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## Seventy-ninth session

Agenda item 51

**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**

#### **Addendum**

##### *Summary*

Pursuant to the request of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations, the matrix contained in the present report provides an overview of the status of the recommendations contained in the report of the Special Committee on its 2024 substantive session (A/78/19). The matrix is supplemental to the report of the Secretary-General (A/79/553). A summary of action pertaining to each recommendation is given, as well as a reference to the number of the relevant paragraph in the report of the Special Committee, with a focus on new recommendations adopted by the Special Committee at its most recent session. Where there is no change in status since the 2023 substantive session, a reference is made to the 2023 online repository of recommendations for further information.



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## I. Introduction

22 Following the adoption of resolution [77/297](#) by the General Assembly in 2023 and a letter from the Secretary-General to the Chair of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations on the required decision points in January 2024, the Secretariat delivered a briefing to the Special Committee on options for the memorial wall. In accordance with the decision of the Special Committee at its 2024 substantive session, the next step is for Member States to establish a working group responsible for taking those decisions, in close cooperation with relevant Secretariat entities.

26 The requested briefing will be provided to the Special Committee.

## II. Conduct of peacekeepers and peacekeeping operations

38 Implementation is ongoing. Please refer to the status of recommendation 37 in the Secretariat's online repository of recommendations of the Special Committee for 2023 (<https://peacekeeping.un.org/en/recommendations-of-special-committee-peacekeeping-operations-c34>).

39 All personnel continue to be vetted using the Case Management Tracking System for prior records of misconduct. The Clear Check database continues to be used by United Nations system entities in recruitment processes to screen civilian personnel against records of sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment.

The Secretariat is in consultation with stakeholders to identify further remedial measures to prevent sexual exploitation and abuse in peacekeeping operations.

40 Implementation is ongoing. Please refer to the status of recommendation 44 in the Secretariat's online repository of recommendations of the Special Committee for 2023.

In addition, the website on conduct in United Nations field missions (<https://conduct.unmissions.org>) contains a section on good practices, which is regularly updated, including with inputs from Member States, with information on training and related actions to prevent sexual exploitation and abuse. The Secretariat is in consultation with stakeholders to update awareness and instructional materials and messaging.

41 The Secretary-General strengthened his compacts with the heads of peace operations to emphasize their accountability in conduct and discipline, including with regard to preventing and addressing sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment.

The document entitled "Ten rules: code of personal conduct for blue helmets" is provided to uniformed personnel as part of awareness-raising activities conducted by peacekeeping missions.

42 Implementation is ongoing. Please refer to the status of recommendation 38 in the Secretariat's online repository of recommendations of the Special Committee for 2023.

43 Allegations of sexual harassment involving alleged offenders who are United Nations personnel or experts on mission are normally investigated by the Office of Internal Oversight Services. The Secretariat expects similar allegations involving alleged offenders belonging to military contingents to be investigated by Member States using similarly experienced investigators.

The Secretariat is undertaking a mapping process to consider the existing United Nations framework for preventing and addressing sexual harassment, including support to victims, as it affects uniformed personnel. Initial consultations have been conducted with key stakeholders, including peacekeeping missions, to understand how the realities on the ground could support efforts to strengthen prevention and response to sexual harassment, and will be broadened to engage with Member States as the key partners in this effort, including by looking at ways to strengthen training in this area.

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In addition, please refer to the status of recommendation 42 in the Secretariat's online repository of recommendations of the Special Committee for 2023.

44 The senior managers' compact includes the need to ensure dignity through civility and a healthy work environment. This is addressed in the Secretary-General's bulletin on the United Nations Values and Behaviours Framework ([ST/SGB/2024/4](#)) and the corresponding revised administrative instruction on the Performance Management and Development System ([ST/AI/2021/4/Rev.1](#)). Guidance on how those documents will be considered in performance management will be made available to all staff and managers.

45 Experience indicates that as peacekeeping missions reduce their footprint and eventually draw down, allegations of misconduct, in particular sexual exploitation and abuse, will continue to be received. In some instances, the numbers of allegations, including those from previous years, may increase as individuals come forward to report complaints. The Secretariat is considering tools and resources necessary to ensure that case management and support to victims continues after mission drawdown.

46 Implementation is ongoing. Please refer to the status of recommendation 42 in the Secretariat's online repository of recommendations of the Special Committee for 2023.

47 The United Nations continued system-wide efforts to implement the human rights due diligence policy on United Nations support to non-United Nations security forces, including through coordinated support from Headquarters and the strengthening of mechanisms and practices at the country level. Efforts to strengthen awareness of the policy across and beyond the United Nations system have continued, including through training of and briefings to mission leadership and to rotating military and police components. Police components continued implementing the policy, notably when providing operational support to host Government police and when engaging more broadly or considering targeted capacity-building support to host Government counterparts. However, numerous challenges, including access and monitoring capacity, as seen in the context of withdrawal of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA), persist.

The United Nations continued to invest in the internal and external coordination of support to the security sector at the country level to ensure that United Nations support met evolving needs and contributed to lasting impacts.

48<sup>a</sup> The Secretariat continues its efforts to reduce the environmental footprint of missions, manage risks responsibly and leave a positive legacy in host communities. These efforts include enhancing the environmental practices for uniformed and civilian personnel through the development and delivery of specialized training aligned with the priorities of the Department of Operational Support's strategy entitled "The Way Forward: Environment Strategy for Peace Operations 2023–2030". Training and capacity-building on renewable energy projects for troop- and police-contributing countries and for military and police environmental focal points are being delivered alongside the development of operational guidance, tools and training.

A review of the implementation of the environment strategy for peace operations after six years showed significant progress across key indicators, supported by data from environmental action plans and mission-specific scorecards. Global contracts for renewable energy, waste management and wastewater treatment systems are in place to support these goals. Missions are also reducing single-use plastics and improving waste treatment methods by promoting composting and recycling.

The Secretariat is improving systems to track energy demand and optimize data collection through various monitoring platforms. A new target-setting framework, introduced in "The Way Forward", will help missions set annual and multi-year renewable energy targets, starting with the 2025/26 budget cycle.

49 In response to General Assembly resolution [76/274](#) and the previous report of the Special Committee ([A/77/19](#)), the Secretariat consulted with Member States, field missions and stakeholders to develop the strategy entitled “The Way Forward: Environment Strategy for Peace Operations 2023–2030.” This strategy builds on five operational pillars – energy, waste, water and wastewater, environmental management systems, and wider impact – while introducing themes of responsibility, ambition and legacy.

