department of Peace Operations continued to conduct training-of-trainer sessions for uniformed personnel to deliver mission induction training to other uniformed personnel. Training was also undertaken to build mission capacity to design and deliver tabletop and command post exercises and to generate awareness among mission trainers on exploring the use of essential artificial intelligence to enhance

training delivery. The Department is reviewing the military performance evaluation training materials with a view to building a cadre of well-trained evaluators. With a view to assessing, evaluating and validating the performance of formed police units, the Department also conducted a workshop in Entebbe, Uganda, for certified instructors.

87. To address the need for a pool of potential chiefs and directors of mission support, the Department of Peace Operations and the Department of Operational Support are developing a training and support programme targeting candidates at the P-5 and D-1 levels. This programme on leadership, orientation and guidance for operational support will build on the current programme on enhanced training for operational support and extend talent development beyond technical skills, aligning with the critical responsibilities of chiefs and directors of mission support in terms of managing a range of operational support functions. A pilot of the new programme is expected to be delivered in December 2024.

88. The Department of Peace Operations, through the light coordination mechanism, continued to facilitate bilateral and multilateral partnerships between capacity-building providers and troop- and police-contributing countries. This included support for military- and police-focused mobile training teams, new language accessibility for the UN Buddy First Aid mobile application and the first equipment partnership between Member States of the global South. An online system was launched in January 2024 to enhance information-sharing, analyse trends and identify cooperation opportunities by allowing Member States to voluntarily share their military and police peacekeeping-related training and capacity-building activities. Activities on policing included quarterly meetings of a police capacity-building providers group comprising 17 Member States and the facilitation of multiple police training partnerships.

89. The mobile training team of the Department of Peace Operations and experts from the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) assisted Burundi, Cameroon, Rwanda, South Africa and the United Republic of Tanzania in aligning their explosive hazard awareness training syllabus with the United Nations curriculum. This enabled troop- and police-contributing countries to align their predeployment training with United Nations curricula, leading to increased operational capabilities in United Nations missions.

90. Increased collaboration with regional training centres and support to the African Union Strategic Framework for Compliance and Accountability in Peace Support Operations has been instrumental in sharing best practices and the delivery of training to enhance the capacity and readiness of peacekeeping personnel.

4. Guidance and lessons learned

91. The development and review of peacekeeping guidance materials and support for their implementation is a core responsibility of the Secretariat. Peacekeeping guidance materials, including policies, guidelines and standard operating procedures, are developed to help missions implement their mandates more effectively and translate mandates by legislative bodies into action. Between July 2023 and June 2024, the Secretariat issued 10 new or revised guidance materials for peacekeeping operations, available on the Peacekeeping Resource Hub. The Secretariat is developing a multi-year plan for the sequenced review of over 100 guidance documents across all areas of peacekeeping between 2024 and 2027 to ensure full coherence and harmonization across guidance materials. The Department of Peace Operations increasingly works with partners and other entities to produce system-wide guidance and ensure policy coherence in areas relevant to peacekeeping.

92. Capturing lessons learned is essential in order to strengthen the performance of peacekeeping operations, inform decision-making bodies and share best practices

among practitioners. The Secretariat is identifying lessons from the experiences of MINUSMA and the Special Criminal Court in the Central African Republic. It is also strengthening the sharing of lessons learned from security incidents. It has gathered good practices and conducted lessons learned exercises on criminal accountability in peacekeeping missions and child protection and produced two notes on conflict-related sexual violence.

D. Providing effective support to peacekeeping operations

1. Supporting peacekeeping missions

93. The Department of Peace Operations continues to ensure that units have no declared caveats during the force generation process. At the time of writing, no newly generated or deployed units had declared or undeclared caveats. To this end, the Department provides support to missions on how to deal with undeclared caveats and other issues to improve the conduct and effectiveness of peacekeeping operations. This support is provided through the conduct of command post exercises, leadership conferences and training programmes, including the Heads of Military Components Conference and courses for United Nations force and deputy force commanders and battalion commanders.

94. The Department supports the heads of military components/force commanders with enhancing interoperability and the effective command and control of deployed multinational contingents through various policy instruments. To this end, the Policy on Authority, Command and Control in United Nations Peacekeeping Operations is being renewed to accommodate recent strategic guidance issued by the Secretariat.

95. The Department of Peace Operations and the Department of Operational Support will continue to ensure peacekeeper readiness and the capacity and capability to operate within a high-threat explosive ordnance environment.

2. Medical standards and capabilities

96. Adherence to the United Nations healthcare quality and patient safety standards is ensured through training, assessments and clinical audits. Hospital assessments are carried out by trained and certified assessors, and those facilities that meet the Organization's standards are certified. The capabilities of medical personnel are enhanced through webinars that build on the skills and experience those personnel bring to the missions. The Organization has established a rigorous credentialing process for medical personnel to ensure the highest quality of care. The method includes verifying qualifications and licences and assessing clinical competence with regular reviews to maintain compliance with the latest standards. This enhances the credibility and reliability of, and confidence in, medical services.

