



## Security Council

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### **Letter dated 10 July 2019 from the Permanent Representative of Indonesia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council**

I have the honour to share the informal summary of the Security Council open debate on the theme “Investing in peace: improving safety and performance of United Nations peacekeepers”.

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



## **Annex to the letter dated 10 July 2019 from the Permanent Representative of Indonesia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council**

### **Summary of the Security Council open debate on the theme “Investing in peace: improving safety and performance of United Nations peacekeepers”, held on 7 May 2019**

On 7 May 2019, the members of the Security Council gathered for an open debate on the theme “Investing in peace: improving safety and performance of United Nations peacekeepers”. The meeting was chaired by Retno Marsudi, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Indonesia, with briefings provided by the Secretary-General; the Force Commander of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO), Lieutenant General Elias Rodrigues Martins Filho; and the Director of the Challenges Forum International Secretariat, Björn Holmberg. A presidential statement on training and capacity-building was adopted and read out by the President at the meeting.

At the open debate, the Secretary-General emphasized that improving training is a major shared commitment of the Action for Peacekeeping initiative and called on Member States to consider providing more funding, equipment and trainers. He also stressed that training is a necessary and strategic investment in peacekeeping, and is a shared responsibility between Member States and the Secretariat. He raised the point that, while notable progress has been achieved, much still needs to be done. Training gaps remain in critical areas such as weapons-handling, first aid, human rights and protection issues.

Lieutenant General Elias Rodrigues Martins Filho, the Force Commander of MONUSCO, highlighted that the focus of the analysis, planning and operations of MONUSCO since 2018 has entailed a comprehensive approach incorporating the views, priorities and expertise of all personnel concerned. He also underlined that mission-specific and in-mission training remains essential to fostering further performance improvements while elaborating the deployment of “jungle warfare experts” in the Beni territory, various contingency situations, enhancing female engagement and strengthening command-and-control arrangements through regular field visits. He further noted that evacuation initiatives remain a challenge due to infrastructure limitations. In addition, he stressed that communication with locals and the international community must be improved, noting that MONUSCO achievements, including its rescue of 6,000 children from armed groups, are not widely known.

Björn Holmberg, the Director of the Challenges Forum International Secretariat, presented the recommendation of the Challenges Forum on the effective implementation of the Action for Peacekeeping initiative of the Secretary-General and the Declaration of Joint Commitments by Member States. He also highlighted the need for improvements in the area of safety, security and performance of missions through the betterment of senior mission leadership training. He further urged cooperation between the United Nations and Member States to develop an interactive archive of different complex and challenging scenarios confronted by peacekeepers in the field, for use in regular and generic training exercises.

During the ensuing day-long open debate, more than 60 representatives highlighted a range of developments, including a trend towards cutting peacekeeping budgets to the detriment of desired performance, emerging threats such as improvised explosive devices, and how best to prevent sexual exploitation and abuse.

Many representatives expressed grave concern, emphasizing the need to prioritize the safety and security of the peacekeepers in the field. The need for a clear, focused and achievable mandate to match with the training requirements was also raised during the meeting. Representatives further drew attention to targeted attacks against peacekeepers, armed children and the need for peacekeepers to communicate in local languages.

Many speakers agreed that adequate training, including in gender issues and how to prevent sexual exploitation and abuse, is essential for missions to succeed in fully discharging their mandates. Some stressed that pre-deployment and in-mission training must give all peacekeeping personnel effective tools to handle emerging and evolving challenges effectively.

Some members also expressed the need to deploy and ensure meaningful participation of women in peacekeeping operations through training and capacity-building. They stressed that training and capacity-building will help such operational and outward-facing roles and requirements as female engagement and female investigative teams, as well as in combat roles to broaden the spectrum of deployment.

At the national level, some members stressed their efforts in the region to support effective training and capacity-building and their support to innovative approaches such as triangular partnerships, mobile training teams, a light coordination mechanism, co-deployment and other important initiatives.

Taking up the initiative to hold an open debate on the theme “Investing in peace: improving the safety and performance of United Nations peacekeepers”, the Council issued a presidential statement read out by the President, underscoring the importance of peacekeeping as one of the most effective tools available to the United Nations in the promotion and maintenance of international peace and security.

The Council, in the statement, also welcomed meetings such as the United Nations Peacekeeping Ministerial Conference, the United Nations Chiefs of Defence Conference and the United Nations Chiefs of Police Summit as means to strengthen support for peacekeeping operations, including in the area of training and capacity-building, and underscored the importance of fulfilling the pledges made by Member States at the Peacekeeping Ministerial Conference in 2019. The Council further welcomed the efforts by the Secretary-General to mobilize all partners and stakeholders through the Action for Peacekeeping initiative, and recognized the added value of the Declaration of Shared Commitments on Peacekeeping Operations with regard to training and capacity-building. This is the first acknowledgement of the Council regarding the Declaration of Shared Commitments.

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