The Secretariat is accelerating the transition to renewable energy in field missions through energy infrastructure management plans and energy compact initiatives, focusing on projects that benefit both missions and host communities. Renewable energy systems, including solar and energy storage, are being integrated through global contracts for design, installation and maintenance. Renewable systems in peacekeeping camps may be donated to host communities during mission liquidation, following United Nations guidelines.

Five peace operations have joined the energy compact and have renewable energy projects in various stages of planning that involve partnerships with host Governments, private power producers and international financial institutions.

50 Implementation is ongoing. Please refer to the status of recommendation 36 in the Secretariat’s online repository of recommendations of the Special Committee for 2023.

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### III. Partnerships

54 Implementation is ongoing. Please refer to the status of recommendation 52 in the Secretariat’s online repository of recommendations of the Special Committee for 2023.

In addition, the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA) continued efforts to optimize host Government relations and outreach to national stakeholders, including through regular exchanges between Mission leadership and the Government, supporting the extension of State authority in the prefectures, undertaking joint visits to field locations with senior government personnel and facilitating exchanges between the Government and local administrators on the implementation of the peace process. The Mission also continued to conduct weekly press conferences and other outreach activities.

The United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan, together with the Department of Peace Operations, has maintained ongoing communication with the representatives of India and Pakistan, and other stakeholders as required, to ensure continued support for mandate implementation.

55 The United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO), MINUSCA and the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) continued to support host States to ensure judicial due process and the safe, secure and humane detention of arrested individuals. Technical assistance provided by the three missions to their respective host State authorities to review warrants and address prolonged arbitrary detention resulted in the release, regularization or transfer of over 1,500 detainees and/or their case files to judicially competent authorities.

In Abyei, the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA) adopted a rule-of-law support strategy in consultation with local authorities and other key partners that covered, inter alia, responses to serious crimes and associated detentions by UNISFA and the handover of suspects to the relevant authorities.

56 The requested briefing will be provided to the Special Committee.

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57 Implementation is ongoing. Please refer to the status of recommendation 53 in the Secretariat’s online repository of recommendations of the Special Committee for 2023.

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In addition, focus is being placed on joint capacity development and mutual understanding through shared learning at all levels of the Organization. Programmes such as the knowledge and expertise exchange programme have enabled broader engagement and collaboration among practitioners at the technical level and provided an accessible platform for experts from across partner organizations to connect on a range of issues, share best practices and lessons learned, and build synergies to manage complex challenges.

58 Collaboration between the United Nations and national, regional and international peacekeeping training networks is ongoing, including through the International Association of Peacekeeping Training Centres and its regional affiliates.

Training recognition is a multi-stage process that involves considerable human resources. Accurate training recognition needs to include the observation of training exercises and facilities, in particular for new requests. The number of training recognitions per year is limited by the funding and staffing provided in the peacekeeping support account.

59 The light coordination mechanism continues to facilitate bilateral and multilateral partnerships between capacity-building providers and troop- and police-contributing countries to strengthen information-sharing and facilitate training and capacity-building partnerships.

The Secretariat launched the light coordination mechanism online system, which enables Member States to directly share, update and deconflict training and capacity-building activities. Extrabudgetary funding has allowed the light coordination mechanism to expand to cover policing needs as well as knowledge management.

60 The Global Focal Point for the Rule of Law, an inter-agency mechanism of the Department of Peace Operations and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), has provided dedicated project capacities and platforms to support integrated planning and programming in peacekeeping settings, in particular on the rule of law. The justice and corrections standing capacity in the Department of Peace Operations also provides dedicated capacity and surge support to peacekeeping settings on rule of law and justice and corrections issues. The Department also provides dedicated capacity to strengthened integrated planning and programming in the context of mission drawdown and withdrawal through the United Nations Transitions Project, an inter-agency mechanism of the Development Coordination Office, the Department of Peace Operations, the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs and UNDP.

61 In support of the Latin American and Caribbean Network for Cooperation in Peacekeeping Operations (a capacity-building network), the light coordination mechanism assisted Paraguay, which assumed the presidency pro tempore of the Network, with its operationalization and the planning of the next conference in 2025. In August 2024, Fiji and the light coordination mechanism jointly organized a discussion at the fifty-third Pacific Islands Forum Leaders Meeting, held in Tonga, on establishing a cooperation network in the field of peacekeeping in the Pacific region. The light coordination mechanism engaged with Member States in South and Central Asia on the possibility of creating similar networks.

62 The Department of Operational Support, through its triangular partnership programme, has provided training on engineering; medical; command, control, communications, computers, peacekeeping-intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance (C4ISR); and camp security technologies in Brazil, Cambodia, Indonesia, Kenya and Uganda for the uniformed personnel of 66 troop- and police-contributing countries. In the first half of 2024, the Department organized its annual stakeholders' workshop, hosted by the Government of Japan, to consult with the Secretariat, peacekeeping missions, troop-contributing countries, and financial and expertise contributors, and define the programme's trajectory for the next year.

63 Implementation is ongoing. Please refer to the status of recommendation 62 in the Secretariat's online repository of recommendations of the Special Committee for 2023.

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64 In the context of discussions for the implementation of Security Council resolution [2719 \(2023\)](#), the Secretariat, jointly with the African Union, made progress in developing joint planning modalities for African Union peace support operations. The final document is expected to capture best practices and operational lessons learned from African Union peace support operations supported by the United Nations.

The Department of Operational Support organized a workshop in April 2024 in Mogadishu to gather best practices and lessons from the United Nations Support Office in Somalia in order to be fit for purpose when addressing the future requirements of African Union-led peace support operations authorized by the Security Council. The workshop was attended by experts from all Department of Operational Support pillars, the Peace Support Operations Division of the African Union, the African Union Transition Mission in Somalia (ATMIS) and representatives of ATMIS troop-contributing countries to gather best practices for United Nations-African Union-Somali security forces operational partnerships, and the support mechanisms were tested in Somalia to explore ways to tailor the service delivery system in the future, including with regard to operationalizing resolution [2719 \(2023\)](#).

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65 The Secretariat takes note of the Special Committee's recommendation.