3. Aviation

97. The Department of Operational Support continues to support peacekeeping operations with aviation services, including aeromedical evacuation, through diverse sourcing solutions. In addition to the establishment of over 64 long-term commercial contracts and Member State letters of assist, an additional 29 commercial and Member State standby arrangements have been generated, providing an increasingly effective tool in responding to urgent requirements and surge activities. The implementation of the reserve fleet concept, which created framework agreements with vendors, allowed for the expedited replacement of any commercial aircraft, effectively mitigating the impact of the publication of a Significant Safety Concern by the International Civil Aviation Organization on a mission's aviation capacities. The Department finalized an aviation manual that integrated recent industry updates, in particular with regard

to unmanned and remotely piloted aircraft systems. The Department continues to explore new capabilities of unmanned aircraft systems to provide comprehensive support capabilities for peacekeeping operations.

4. Supporting innovative approaches to equipment serviceability and sustainability

98. The Department of Operational Support continued to encourage the deployment and sustainable maintenance of contingent-owned equipment required to meet mandated tasks in field missions. Guided by General Assembly resolution [77/303](#) on the triennial review of the rates and standards for reimbursement to Member States for contingent-owned equipment, the Department advised field missions on utilizing the contingent-owned equipment reimbursement framework. The Department of Operational Support is also engaging with Member States and field missions in the preparation and submission of new policy proposals on innovative approaches for the 2026 Working Group on Contingent-Owned Equipment.

99. The Department of Operational Support also facilitated the deployment of required capabilities to the African Union Transition Mission in Somalia (ATMIS) under a tripartite memorandum of understanding among the African Union, the United Nations and troop- and police-contributing countries.

5. Technology and innovation in peacekeeping

100. The strategy for the digital transformation of United Nations peacekeeping continues to progress, with the establishment of governance structures enabling collective decision-making and greater visibility and transparency of digital technology efforts across departments and missions. A use-case methodology, currently under development, will help identify key challenges to allow for pragmatic solutions, including by digitalizing processes and leveraging digital advancements. With initial resourcing now in place, efforts to collect possible use-cases for digital transformation have begun, with the aim of scoping a viable suite of projects by September 2024, followed by the development of solution prototypes in the final quarter of the year. Efforts will also continue on priority workstreams: leveraging technology for uniformed peacekeepers; enhancing situational awareness; and addressing misinformation and disinformation.

101. The United Nations C4ISR Academy for Peace Operations continued to prepare uniformed personnel from troop- and police-contributing countries and other specialists in technical areas for their roles in missions. The Academy has enhanced operational readiness and performance in critical technology solutions for command, control, communications, computers, peacekeeping-intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance (C4ISR) and camp security. Its specific objectives include greater coordination and interoperability between uniformed personnel and other mission stakeholders, enhanced participation by women in peace operations and strengthened C4ISR strategic partnerships. The United Nations Global Service Centre continues to support the Academy's capacity-building efforts with the provision of subject-matter experts in areas such as unmanned aircraft systems.

VIII. Peacebuilding and sustaining peace

A. Strengthening national capacity and ownership

102. Peacekeeping operations played a key role in peacebuilding and sustaining peace by supporting peace processes, strengthening national capacities to address root causes that fuel conflict, supporting the demobilization and reintegration of combatants, establishing a secure environment and promoting dialogue. In the

Democratic Republic of the Congo, representatives from national institutions and the Disarmament, Demobilization, Community Recovery and Stabilization Programme in South Kivu participated in a training session aimed at strengthening national capacity on the development of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration engagement strategies based on a thorough understanding of armed groups and their typology. A study visit to Dakar, meanwhile, enabled Congolese authorities to formulate recommendations for national security policy development. United Nations police in MONUSCO supported the 2023 electoral process in Kinshasa and multiple provinces by providing technical and logistical support to strengthen national capacities. MONUSCO also enabled a dialogue between the Nande/Yira and Lesse communities in Ituri Province that led to the return of nearly 500 households and the resumption of commercial activities.

103. The standing capacity on security sector reform and governance continued to have an impact through deployments in support of national security policy planning in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the preparation of the multi-year national development plan in the Central African Republic. MINUSCA facilitated the review of a decree on the functioning of the General Inspectorate of the National Army and consultations on the national defence policy as well as country-wide workshops on military justice. MINUSCA also supported national capacity development in weapons and ammunition management and explosive ordnance risk reduction and provided institutional support for public administrators in Bambari. UNMISS support to the Strategic Defence and Security Review Board resulted in the validation of five key documents stipulated in the Revitalized Agreement, including the security sector transformation road map, and training was provided on weapons and ammunition management to the South Sudan National Police Service. UNFICYP organized programmes, including on environmental management, to engage and empower hundreds of young Cypriots.

