

**Security Council**Distr.: General
1 May 2019

Original: English

Letter dated 30 April 2019 from the Permanent Representative of Indonesia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to inform you that, under the presidency of Indonesia, the Security Council will hold a high-level open debate entitled “Investing in peace: improving the safety and performance of United Nations peacekeepers” on Tuesday, 7 May 2019. The meeting will be chaired by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia, H.E. Mrs. Retno L. P. Marsudi.

In order to guide the discussions on the subject, Indonesia has prepared a concept note (see annex).

I would be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Dian Triansyah **Djani**
Ambassador

* Reissued for technical reasons on 3 May 2019.



Annex to the letter dated 30 April 2019 from the Permanent Representative of Indonesia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Concept note

Security Council open debate

Investing in peace: delivering quality training and capacity-building to improve the safety and security and performance of United Nations peacekeepers

7 May 2019

Context

In September 2018, the Security Council further adopted resolution [2436 \(2018\)](#) that reaffirmed the Council's support for innovative and effective training, as well as delivery of key enabling capabilities in the development of the integrated performance policy framework for United Nations peacekeeping operations. The resolution also recognized that training is one of the critical factors upon which effective implementation of peacekeeping mandates is contingent.

At the seventy-third session of the United Nations General Assembly, the majority of United Nations Member States endorsed the Declaration of Shared Commitments on United Nations Peacekeeping Operations, which symbolized collective commitments by all stakeholders of United Nations peacekeeping to strengthen peacekeeping under the Action for Peacekeeping (A4P) initiative. Among others, Member States committed to provide well-trained and well-equipped uniformed personnel, and partake in a collective commitment to better prepare, train and equip these personnel through innovative approaches, including triangular partnerships and co-deployments.

Objective

Drawing upon, to the extent possible, and without replicating, the varying existing commitments and initiatives in many forums in the United Nations system, such as the United Nations Security Council Working Group on Peacekeeping Operations, United Nations Special Committee for Peacekeeping Operations (C-34), and United Nations Peacekeeping Ministerial, the open debate seeks to highlight ways and means to improve and strengthen the capabilities of United Nations peacekeeping operations through training and capacity-building. A particular focus will be on how training and capacity-building serve to improve the performance of peacekeepers and enhance safety and security. Equally important, how to link training and capacity-building with the successful implementation of peacekeeping mandates, as well as efforts to increase the participation of women in peacekeeping.

In doing so, it would explore practical ways for the Security Council to provide impetus for the improvement of the effectiveness and efficiency of peacekeeping mission through innovative approaches, effective development, "light coordination", shared identification of troop-contributors' capacity gaps and possible partnerships of training and capacity-building, which correspond with the relevant Security Council resolutions and the collective commitment of all stakeholders under the A4P.

Background

For more than 70 years, peacekeeping has evolved into one of the most reliable tools of the United Nations in the maintenance of international peace and security. United Nations peacekeeping operations have not only grown in size, but have also assumed increasingly complex mandates.

Since its inception, the United Nations has deployed 71 peacekeeping operations worldwide, with 14 of them still ongoing. Beyond the traditional mandate of monitoring ceasefires, today's multidimensional United Nations peacekeeping operations are tasked with an array of responsibilities to assist host countries and their populations in navigating the difficult path from conflict to sustaining peace, such as facilitating political processes, protecting civilians and humanitarian works, state-building and reforming the rule of law, training local law enforcement and promoting human rights.

In many ways, United Nations peacekeeping is increasingly demanded to become a more professional, capable, and cost-effective model for resolving conflicts and sustaining peace. Challenges remain as the all-time high demand for United Nations peacekeeping continues to outpace the allocated resources and drains the pool of capabilities contributed by Member States. Member States and the Secretariat should identify corresponding capabilities, in order to maintain the highest level of performance in fulfilling increasingly diverse mandates, identify capability gaps and work with their partners towards "fit for purpose" peacekeeping operations.

With the trend of ongoing conflicts around the world showing no sign of declining, there is a need to change the way the United Nations conducts peacekeeping operations, particularly through innovative approaches as well as effective development and delivery of peacekeeping training.

The role of effective development and delivery of peacekeeping training in strengthening United Nations peacekeeping has been duly recognized in the Secretary-General's A4P initiative and reflected in the Declaration of Shared Commitments. Support for more predictability and sustainability in training has also been underlined to building the capacity of peacekeeping operations and strengthening performance. Along with the ongoing reform of the peace and security pillar, the A4P initiative is aimed at ensuring a more effective and efficient United Nations peacekeeping.

The Declaration of Shared Commitments is a useful road map which offers unique opportunities:

- To provide well-trained and well-equipped uniformed personnel and to support the effective development and delivery of peacekeeping training;
- To support predeployment preparations of personnel and capabilities required for effective performance;
- To support light coordination mechanism related to training and capacity-building and emphasize the need for increased funding to better support training;
- To ensure accurate training materials and standards that match operational requirements;
- To generate the necessary specialized capabilities, including language skills, while supporting new approaches to improve force generation, equipment serviceability and sustainability;

- To improve the capacity of personnel, by way of training, in developing strategic communications and community engagement to win the hearts and minds of the local populations;
- To provide better knowledge on the application of international law and international humanitarian law during operations, notably in order to implement mission mandates, including in the protection of civilians;
- To better prepare, train and equip uniformed personnel by pursuing innovative approaches, including triangular partnerships and co-deployments.

If implemented faithfully, these commitments can address some of the most pressing issues and challenges in preparing personnel to address today's challenges of United Nations peacekeeping.

Guiding questions

- What measures can the Secretariat, troop- and police-contributing countries, and Member States take to ensure the effective delivery of peacekeeping training which corresponds to better implementation of mandates?
- How can the quality of training be strengthened and validated to enhance performance and thus the safety and security of personnel?
- Drawing from troop- and police-contributing countries' best practices in force generation and preparation, how can the Secretariat, troop- and police-contributing countries and Member States work together to identify capacity gaps, strengthen and better validate predeployment and in-mission training of personnel required for effective performance?
- What innovative steps are needed to increase the number of training opportunities for uniformed female personnel and to ensure that those personnel actually deploy into missions?
- How can the United Nations improve complementarities and synergies among initiatives related to peacekeeping training and capacity-building, particularly the relevant commitments under the A4P initiative?
- What other innovative approaches are available for United Nations peacekeeping stakeholders to support delivery of predeployment training and to better prepare, train and equip uniformed personnel for effective deployment?

Briefers

- The Secretary-General, H.E. Mr. António Guterres
- Force Commander of MONUSCO, Lt. General Elias Rodrigues Martins Filho
- Director of Challenges Forum International Secretariat (CFIS), Dr. Björn Holmberg