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67<sup>a</sup> The seventh African Union-United Nations annual conference was held in New York in November 2023 to review progress in the implementation of the Joint United Nations-African Union Framework for Enhanced Partnership in Peace and Security and the African Union-United Nations Framework for the Implementation of Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The meeting focused on peace, security and development challenges in the Great Lakes, Sahel and Horn of Africa regions and Libya, and the political transitions in Burkina Faso, Chad, Gabon, Guinea, Mali, the Niger and the Sudan. The United Nations and the African Union held the twenty-second and twenty-third meetings of the Joint Task Force on Peace and Security on 18 September 2023 and 16 April 2024, respectively. Both meetings focused on the most pressing peace and security challenges facing the continent.

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68<sup>a</sup> No status update requested from the Secretariat.

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69 The Secretariat, including the United Nations Office to the African Union, continued to strengthen cooperation and deepen mutual understanding with the African Union on operational support matters through the revitalized knowledge and expertise exchange programme. Over 60 practitioners from both organizations have participated in joint learning initiatives since the programme's expansion in 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; and the joint development of an operational synergy training programme for the African Union-United Nations resource programme. In support of African Union efforts to revitalize its Peace Fund, the United Nations Office to the African Union worked closely with the Peace Fund secretariat on the development of policy documents, including standard operating procedures and guidelines in thematic areas to foster timely delivery on the strategic priorities identified by the Peace and Security Council of the African Union. The Department of Operational Support also provided capacity support to the Peace Fund secretariat through the deployment of technical expertise in financial management and strategic communications.

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70 The Secretariat is working closely with the African Union Commission to support African Union peace support operations, including through the implementation of Security Council resolution [2719 \(2023\)](#). The two organizations are working towards joint institutional and operational readiness to ensure that their mechanisms are fit for purpose when implementing resolution [2719 \(2023\)](#). The Secretary-General will submit an annual report to the Security Council on progress implementation as requested by the Council in resolution [2719 \(2023\)](#). The Secretariat is currently assessing structural changes and resource requirements to implement the resolution.

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## IV. Peacebuilding and sustaining peace

74 With regard to transitions, implementation is ongoing. Please refer to the status of recommendation 95 in the Secretariat's online repository of recommendations of the Special Committee for 2023.

The Peacebuilding Commission convened stakeholders to provide peacebuilding perspectives and to play a greater advisory role to the Security Council. In 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.

MONUSCO continued to collaborate with the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region to further operationalize the Great Lakes Judicial Cooperation Network within the framework of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region. Significant developments included support for the Prosecution Support Cells in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, support for an international consultant to assist military justice authorities in Beni with regard to the investigation of six priority cases that would benefit from international judicial cooperation, and the organization of a sensitization workshop in Kinshasa to raise awareness of the importance of regional judicial cooperation in combating transnational organized crime, international crime and terrorist offenses.

75 The Department of Peace Operations is undertaking an evidence-based analysis, within existing resources, on the use and operations of standing capacities and other relevant mechanisms of the United Nations and their coordination.

76<sup>a</sup> Implementation is ongoing. Please refer to the status of recommendation 90 in the Secretariat's online repository of recommendations of the Special Committee for 2023.

In addition, UNMISS regularly engages with chiefs, women and youth leaders on the deployment of mobile courts and other accountability mechanisms to address intercommunal violence, which disproportionately affects young people. Involving youth in such consultations allows them to feel increased ownership over the peaceful resolution of disputes.

The engagement of local stakeholders and communities remains at the centre of peacekeeping responses to local conflict dynamics that pose a threat to civilian populations as well as to efforts to promote political processes meant to sustain peace. Mission components deployed in the deep field, including uniformed and civilian components, strive to build strong relationships with local stakeholders and build confidence with the mission and among local communities to best support initiatives that allow for community dialogue initiatives to result in local peace agreements.

This has been the case in South Sudan, the Central African Republic and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, where civil affairs teams, in coordination with local authorities, have contributed to defusing tensions and generating conditions conducive to locally negotiated solutions.

In March 2024, a Department of Peace Operations policy on community liaison assistants was issued to help clarify the roles and responsibilities of this function.

The implementation of the youth and peace and security agenda is leading to a more focused and nuanced approach to supporting inclusive political processes, promoting the role of youth in sustaining peace and generating opportunities for youth empowerment.

77 Lessons learned and best practices will be shared through an informal briefing.

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78 In line with the 2023 revised United Nations Policy on Integrated Assessment and Planning, the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework is the default common framework for United Nations presences in integrated settings. The Framework allows for stronger coordination between peacekeeping operations, resident coordinators' offices and country teams with Government counterparts to sustain peace priorities and enable longer-term development efforts with a view to ensuring national ownership. In active transition contexts, missions and country teams are asked to jointly develop integrated transition plans which are to be consulted with national counterparts.

In addition to its lead role in integrated assessment and planning and in transition planning, the Department of Peace Operations is working to secure resources for additional specialized transition planning capacities at Headquarters to replace the United Nations Transitions Project. MONUSCO is the only Mission with a specialized transitions capacity, funded through assessed contributions. There is no specialized capacity to support transitions in the field, and missions are using existing resources, including existing planning capacity.

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79 The Secretariat has incorporated lessons learned from transitions into its inputs for the 2025 review of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture.

80 Implementation is ongoing. Please refer to the status of recommendation 84 in the Secretariat's online repository of recommendations of the Special Committee for 2023.

In addition, the Secretariat is revising the United Nations transitions policies and directives to align with current practices and improve implementation efficiency, drawing from experience and lessons learned since 2013. Revisions will include the addition of specific provisions that underscore and strengthen the principle that transitions planning should be embedded in integrated assessment and planning processes throughout the mission life cycle. Strategic end states that would lead to a responsible and timely withdrawal should be articulated in relevant common frameworks – in cooperation with key partners – and in mission strategies and associated plans, and adjusted as necessary in line with the United Nations Policy on Integrated Assessment and Planning and the Department of Peace Operations-Department of Operational Support policy on planning and reviews of peacekeeping operations.

The revised United Nations Policy on Integrated Assessment and Planning, updated in 2023, maintains the minimum requirements for integration, such as the conduct of joint integrated assessments and the development of a common strategic framework in integrated settings. The conduct of these joint assessment and planning exercises will necessarily lead to shared objectives and priorities, including the joint conduct of common country analyses and United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks, which became the “default” common framework under the revised Policy.