B. Strengthening coherence among United Nations system actors

104. The Peacebuilding Commission convened stakeholders to provide peacebuilding perspectives and to play a greater advisory role to the Security Council. With regard to the Central African Republic, the Commission focused its work on the peace-development-humanitarian nexus, enabling greater peacebuilding investments and development dividends. The Commission provided advice to the Security Council on the renewal of mandates for MINUSCA in November 2023 and UNMISS in March 2024. The 2025 peacebuilding architecture review will provide an opportunity to recognize the value of peace operations in building and sustaining peace and institutionalize strengthened cooperation through networked multilateralism.

105. As the political lead for the United Nations system in countries in which they operate, special representatives of the Secretary-General remain important interlocutors for international financial institutions. The Department of Peace Operations continues to work to strengthen United Nations partnerships with the World Bank to ensure the financial sustainability of, inter alia, security sector reform and disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, particularly in transition settings. MONUSCO and the United Nations country team are strengthening joint assessments and analyses with the World Bank country office through a dedicated United Nations-international financial institution partnership adviser.

106. In Burundi, the Department of Peace Operations is playing a central coordinating role, creating and enhancing dialogue among MONUSCO, the Peacebuilding Fund and the Office of the Resident Coordinator, and preparing the ground for the reception, reintegration and reinsertion of around 160 Burundian elements from a former rebel group currently based in the Democratic Republic of

the Congo. Implemented by the International Organization for Migration, the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration initiative will be funded by two complementary Peacebuilding Fund projects. Peacebuilding Fund support has been carefully aligned with the MONUSCO joint disengagement plan in order to facilitate the Mission's provincial transition planning approach with the United Nations country team, and to scale up national and United Nations capacities in the regions where the Mission is disengaging, by providing support for joint projects with agencies, funds and programmes. The United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on Policing, co-chaired by the Department of Peace Operations and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, advanced information-sharing on policing practices across the United Nations system while promoting the positive multiplier effect of policing as practiced by the United Nations.

107. UNMISS, through the Mine Action Service and in collaboration with the Rule of Law and Security Sector Reform component of UNMISS, United Nations police and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), provided training on weapons and ammunition management to the South Sudan National Police Service as part of a broader capacity development initiative. On 5 December, the Special Criminal Court in the Central African Republic, which is supported by MINUSCA and UNDP, began its second trial, concerning 10 individuals accused of war crimes and crimes against humanity committed in Ndélé in 2020.

C. Supporting inclusive and participatory approaches

108. Where mandated, peacekeeping operations foster sustainable peace through inclusive and participatory approaches, in particular at the community level, contributing to locally viable political solutions on issues of transhumance, access to natural resources and land disputes that drive intercommunal conflicts. Missions continued to work with national and local authorities, civil society organizations and different segments of the population – including women, youth and marginalized groups – to promote social cohesion and create political space for negotiated solutions. UNMISS supported national partners in developing and implementing community violence reduction pilot initiatives that provided economic empowerment opportunities for ex-combatants, women and youth, thus helping improve security and reinforce social cohesion. The Mission also facilitated women's participation in local peace initiatives. UNMISS interventions with women to resolve the tribal dispute in Aweil East County through conflict-management capacity-building and a reconciliation workshop contributed to peace in the area.

109. MONUSCO promoted youth engagement in security sector reform through online capacity-building sessions, followed by a national competition in which 130 young participants composed songs and produced art and short movies on security sector reform. MINUSCA trained 659 women in implementing the decentralized peace process at the local level through the establishment of 11 peace circles comprising women leaders dedicated to promoting peace and reconciliation in their communities. In the Abyei Area, South Sudan and the Central African Republic, missions supported the development of government strategies that ensured participation and accountability to displaced and local community members, pursuing development financing for solutions and supporting better data and better protection and assistance for internally displaced persons. The United Nations published a report entitled "Towards equal opportunity for women in the defence sector" that showcased various gender-specific policies and measures on recruitment, retention, career development and the promotion of women adopted by many Member States to make the defence sector a more supportive and equitable working environment.

110. Peacekeeping operations promoted community dialogue to prevent, resolve and mitigate tensions and conflicts. They also facilitated dialogue between State institutions and local actors to expand civil and political space for local political solutions and good governance. UNMISS facilitated a three-day peace and reconciliation conference for the Mundari, Tali, Tindilo and Mula communities, entitled “Building trust and healing wounds, restoring ancestral ties”. Over 120 community representatives committed to developing an implementation plan to resolve ongoing conflicts.