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81 In line with the revised United Nations Policy on Integrated Assessment and Planning, the United Nations system has recognized the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework as the default common framework for United Nations presence in integrated settings. By aligning peace and development priorities, the Framework encourages stronger coordination between peacekeeping operations, resident coordinators' offices and country teams to strengthen coherence across missions and country teams in all integrated settings. In early and active transition contexts, the planning directive of the Secretary-General requests missions and country teams to jointly develop transition road maps that identify key integrated milestones in the transition process.

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82 A briefing to the Special Committee will be delivered prior to its next substantive session.

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83<sup>a</sup> The Department of Peace Operations continued to provide United Nations peace operations with timely police and law enforcement expertise. Following the launch of the mandatory online course on the Strategic Guidance for International Policing for prospective candidates, the Department collaborated with Member States on enhancing compliance with predeployment training standards, including under the United Nations police training architecture programme. The Department continued to welcome Member States' contributions to the specialized police teams concept and their subsequent deployments. A manual on the administration and management of specialized police teams is being finalized, building on emerging good practices and lessons. The United Nations standing capacity for security sector reform and governance, the justice and corrections standing capacity, the standing police capacity and the Mine Action Service provided dedicated support in several country settings.

84 In line with the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Region and Security Council resolution [2717 \(2023\)](#), MONUSCO continued to: (a) provide technical advice on disarmament, demobilization and reintegration in support of the implementation of regional political processes; and (b) promote confidence-building and security cooperation by supporting knowledge-sharing among disarmament, demobilization and reintegration commissions in the Great Lakes region. MINUSCA continued to support the implementation of the national disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration programme, which allowed a total of 4,615 combatants, including 301 women, to be disarmed, demobilized and directed towards socioeconomic reintegration (or integration into the national armed forces). MINUSCA continued the implementation of the community violence reduction programme, which has provided support to a total of 38,000 beneficiaries, including 18,494 women, achieving near gender parity.

85 This recommendation is addressed to Member States. A briefing to the Special Committee will be delivered prior to its next substantive session.

86 The Secretariat takes note of the Special Committee's recommendation.

87 The Secretariat takes note of the Special Committee's recommendation.

The Peacebuilding Support Office is actively engaged in several multi-stakeholder initiatives, including the Investing for Peace initiative with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the Finance for Peace initiative with Interpeace, to help identify innovative solutions to financing gaps for peacebuilding with development finance institutions and impact investors. This holistic approach helps to measure and standardize peace impact for investments, and build market intelligence on private sector development in conflict settings. The Peacebuilding Fund catalyses impact and financing by working directly with new co-financing partners on the ground, including in recent projects in Colombia, Burundi and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The Peacebuilding Support Office is considered a "hinge" to ensure strong coordination and coherence on this nexus within the United Nations system. The Peacebuilding Commission also continues to offer its platform for the promotion of South-South and triangular cooperation in support of peacebuilding and sustaining peace.

88 The Secretariat takes note of the Special Committee's recommendation.

89<sup>a</sup> Since December 2023, the Peacebuilding Impact Hub has worked to provide evidenced-based operational, political and strategic insights on peacebuilding to Member States and peacebuilding practitioners to inform better and more timely decision-making and investments for peacebuilding. This is particularly relevant in settings that are transitioning from peacekeeping, where efforts to sustain gains in security, protection of civilians and political stability require well-targeted and well-scaled peacebuilding investments, bridging efforts towards long-term development.

The Peacebuilding Impact Hub has worked on: (a) a peacebuilding global overview report that provides a snapshot of the state of affairs when it comes to peacebuilding, policy, practice and funding at the global level; (b) the convening of peacebuilding actors within and beyond the United Nations system to collaborate and build capacities on peacebuilding measurement; (c) developing a peacebuilding data platform that will enhance the availability and utilization of disaggregated data and evidence on peacebuilding, building upon existing data and data standards of the Peacebuilding Support Office; (d) supporting global advocacy and communication on peacebuilding; and (e) supporting some countries, through “deep-dive” exercises, in collecting, analysing and reporting on robust evidence of cumulative peacebuilding results.

Member States are encouraged to use and collaborate with the Peacebuilding Impact Hub through its five workstreams.

## V. Performance and accountability

93 The Integrated Peacekeeping Performance and Accountability Framework, last updated in November 2023, will be revised again at the end of 2024. It has been disseminated to Member States and is available online (see <https://pcrs.un.org/Resources/Forms/AllItems.aspx>, under Peacekeeping Performance).

The Department of Peace Operations continues to convene quarterly integrated performance meetings that address performance trends across missions with the leadership of the Department of Peace Operations, the Department of Operational Support and the Department of Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance. Monthly integrated performance meetings are convened across the three departments as well, addressing specific cases of remedial measures for underperformance. The Department of Peace Operations is completing the development of a standard operating procedure to recognize outstanding performances by military and police units.

Performance data continues to be integrated into the Department of Peace Operations troop- and police-contributing country knowledge management system, including data from across the Department of Peace Operations, the Department of Operational Support and the Department of Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance.

94 All peacekeeping missions are using the Comprehensive Planning and Performance Assessment System. As at 13 August 2024, over 80,000 data points had been entered into the system across a total of 698 indicators, and 71 impact assessments had been conducted. Missions regularly update their leadership on assessment outcomes, including recommendations for operational adjustments. Missions increasingly rely on system data and impact assessments to inform Member States and for use in reports of the Secretary-General and fact sheets in Security Council briefings. Six missions have included data visuals in reports of the Secretary-General and 24 Security Council briefings have included Comprehensive Planning and Performance Assessment System fact sheets. The Department of Peace Operations continues to provide training sessions to missions and is designing a training package for uniformed components.

Unite Aware is the Secretariat solution to supporting situational awareness in United Nations peace operations. The Situational Awareness Geospatial Enterprise platform, a module of Unite Aware, is used to collect information related to incidents, events and activities. A primary focus of the Department of Peace Operations has been ensuring the coordination and interoperability of the various databases, preventing data duplication. This includes ensuring that tools capturing mandate-related information rely on the same data and avoid their duplication. The Department of Peace Operations has worked with six peacekeeping missions and the Situational Awareness Geospatial Enterprise team to ensure interoperability between the systems where overlap exists.

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95<sup>a</sup> The Department of Peace Operations has established governance structures to provide direction, priority and guidance over digital technology initiatives. These structures are complemented by a digital transformation working group that acts as a driving force for transformation and helps create greater visibility of cross-cutting digital technology initiatives. One focus area for the implementation of the Strategy for the Digital Transformation of United Nations Peacekeeping is the provision of guidance on establishing and/or bolstering missions' information management and data-related capacities. This is being undertaken through a workforce analysis and will be complemented by guidance to missions on the ideal structure of an information management/data team.

Another priority of the Strategy for the Digital Transformation of United Nations Peacekeeping is to establish governance and strategic management over digital technology initiatives. It is envisaged that digital technology initiatives endorsed by the governing bodies will include compliance with information and communications technology policies and standards. Member States and host States will continue to be consulted and informed, and be requested to provide support.

96 The Department of Peace Operations, together with relevant Headquarters and mission actors, is working on the development of processes to improve integrated strategic and operational planning.

97 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. The plan will be finalized ahead of the next substantive session.

98 Capturing lessons learned is essential to strengthening the performance of peacekeeping operations and sharing best practices among practitioners. The Secretariat is identifying lessons from the experience of MINUSMA and will issue a summary report in 2025.

99 Implementation is ongoing. Please refer to the status of recommendation 121 in the Secretariat's online repository of recommendations of the Special Committee for 2023.

100 At the time of writing, all missions had all necessary enabling assets as requested in their force requirements, or were in the process of receiving them, in order to implement their mandates. The Strategic Force Generation and Capability Planning Cell continues to identify and communicate critical trends in uniformed capability requirements to Member States and carry out assessment and advisory visits so as to have enabling assets in the Peacekeeping Capability Readiness System at higher levels of readiness for timely deployment if new emerging requirements arrive from existing or new missions. At the time of writing, there were no shortfalls of critical enabling assets in missions and the Secretariat had not received any requests from Member States to pledge these types of arrangements.

The Department of Peace Operations has coordinated informal meetings between Secretariat entities and troop-contributing countries to discuss the possibility of rotational mechanisms for critical assets and multinational units, and has developed, with the support of the Department of Operational Support, draft guidelines on these arrangements which were shared with the Office of Legal Affairs for informal consultation. Based on the legal advice received, the Department of Operational Support is leading the preparation and submission of an issue paper for the 2026 Working Group on Contingent-Owned Equipment in order to include this matter under a General Assembly legal framework, which is legally required.

101 Implementation is ongoing. Please refer to the status of recommendation 125 in the Secretariat's online repository of recommendations of the Special Committee for 2023.

In addition, to ensure timely staff rotation and avoid staffing gaps, succession planning for military and police recruitment campaigns is projected 18 months in advance. To reduce the overall time of recruitment campaigns, the Secretariat encourages the timely submission of application documentation according to the established requirements and a limit of the number of nominations to two candidates per post. The Secretariat has also taken initiatives to inform Member States in a timely manner on the intermediate results of their nominees' screening and assessment through formal correspondence and briefings.

102 The Department of Peace Operations is working towards the implementation of the review and expects to have it ready by the end of 2024.

103 The light coordination mechanism continues to facilitate bilateral and multilateral partnerships between capacity-building providers and troop- and police-contributing countries to strengthen information-sharing and facilitate training and capacity-building partnerships.

In accordance with the policy and standard operating procedure governing formed police units, all police-contributing countries are required to certify that their units received predeployment training in line with United Nations training standards prior to deployment, while such units are subject to performance assessment and evaluation visits throughout their deployment.

The Office of Military Affairs conducts predeployment visits to evaluate troop-contributing countries' performance standards before deployment. Once deployed, the force commander conducts periodic evaluations of subordinate units in line with the 2016 standard operating procedures on force and sector commanders' evaluations of subordinate military entities in peacekeeping operations and transmits the results to the Office of Military Affairs. The military performance evaluation task force conducts military skills validation in certain troop-contributing countries that have performance shortfalls in their units in conjunction with pre-rotation visits.

104 Implementation is ongoing. Please refer to the status of recommendation 118 in the Secretariat's online repository of recommendations of the Special Committee for 2023.

In addition, as of August 2024, of the 35 training packages available on the Peacekeeping Resource Hub, 35 were available in English, 14 in French, 5 in Spanish, 3 in Arabic, 1 in Chinese and 1 in Russian. Contributions are needed for the translation of 21 packages into French, 30 into Spanish, 32 into Arabic and 34 into Chinese and Russian.

105 Implementation is ongoing. Please refer to the status of recommendation 119 in the Secretariat's online repository of recommendations of the Special Committee for 2023.

106 The Department of Peace Operations continues its efforts to select contingents that do not have caveats. The Department regularly compiles updates from field missions on undeclared caveats and notes the adverse impact of caveats on mission effectiveness. These updates were presented to the Special Committee in November 2023 and at the monthly performance meeting in July 2024 to seek a collective solution to address the challenge. In addition, working with key stakeholders, including Member States, field missions and relevant Secretariat entities, the forthcoming United Nations military manual is being developed with the aim of formalizing a clear, comprehensive and transparent procedure to guide the administration of caveats. The manual is expected to be promulgated by the end of 2024. The Police Division closely follows all aspects concerning caveats, and undertakes, where required, necessary mitigation measures. Considered by the Secretariat to be an element of underperformance, caveats inform future deployment considerations.

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107<sup>a</sup> Peacekeeping missions are enhancing engagement and communication with host authorities, communities and key stakeholders. The “Peace begins with me” campaign was extended through 2024, and a promotional campaign preceded the Peacekeeping Ministerial Meeting held in Ghana in December 2023. The International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers in May 2024, on the theme “Fit for the future: building better together”, highlighted partnerships with host communities.

The updated policy on strategic communications standardized approaches across missions, with tailored components based on missions’ mandates and specificities. Earlier in 2024 the Secretariat deployed surge support to UNISFA to enable the development of an integrated communications plan and create content aimed at preventing and addressing harmful information targeting both peacekeepers and the communities they serve.

The Department of Peace Operations finalized a policy on military strategic communications officers and is reviewing new guidance on developing digital stories. Guidance on developing a communications strategy for peacekeeping operations is planned for 2025. A new data analytics initiative will enhance missions’ abilities to assess local perceptions and improve outreach and engagement. A lesson on strategic communications and addressing misinformation, disinformation and hate speech was developed for core predeployment training. In-person digital training was also provided to four missions to build trust and address reputational risks. Through the Action for Peacekeeping Plus initiative, all mission personnel are now involved in strategic communications efforts, with leadership and uniformed personnel actively coordinating their messaging.