D. Access to justice

111. United Nations peacekeeping missions, in coordination with partners, supported national authorities in addressing root causes of conflict and promoting sustainable peace through enhanced access to justice. MONUSCO built the capacity of military justice officials to establish the first digital investigation cell in the country. UNMISS helped rebuild trust in national institutions by supporting South Sudanese justice officials in deploying to remote regions, including areas that no statutory justice actor had visited since the country’s independence in 2011, leading to the adjudication or review of 163 cases. UNMIK supported the Legal Aid Centre of the Kosovo Law Institute with the provision of free legal aid to 1,170 vulnerable individuals (including 518 women). On 5 December, the Special Criminal Court in the Central African Republic, supported by MINUSCA and UNDP, began its second trial, concerning 10 individuals accused of war crimes and crimes against humanity committed in Ndélé in 2020. Technical and logistical support provided to national prison officials by MINUSCA, UNMISS and MONUSCO to address prolonged and arbitrary detention led to the release, regularization or transfer of 1,500 detainees to judicially competent authorities.

IX. Partnerships

A. Partnerships with regional organizations

1. Strategic context of partnerships

112. The Secretariat continued to prioritize and foster strong multilateral partnerships with international, regional and subregional organizations to advance “networked multilateralism”, as proposed by the Secretary-General in his report entitled “Our Common Agenda” (A/75/982). In December 2023, the Security Council adopted resolution 2719 (2023) on the financing of African Union-led peace support operations. Meetings were also held on ways to strengthen partnerships with the European Union, the Collective Security Treaty Organization, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, the League of Arab States (LAS) and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

2. United Nations-African Union cooperation and capacity-building

113. The United Nations, including through the United Nations Office to the African Union, sustained its engagement with the African Union, regional economic communities, regional mechanisms and ad hoc security initiatives to support ongoing and potential peacekeeping and peace support operations in Africa. In Somalia, the United Nations continued to support African Union efforts to ensure a successful and orderly security transition from ATMIS to Somali forces and plan for the African Union Support and Stabilization Mission in Somalia, which was endorsed by the African Union Peace and Security Council.

114. The sixteenth meeting of the Specialized Technical Committee on Defence, Safety and Security of the African Union, held in June 2024, decided to extensively review the African Standby Force and develop a road map reflecting the evolving peace and security landscape on the continent. The meeting endorsed key policies for the operationalization of the African Standby Force, including a training policy for peace support operations, a strategic lift concept and guidelines for case management in peace support operations.

115. The Department of Operational Support, with the United Nations Office to the African Union, worked with the African Union to strengthen cooperation on operational support through the revitalized knowledge and expertise exchange programme. Over 60 practitioners from both organizations have participated in joint learning initiatives since 2021, including the hosting of African Union participants in the 2024 United Nations Enhanced Training for High-level Operational Support programme; the delivery of an organizational governance programme tailored to the African Union context; and the joint development of an operational synergy training programme for the African Union-United Nations resource programme. Under the knowledge and expertise exchange programme framework, the Department of Operational Support provided capacity support to the secretariat of the Peace Fund of the African Union through the deployment of technical expertise in financial management and strategic communications.

116. Following the adoption of Security Council resolution [2719 \(2023\)](#), in which the Council established the framework for financing of African Union-led peace support operations through United Nations assessed contributions, a task force led by the Department of Peace Operations was created. Subsequently, a joint African Union-United Nations task team agreed on modalities for the development and finalization of a joint road map for implementation, focused on four thematic workstreams: (a) joint planning, decision-making and reporting; (b) mission support; (c) financing and budgeting; and (d) compliance and the protection of civilians. The road map is built on many years of shared lessons learned, operational experience and collaboration between the organizations, and will serve as a framework for strengthening overall performance and impact. Following its joint endorsement in October 2024, the African Union and the United Nations will work towards delivering the identified areas of priority, including joint planning modalities, to ensure the rapid deployment of African Union-led peace support operations mandated under the framework of resolution [2719 \(2023\)](#).

117. The United Nations continued its support to the African Union with regard to ensuring that African Union peace support operations complied with international human rights law, including regional human rights instruments, international humanitarian law and applicable standards of conduct and discipline. Under the African Union Strategic Framework for Compliance and Accountability in Peace Support Operations, the United Nations and the African Union, in collaboration with training centres of excellence, accredited three regional economic communities in Africa to provide training sessions on human rights compliance. The United Nations and the African Union also facilitated a training-of-trainers session for 107 (91 men and 16 women) military and police personnel and civilians from the national military and police training institutions of African Union member States and troop- and police-contributing countries. The United Nations participated in meetings in Addis Ababa and Nairobi, including sessions on case management for African Union peace support operations, strengthening processes for personnel selection and screening, and improving investigative processes for misconduct.

118. The United Nations also continued its support to African Union efforts to implement Security Council resolution [1325 \(2000\)](#) on women and peace and security. This included supporting the fourth Africa Forum on Women, Peace and

Security in December 2023, which was focused on women's participation in peace processes and policy support for conflict-related sexual violence initiatives. Joint activities addressed gender-related issues in security sector reform, women in elections and ending violence against women and girls.