## VI. Politics

112<sup>a</sup> The Secretariat emphasizes the importance of the primacy of politics in peacekeeping, and of collaboration with host States and international and regional partners.

MONUSCO worked to strengthen coordination and information-sharing among national and regional forces in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, including the East African Community Regional Force and the Southern African Development Community Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. MONUSCO supported regional political efforts, notably the Luanda and Nairobi processes, aimed at creating the conditions for the restoration of peace and security in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo. The United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) has continued to exchange information with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the European Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo and the Kosovo Force within the framework of Security Council resolution 1244 (1999) on issues relating to peace, security and the rule of law.

113 MINUSCA continued the implementation of its multi-year mission political strategy and related mission plan in an integrated manner, adopting innovative approaches. The Mission also realigned its budget proposal framework to the political strategy, thereby enhancing the link between mandated strategic priorities and financial resources. UNMIK continued working towards strengthening and consolidating peace, security and stability in Kosovo<sup>b</sup> and the wider region. Its strategic priorities included supporting the European Union-facilitated dialogue through good offices, regular engagement with authorities in Belgrade and Pristina and cooperation with international partners.

114 The Secretariat is undertaking a revision of the 2013 United Nations transitions policies and directives. The revision will include specific provisions to strengthen the political dimensions of United Nations transition processes, in particular with regard to areas of alignment within and between the Security Council and host States.

115 Field missions undertake regular analyses of the cooperation between missions and host States as part of their review of mandate implementation. The results are reflected through different means, including white papers and briefings to the Security Council, and reports of the Secretary-General.

116 MINUSCA continued efforts to optimize host Government relations and enhance understanding of its mandate, including by organizing a seminar jointly with the Government of the Central African Republic on its new mandate following the adoption of Security Council resolution 2709 (2023), resulting in a common understanding on the interpretation of the mandate. The Mission also continued efforts to proactively address violations of status-of-forces agreements in a systematic manner through established good offices with the host Government. UNISFA and UNMISS continue to proactively engage with their national authorities to address incidents related to the violations of status-of-forces agreements, including restrictions on freedom of movement and other impediments to mandate implementation.

The Secretariat and peacekeeping missions established a common set of categories of status-of-forces agreement incidents, which was used to design a harmonized documentation mechanism for status-of-forces agreement-related incidents. These categories were integrated into the Situational Awareness Geospatial Enterprise database, which serves as a common platform for the systematic documentation and analysis of violations of status-of-forces agreements. The tracking system has been rolled out across nine peacekeeping missions. Further refinements may be made based on lessons learned.

117 Implementation is ongoing. Please refer to the status of recommendation 139 in the Secretariat's online repository of recommendations of the Special Committee for 2023.

In addition, the fifth Action for Peacekeeping Plus progress report was issued in September 2024 (see <https://peacekeeping.un.org/en/action-peacekeeping>).

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

118 A briefing to the Special Committee will be delivered prior to its next substantive session.

119 Workshops for chiefs of joint mission analysis centres are held biennially, and one of the objectives is to encourage cooperation and facilitate the exchange of information among these centres. To facilitate communication between centres, the Secretariat holds regular meetings with all chiefs of joint mission analysis centres and regional meetings with MINUSCA, MONUSCO, UNMISS and UNISFA.

UNMISS works closely with UNISFA on cross-boundary issues between South Sudan and Abyei, addressing in particular intercommunal tensions between the Dinka Ngok and Dinka Twic communities over a dispute over land in southern Abyei. The two missions have coordinated with regard to their engagements with the Government of South Sudan on issues of shared interest. In addition, UNMISS has ad hoc mechanisms for information-sharing and coordination with MONUSCO and MINUSCA to address cross-border dynamics between South Sudan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Central African Republic.

MONUSCO and MINUSCA maintained information-sharing channels to maintain awareness of cross-border activities of the Lord's Resistance Army operating in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Central African Republic and South Sudan.

At Headquarters, the teams supporting the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) and the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO) regularly provide integrated background notes and key messages for meetings. The teams also coordinate feedback and key messages, including on briefings to the Security Council. The leadership of UNDOF, UNIFIL, UNTSO and the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) also use the periodic regional force commanders' conferences and the annual Heads of Military Components Conference at United Nations Headquarters to share updates and analysis.

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At the operational level, the deployment of UNTSO military observers, under the operational command of UNDOF and UNIFIL, also assists the missions in exchanging information and enhancing their situational awareness.

120 The revised Policy on Integrated Assessment and Planning is being implemented across United Nations entities, including peacekeeping missions. It aims at ensuring more systematic synergies between missions and United Nations country teams towards common objectives. In missions, the developing and updating of mission plans ensures coherence across mission components, sections and field offices, in a sequenced and coordinated manner, on the strategic priorities for mandate implementation. Mission plans also provide guidance on resource allocation and operational planning, elaborate cooperation and partnership modalities and support decision-making by senior management. Component, section and field office workplans are expected to be aligned in accordance with mission plans. The Department of Peace Operations, together with relevant Headquarters and mission actors, is working on the development of processes to improve integrated strategic and operational planning.

Findings from strategic reviews, independent strategic reviews and/or strategic assessments mandated by the Security Council are shared with the Council in the form of either a report or letter of the Secretary-General. Through the Comprehensive Planning and Performance Assessment System, all peacekeeping operations regularly conduct integrated, whole-of-mission impact assessments, in which mission staff discuss what is going well and what could be improved, based on the data and analysis collected against a results framework that is grounded in the context in which the mission operates. Afterwards, mission leadership is provided with a summary of the assessment and an overview of the operational recommendations made by mission staff for their endorsement.

121 In its resolution [2666 \(2022\)](#), the Security Council refined the strategic priorities of MONUSCO and its core mandated tasks to: (a) the protection of civilians; (b) support for the implementation of the Disarmament, Demobilization, Community Recovery and Stabilization Programme; (c) support for security sector reform; and (d) support to the implementation of the political and operational tracks of ongoing regional peace initiatives.

The UNMISS mandate is based on a three-year strategic planning horizon that puts the primacy of politics at the forefront, and the implementation of the mandate rests on the four coherent pillars of protection of civilians, human rights, support to the implementation of the Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in South Sudan and creating conditions conducive to the delivery of humanitarian assistance.

The Secretariat is undertaking a project aimed at establishing parameters for the prioritization and sequencing of mandates.

122 The Secretariat uses the Peacekeeping Capability Readiness System as the primary tool to support deployment selection decisions, honouring the pledges made by Member States. Revised Peacekeeping Capability Readiness System guidelines were issued in August 2023 that adjusted the use of the pledges made by Member States. The Secretariat maintains constant interaction with Member States, updating them on the status of their pledges and any new or additional requirements. In addition, the document on current and emerging uniformed capability requirements for United Nations peacekeeping, issued quarterly, presents the status of pledges received from Member States and their utilization.

123 MINUSCA and the Secretariat continued to provide timely and frank analysis on the impact of potential budgetary decisions and/or cuts and the negative impact on mandate delivery, particularly in the areas of mobility and performance. The United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO) continued reporting to the Security Council and the Fifth Committee of the General Assembly on its efforts to increase its ability to fully conduct its operational activities in full coordination across all mission components. Briefings on Abyei continued to provide a frank assessment of the impact of the ongoing crisis in the Sudan on UNISFA operations and mandate

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implementation. The Secretary-General has continued to regularly report to the Security Council on UNMIK and developments in Kosovo, including his respective observations. The Secretary-General submits a biannual report on UNFICYP, providing realistic and frank analysis as to the situation in and around the buffer zone and the mission's efforts to maintain peace and security in Cyprus.

## VII. Protection

127 The updated Department of Peace Operations policy on the protection of civilians provides guidance to missions on the implementation of their protection of civilian mandates, including by clarifying roles and strengthening coordination and complementarity among components. After attending a webinar organized by the Department, in which the updates to the policy were explained, missions received printed copies of the new policy, which were distributed to key components and socialized with the support of protection of civilians advisers to support the effective implementation of protection of civilians mandates.

Peacekeeping missions are mandated to support host States to fulfil their primary responsibility to protect civilians. During the reporting period, missions carried out multiple capacity-building activities across the three tiers of protection of civilians to support the abilities and foster the willingness of host States to protect civilians in their territories and raise awareness on protection issues.

128 Implementation is ongoing. Please refer to the status of recommendation 164 in the Secretariat's online repository of recommendations of the Special Committee for 2023.

Peacekeeping operations have continued to make progress in obtaining an improved understanding of local conflict drivers and the root causes of intercommunal conflicts. The contribution made by community liaison assistants, among other cross-cutting efforts to better engage local authorities, civil society and communities, is specifically recognized as being critical to build trust, improve situational awareness and promote local initiatives to peacefully resolve conflicts. A policy on community liaison assistants was issued in March 2024 to provide further guidance on the roles and responsibilities of community liaison assistants, including on how their function augments uniformed capabilities to engage with local communities in a context-sensitive manner that helps address protection of civilians concerns more effectively. The policy also provides guidance on the recruitment of community liaison assistants, with an emphasis on attracting more female candidates. Furthermore, the Secretariat has continued its push to roll out the local conflict analysis and planning tool to the field.

The protection of civilians is a priority mandate of United Nations peacekeeping which requires a comprehensive and integrated effort by all mission components (civilian, police and military) to protect civilians from threats of physical violence. Drawing on lessons learned and challenges shared during a practitioners' workshop on remote community engagement for protection of civilians held in late 2023, the Policy, Evaluation and Training Division is exploring opportunities for people-centred approaches to remote community monitoring and engagement for the protection of civilians, in coordination with relevant stakeholders.

129<sup>a</sup> Throughout the reporting period, the five missions with protection of civilians mandates worked to improve evaluation, monitoring and reporting with respect to the implementation of their respective protection of civilians mandates. Missions worked to strengthen the use of the Comprehensive Planning and Performance Assessment System to capture and analyse data and protection indicators to better assess performance with regard to protection of civilians mandate implementation.

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130<sup>a</sup> Peacekeeping missions continued to support host States, when requested, in the investigation and prosecution of crimes which may amount to violations of international law and other serious crimes fuelling conflict, including in transition contexts. For example, following the decision of the Security Council to end the mandate of MINUSMA, the Department of Peace Operations supported the transition of unfinished rule of law tasks in crucial areas such as counter-terrorism and the prosecution of other destabilizing crimes to the United Nations country team. In the context of the progressive withdrawal of MONUSCO and the phasing out of its prosecution support cells, in July 2024, the Mission, in coordination with partners, supported military justice authorities in the organization of a workshop on partnerships in the fight against impunity for serious crimes. National authorities emphasized the importance of continuing and strengthening support for the military justice system and identified a framework for post-MONUSCO support. Similarly, the Mission is collaborating with the United Nations country team and the Justice and Corrections Standing Capacity to develop a new transition-oriented joint programme to support judicial and correctional institutions in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The Secretariat will also consider how to systematically implement this recommendation in the ongoing review of the United Nations transitions policies and directives.

131 Implementation is ongoing. Please refer to the status of recommendation 152 in the Secretariat's online repository of recommendations of the Special Committee for 2023.

132 This recommendation is addressed to Member States.

133 During the reporting period, the Department of Peace Operations completed visits to missions that had mandates to mitigate civilian harm to capture good practices and assess gaps. The findings from the visits and from a 2022 review of missions that had civilian harm mitigation language in their mandates are being used to inform the next steps in institutionalizing the mitigation of civilian harm, including how to better socialize the concept and mainstream it into existing mission procedures, guidance and relevant documents, including by supporting the reporting by civilians of instances of harm directly to missions.

134 Through the facilitation of peer-to-peer exchanges, mentoring and the documentation of good practices, the Department of Peace Operations has continued supporting peacekeeping missions in the development of comprehensive responses to conflict-related sexual violence.

The Department of Peace Operations enhanced the capacity of mission personnel to better prevent and respond to conflict-related sexual violence. Four expert workshops and training courses were organized at Headquarters, regional and mission levels to strengthen the capacity to respond to conflict-related sexual violence. In June 2024, the Department of Peace Operations published the 2023 annual summaries of activities and good practices, highlighting efforts made by missions in the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Mali and South Sudan.