119. To mark the 10-year anniversary of the African Union Policy Framework on Security Sector Reform, in November 2023 the United Nations supported a high-level conference on implementation achievements and challenges and the fifth meeting of the African Union steering committee on security sector reform, which focused on recommendations to optimize the delivery of security to populations across the continent, based on lessons learned from the Gambia, Lesotho, Madagascar, Mali and South Sudan. With United Nations assistance, in July 2024 the African Union Mission in South Sudan organized a consultative meeting on strategic priorities and guidelines on disarmament, demobilization and reintegration and security sector transformation. In July and August 2024, the United Nations Office to the African Union, together with the standing capacity on security sector reform and governance, facilitated training led by the African Union Mission for Mali and the Sahel on the monitoring and evaluation of the security sector reform strategy of Mali. The United Nations also supported the African Union in drafting a counter-improvised explosive device strategy. In October 2023, the African Union, with the Secretariat and the World Bank Group, launched the fourth phase of the African Union Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Capacity Programme for 2023–2025.

3. Partnerships with other regional and subregional organizations

120. Progress continued on the delivery of European Union-United Nations joint priorities on peace operations and crisis management for the period 2022–2024, with an emphasis on cooperation between missions and operations in the field, including joint lessons learned on security sector reform and efforts to improve operational effectiveness and impact. In line with Action for Peacekeeping Plus, focus was placed on support for political frameworks and climate security and on promoting gender-responsive leadership. Operational partnerships continued in the field, notably in the Central African Republic and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, including in areas related to security sector reform and disarmament, demobilization and reintegration; in Kosovo on women and peace and security, and reconciliation; and at the Headquarters level. Several special representatives of the Secretary-General received support for their good offices functions, while the European Union provided a platform for the Department of Peace Operations to engage European Union officials, including at the ministerial level, on peacekeeping. The Department of Operational Support continued to expand institutional collaboration with the European Union to facilitate the needed interoperability to mutually benefit from partners' comparative advantages for a multiplier effect, including the updating of a joint cooperation road map for European Union-United Nations partnerships on operational support matters.

121. Productive cooperation with ASEAN continued under the auspices of the ASEAN-United Nations Plan of Action (2021–2025) and in the lead-up to the ASEAN-United Nations Summit in October 2024. Operational cooperation continued with ASEAN member States deployed to MINUSCA, UNIFIL and (prior to its withdrawal) MINUSMA. Department of Peace Operations experts on safety and security and training participated in an ASEAN peacekeeping experts round table in Jakarta in June 2024.

122. High-level contacts continued with LAS, including between the Secretary-General of LAS and the Head of UNTSO in November 2023 and April 2024. With the assistance of the United Nations Liaison Office to LAS, the Department of Peace Operations strengthened its capacity-building support to LAS, including through a

practitioner workshop held in Cairo in October 2024, with the participation of LAS member States. The Department of Operational Support and LAS conducted a series of online consultations to assess and initiate a relationship-building process to strengthen LAS institutional training capacity.

123. The Department of Peace Operations, the Department of Operational Support and NATO made progress in implementing a package of capacity-building support for United Nations peacekeeping training with regard to military performance evaluation, medical care, countering improvised explosive devices and signals and communications. The two departments also shared best practices and experiences with NATO on partnerships in the field, technology and climate-related security risks. During staff exchanges, it was agreed to share best practices on women and peace and security priorities, including greater involvement of women in peace operations.

124. The United Nations and the Collective Security Treaty Organization continued to strengthen cooperation through regular information exchanges, visits, conferences and training exercises. The Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Secretary-General of the Collective Security Treaty Organization held virtual consultations in November 2023 to discuss strengthening cooperation between the two secretariats on several issues, including peacekeeping. The Assistant Secretary-General for Europe, Central Asia and the Americas of the United Nations met with the Deputy Secretary-General of the Collective Security Treaty Organization in Moscow in August 2023 to discuss ongoing efforts to enhance cooperation on early warning, conflict prevention and peacekeeping-related issues. In February 2024, the Russian-language version of the United Nations Deployment Review mobile application was launched as a result of collaboration between the Collective Security Treaty Organization and the Department of Peace Operations light coordination mechanism in order to improve and optimize the preparation of future deployments of a wider array of peacekeepers.

B. Partnerships with host Governments

125. Cooperation with host States at all levels is essential in order for peacekeeping operations to implement their mandates. Mission leadership and the Organization continued to prioritize leveraging formal joint coordination mechanisms with host State authorities to engage in dialogue and problem-solving. Mission leadership played active roles in liaising with host Governments at the highest levels, through both formal coordination mechanisms and ongoing engagement. Furthermore, in various contexts, and in accordance with the relevant mission mandate, personnel working in civil affairs assisted local administrators, while capacity-building programmes in areas including law enforcement, mine action and the rule of law were focused on working with national counterparts.

126. For the majority of United Nations peacekeeping operations, a status-of-forces agreement is in place that clarifies the mission's privileges, immunities and facilities accorded by the host State to the peacekeeping mission and its personnel, and sets out the rights and obligations of both parties. Incidents related to status-of-forces agreements can obstruct mandate implementation and endanger peacekeeper safety and security. Missions therefore continued to document and report such incidents. The Situational Awareness and Geospatial Enterprise database's centralized documentation and reporting mechanism has been rolled out to nine peacekeeping operations, and four of them are already regularly entering incidents into the system. A workshop at the Regional Service Centre in Entebbe in February 2024 convened field practitioners and Headquarters staff to foster cross-mission learning and the exchange of lessons learned and good practices in documenting, addressing and preventing incidents related to status-of-forces agreements.

127. MINUSCA continued efforts to strengthen host-State relations, including by organizing a seminar with the Government of the Central African Republic after the adoption by the Security Council of resolution 2709 (2023), which resulted in a common understanding on the interpretation of the mandate. The Mission also continued to engage the host Government in proactively addressing potential violations of the status-of-forces agreement systematically through established mechanisms. In South Sudan, UNMISS continued to face restrictions of movement. In some missions, flight and movement restrictions imposed by host Governments remained a concern owing to their impacts on mandate delivery and casualty evacuation.

C. Triangular partnerships for the provision of training and equipment to troop-contributing countries

128. The Department of Operational Support, through its triangular partnership programme, continued to provide specialized training on engineering, medical and C4ISR and camp security technologies to uniformed personnel in Africa, South-East Asia and surrounding regions. In 2024, courses for heavy engineering equipment operators were conducted in Indonesia and Kenya, an engineering project management course was also held in Indonesia and a heavy engineering equipment maintenance course was held in Brazil. The programme also conducted its first training session on explosive hazard awareness, in partnership with the Department of Peace Operations, piloting cross-pillar training with the heavy engineering equipment operators' course in Kenya. Seven field medical assistants courses and field medical assistants training-of-trainers courses were held in Uganda and online, in both English and French. The United Nations C4ISR Academy for Peace Operations implemented a course on outreach to women, a course on micro-unmanned aircraft systems and a course on the Unite Aware platform. The annual triangular partnership programme stakeholders' workshop was held in July 2024, and attendees from the United Nations and troop-contributing countries, and financial contributors and training providers, shared insights on the programme's trajectory.

X. Conduct of peacekeepers and of peacekeeping operations

A. Conduct of peacekeepers

1. Conduct and discipline

129. Partnership between the Secretariat and Member States remains essential to the success of efforts to prevent misconduct, hold accountable those who have engaged in misconduct, and support and assist victims affected by acts of misconduct.

130. Personnel selected by Member States for contribution to peacekeeping missions must abide by the highest standards of conduct and operate under an effective command and control structure. They must be fully trained on United Nations standards of conduct and the role of those in command positions in maintaining command and control over the conduct of their personnel. The Secretariat has developed new initiatives in training and awareness-raising on the United Nations standards of conduct. However, action is needed by Member States to harmonize definitions for certain forms of prohibited conduct, such as sexual harassment.

131. The Department of Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance continues to vet, against its own records in the Case Management Tracking System, and in particular by using the Clear Check database and records of substantiated sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment, all personnel to be deployed by Member States or recruited by the United Nations to ensure that none have records of

prior misconduct. The redeployment or recruitment of individuals with such records is unacceptable. Actions taken by Member States in preventing misconduct and holding offenders accountable are also taken into consideration as an element of performance, including for decisions on possible future deployments.

132. The Department of Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance finalized a revision of the misconduct and sexual exploitation and abuse risk management toolkit for use by practitioners in peacekeeping operations. The revisions focused on the need for an integrated and tailored approach and the strengthened use of data and trend analysis to support better decision-making. The revised toolkit is also being made available in a dynamic and digital interface, which will include a digital risk assessment visit tool.

133. During the period from 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024, 114 allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse were reported, an 18 per cent increase in the number of allegations reported for the previous period (96). A total of 552 allegations of other forms of misconduct and serious misconduct were reported during the same period, a 22 per cent decrease from the number of allegations reported in the previous period.

134. In 2023, the trust fund in support of victims of sexual exploitation and abuse continued to implement projects in various countries, including Haiti and South Sudan. Requests for further assistance for victims of sexual exploitation and abuse by United Nations personnel were also received. However, owing to low funds in the trust fund, requests for support are being handled on a case-by-case basis and not through an annual cycle of proposals until more voluntary contributions are made to the trust fund.

2. Certification of prospective personnel

135. The Department of Peace Operations is committed to selecting qualified candidates for deployment as senior officials and United Nations military and police experts on mission. All troop- and police-contributing countries are required to certify that their prospective personnel have not been involved in criminal offences, have not been convicted, are not currently under investigation and are not being prosecuted for any criminal offence, fraud, corruption or any violation of international human rights law or international humanitarian law. Troop- and police-contributing countries are also requested to certify that they are not aware of any allegations against nominated candidates of involvement, by act or omission, in the commission of any act that amounts to a violation of international human rights law or international humanitarian law. Candidates for police and military positions are required to submit a declaration self-certifying to this effect in their applications. The Secretariat may choose to proactively gather and review additional information on candidates, including civilian personnel, and does so consistently for all candidates for senior posts. Some progress has been made on the implementation of a systematic approach to preclude troops and police units that have been involved in violations of human rights from deployment to peace operations. Protection from sexual exploitation and abuse action plans have also been developed proactively, in tandem with certain Member States. These action plans include targeted measures aimed at better preventing future instances of serious misconduct.

B. Conduct of peacekeeping operations

1. Protection from sexual exploitation and abuse and putting the rights and dignity of the victims at the forefront

136. Sexual exploitation and abuse threaten the credibility of the work and mission of the United Nations, and betrays the trust of the communities it serves. As the United Nations continues to strengthen measures to support victims of sexual exploitation and abuse, proactive prevention and accountability must remain central to its efforts. The

Special Coordinator on Improving United Nations Response to Sexual Exploitation and Abuse, in collaboration with the Department of Peace Operations, the Department of Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance and the Victims' Rights Advocate, led efforts to operationalize protection measures, including through joint assessment visits, capacity-building sessions, visits to troop and police national training centres and constructive engagements with Member States and leadership to advocate for enhanced prevention and response measures. Efforts are also ongoing in cooperation with Member States to strengthen accountability measures, address performance and legislative gaps, ensure personnel are mission-ready, promote victim-centred justice, improve transparency and enforce consequences for non-compliance.

137. Progress continues in strengthening and institutionalizing a victim-centred approach to the prevention of and response to sexual exploitation and abuse throughout the United Nations system. The Victims' Rights Advocate continued to work together with the Department of Peace Operations, the Department of Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance, the Inter-Agency Standing Committee, the Development Coordination Office and the Office of the Special Coordinator on Improving the United Nations Response to Sexual Exploitation and Abuse to develop policies and services that place victims at the centre of preventing and responding to sexual abuse and exploitation, including through the endorsement of the statement on victims' rights that sets out the rights of victims of sexual exploitation and abuse by United Nations or related personnel.

138. The Victims' Rights Advocate accompanied the Special Coordinator and personnel from the Office of Administration of Justice on the first visit by the judges of the United Nations Dispute Tribunal to a field mission (UNMISS). The visit was intended to familiarize the judges with the challenges and vulnerabilities of local communities and increase their knowledge of the importance of protecting communities from harm, of victims' rights and their needs and of the working environment of United Nations staff and non-staff personnel in mission settings.

139. The Senior Victims' Rights Officers in MINUSCA, MONUSCO and UNMISS continued to ensure victims of sexual exploitation and abuse received medical, psychosocial, legal and other assistance and support for the resolution of paternity and child maintenance cases. The Office of the Victims' Rights Advocate is working together with the Office of the Special Coordinator, the Department of Peace Operations, the Department of Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance and the United Nations Children's Fund to develop a strategy for managing the risks of sexual exploitation and abuse and responding to such allegations during the transition, drawdown and post-mission environment of a peace operation, including with regard to the continued provision of assistance during and after a mission's exit and to children born of sexual exploitation and abuse.

140. The Victims' Rights Advocate and the Department of Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance, with the support of the Special Coordinator and the Under-Secretary-General for Peace Operations, continue to address the resolution of outstanding paternity claims with Member States that contributed uniformed personnel to peace operations, some of which have introduced measures such as DNA testing of personnel who may have fathered children through sexual exploitation and abuse.

141. The Secretariat's high-level task force on resolving paternity and child support claims involving United Nations peace operation personnel continues its work to support the facilitation and resolution of claims and to engage with Member States to strengthen collective action in this area, including with regard to the resolution of outstanding paternity claims.

142. The Office of the Victims' Rights Advocate continues to work with OHCHR to provide adequate assistance and support to victims of non-United Nations forces authorized under a Security Council mandate.

143. Additional information concerning specific efforts to address sexual exploitation and abuse in peace operations will be covered in the next report of the Secretary-General on special measures for protection from sexual exploitation and abuse.

2. Human rights due diligence policy on United Nations support to non-United Nations security forces

144. The United Nations continued to implement the human rights due diligence policy on United Nations support to non-United Nations security forces, including in countries where peacekeeping operations are deployed. The implementation involves analysis of the contexts in which United Nations support occurs to identify risks and develop measures to prevent and mitigate those risks in cooperation with non-United Nations security forces and host Governments. The policy is also applied in contexts where regional and bilateral security forces are present, to ensure that United Nations support to non-United Nations security forces strengthens human rights compliance and accountability among those forces, ultimately fostering the promotion and protection of the local population's human rights. MONUSCO is using the policy to support the fight against impunity, resulting in the establishment of local follow-up committees and increased advocacy for accountability measures with military and police leadership. MONUSCO has also conducted human rights due diligence policy risk assessments to inform its disengagements, including the closure of bases in South Kivu and their transfer to the Government. In the Central African Republic, MINUSCA continued to implement the policy through risk assessments and the screening of beneficiaries in each training activity in the context of its capacity-building support to the national defence and security forces on explosive ordnance threat mitigation. In South Sudan, UNMISS developed guidelines to ensure the effective and targeted implementation of the policy to strengthen national capacity and to promote accountability for human rights violations. The continuing support of Member States for the implementation of the policy is crucial, including during United Nations transitions.

3. Environmental management

145. Through the environment strategy for peace operations (2017–2023), United Nations peacekeeping missions significantly reduced risks and improved performance in environmental management across 12 key performance indicators. To ensure the continuity of these efforts after the initial strategy period ended in June 2023, and based on a request from the General Assembly in its resolution [76/274](#), in February 2024 a document entitled “The way forward: environment strategy for peace operations 2023–2030” was shared with Member States following extensive consultation with stakeholders. Support will continue across five operational pillars, with a focus on the themes of responsibility, ambition and legacy. A new element of the strategy is the setting of performance targets by missions for consideration by Member States as part of the budgetary process. A target-setting framework was piloted in MINUSCA and UNISFA as part of the proposed budget for 2024/25 and will be rolled out across other missions. A continued area of ambition relates to missions' energy consumption and the transition to renewable energy. Various approaches are being taken to advance this agenda, including power purchase agreements where feasible (based on energy compacts), and the development of global system contracts and support to troop- and police-contributing countries to plan and implement investments in this area. A “turnkey” global contract has been

finalized that will support missions in outsourcing the design, installation, operation and maintenance of United Nations-owned renewable energy projects. The Secretariat continues to develop specialized training materials for peacekeepers aimed at enhancing environmental practices at all levels, including in relation to positive legacy planning and military and police focal points.

XI. Observations

146. During the reporting period, United Nations peacekeepers continued to demonstrate their strong commitment to global peace and security by fulfilling their mandated tasks despite severe threats and interconnected challenges amid increasingly complicated circumstances. Across diverse regions, from the Middle East and Europe to Africa, peacekeepers remained at the forefront of efforts to support peace processes, protect civilians and maintain ceasefires.

147. United Nations peacekeeping operations continued to evolve and adapt to meet the rapidly changing nature of peace and security threats worldwide. However, the complexities of today's conflicts are compounded by interrelated challenges, such as geopolitical tensions, intra-State conflicts fuelled by State actors and non-State armed groups, transnational organized crime, terrorism and the weaponization of technological advancements. The evolving nature of conflict presents new challenges to peacekeeping.

148. The Action for Peacekeeping initiative and the Action for Peacekeeping Plus implementation strategy constitute a coherent approach to strengthening the effectiveness and impact of peacekeeping. Since the launch of the Action for Peacekeeping initiative in 2018, there has been notable progress, but much more needs to be done. The Secretariat remains steadfast in its dedication to strengthening United Nations peacekeeping operations, but there is only so much it can do alone.

149. At its core, United Nations peacekeeping remains a political endeavour that requires unified and unwavering support from all Member States. In this context, a renewed and strengthened commitment to the success of peacekeeping efforts and the political processes they are designed to support is indispensable. I was encouraged by the very strong and high-level commitments made at the 2023 United Nations Peacekeeping Ministerial in Ghana, and more recently at the Security Council open debate on peacekeeping on 9 September 2024, during which 72 delegations took the floor, many of whom expressed strong support for peacekeeping as a pivotal tool for the maintenance of international peace and security.

150. The outcomes of the recently concluded Summit of the Future reflect the strong commitment of Member States to United Nations peacekeeping, while highlighting the need for its continuing adaptation. The Pact for the Future underscores the need for peace operations to be anchored in and guided by political strategies while maintaining realistic and achievable mandates and viable transition plans. In the Pact, Member States also requested that I undertake a review of the future of all forms of United Nations peace operations, taking into account lessons learned from previous and ongoing reform processes, to provide strategic and action-oriented recommendations to Member States, a request which I intend to swiftly implement.

151. Looking ahead, the 2025 United Nations Peacekeeping Ministerial to be held in Berlin will offer a pivotal opportunity for Member States to reflect and look to the future of United Nations peacekeeping. I urge all members of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations to engage actively and ensure the success of the Ministerial, thereby reaffirming our collective resolve to ensuring that United Nations

peacekeeping operations remains an effective tool for peace in an increasingly complex world.

152. I extend my deepest respect and admiration to the brave peacekeepers who have demonstrated their commitment to global peace and security. I salute the peacekeepers who have made the ultimate sacrifice and those who have suffered lasting harm in the service of peace. Their dedication and courage are invaluable, and their service will never be forgotten.