MINUSCA supported the revision of the national action plan to prevent and respond to conflict-related sexual violence for the period 2024–2028. From April to July 2024, UNMISS conducted 74 dedicated patrols in conflict-related sexual violence hotspots. Missions continued to coordinate closely with the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict. Based on information collected by missions, the 2023 annual report of the Secretary-General on conflict-related sexual violence ([S/2024/292](#)) listed four new parties in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and one in the Central African Republic suspected of committing conflict-related sexual violence.

135 The Secretariat and peacekeeping operations remain dedicated to addressing harmful information, including that which targets civilians. The Department of Peace Operations supports missions to monitor, analyse and respond to misinformation, disinformation and hate speech through detection, prevention and proactive actions. Peacekeeping missions are empowering local communities to

identify and report harmful narratives. To raise awareness and build resilience among key influencers and at-risk populations, missions have conducted training sessions, discussions and outreach activities in collaboration with host Governments, civil society and other stakeholders. The Department of Peace Operations has encouraged peacekeeping missions to leverage community alert networks to ensure early detection of emerging offline threats to both civilians and the peacekeeping mission. In preparation for high-risk events such as elections, peace talks or high-level visits, missions are also taking preventive and early warning measures. A briefing to the Special Committee will be delivered prior to its next substantive session.

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136 United Nations peacekeeping operations continued to play a key role in monitoring, verifying and reporting violations against children, engaging parties to conflict and building child protection capacity. However, challenges such as intercommunal violence, stalled peace processes and underresourced reintegration programmes hindered efforts to protect children. The drawdown of peacekeeping operations also affected the verification of child rights violations. The Department of Peace Operations strengthened child protection efforts through updated guidance and training materials. In 2023 and 2024, the Department of Peace Operations released French versions of key training packages and templates and conducted predeployment training for United Nations police and military personnel. In addition, missions such as UNMISS and MONUSCO trained thousands of staff on child protection across various roles, helping enhance child protection across conflict zones.

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137 Implementation is ongoing. Please refer to the status of recommendation 159 in the Secretariat's online repository of recommendations of the Special Committee for 2023.

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138 To strengthen the systematic collection and analysis of data on threats of violence against civilians and on protection incidents and needs in peacekeeping operations, including the collection of data to enable gender-responsive threat analyses, the Department of Peace Operations is working with missions to identify the minimum requirements for incident data related to violence against civilians in order to establish a taxonomy and guidance on the collection of structured data in the Situational Awareness Geospatial Enterprise platform, which can then be exploited for situational awareness, early warning, integrated analysis and operational planning.

Continued engagement with workstreams under the Strategy for the Digital Transformation of United Nations Peacekeeping has led to enhanced understanding and integration of information related to the protection of civilians into a comprehensive situational awareness platform, including Unite Aware in MINUSCA.

139 The Secretariat recalls that with the 2019 management reform, client entities, including missions, were fully delegated with the authority to ensure that they were equipped with adequate capabilities, including logistics capabilities, to implement their mandates effectively and efficiently. The Secretariat stands ready to support the missions in this endeavour. This includes, *inter alia*, guiding and supporting missions in identifying their requirements and defining supply chain solutions to meet those requirements, and generating, sourcing, procuring, delivering and maintaining those solutions, including logistics solutions.

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140 Implementation is ongoing. Please refer to the status of recommendation 183 in the Secretariat's online repository of recommendations of the Special Committee for 2023.

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## **VIII. Safety and security**

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145 A briefing to the Special Committee will be delivered prior to its next substantive session.

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146 The overall number of fatalities (including all incidents and root causes) in peacekeeping operations have steadily declined since 2022. Occupational safety and health-related fatalities have also declined in line with this overall trend. However, the ratio of non-malicious versus malicious

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fatalities has consistently increased. From January 2024 to the end of the reporting period, the ratio of occupational safety and health fatalities to malicious acts was 10:1. Prior to 2023, the ratio ranged from 3:1 to 4:1.

Proposals for prevention and risk controls include ensuring dedicated occupational safety and health capacity within each military and police component, developing and generating resources for an occupational safety and health training programme for military and police personnel, and developing adequate resources for an occupational safety and health risk system.

147 The Department of Operational Support has developed a mental health strategy for United Nations uniformed personnel. It is currently available in 16 languages on the Peacekeeping Resource Hub. It is under implementation in all United Nations missions.

148 The mental health application entitled “UN’s MindCompanion” (available in both online and mobile versions) was launched in 16 languages on 10 October 2024 (World Mental Health Day), making mental health support more widely accessible in a secure way to United Nations uniformed personnel.

149<sup>a</sup> With the establishment of a digital enablement team and the ongoing efforts of the three core workstreams (on addressing misinformation and disinformation, enhancing situational awareness and leveraging technology for uniformed personnel), the implementation of the Strategy for the Digital Transformation of United Nations Peacekeeping is focused on governance and strategic management, the development of an integrated data and digital ecosystem, and the transformation of business processes through a use-case approach, by leveraging innovative methodologies and technology. A chief data officer and an innovation officer were onboarded in February and July of 2024, respectively. Governance structures have been established and complemented by a working-level group to drive transformation.

The three workstreams linked to the Strategy remain a priority, with progress being made in improving the safety and security of peacekeepers, facilitating mandate implementation, streamlining processes and improving situational awareness, including through the improved collection, analysis and dissemination of data. The transformation of business processes will create visibility into mission-developed digital transformation initiatives and develop a means of capturing opportunities to further contribute to the transformation.

150 The Secretary General’s bulletin on the data protection and privacy policy for the Secretariat of the United Nations ([ST/SGB/2024/3](#)), issued in March 2024, will guide the continuous enhancement of comprehensive information security in United Nations peacekeeping.

151 A mission-specific action plan for the enhancement of MINUSCA peacekeeping-intelligence and early warning capacity has been established and is being implemented. Once completed, lessons learned will be drawn and the feasibility of replicating the concept to other missions will be considered.

152 Implementation is ongoing. Please refer to the status of recommendation 177 in the Secretariat’s online repository of recommendations of the Special Committee for 2023.

All peacekeeping-intelligence guidance documents are available online. The Department of Peace Operations ensures that guidance documents are sent to missions once promulgated and provides continued support to missions should they have any inquiry related to these guidance documents. Implementation visits are also organized to support missions in their implementation of peacekeeping-intelligence.

Online training courses on peacekeeping-intelligence are being developed, which will be offered by the Peacekeeping-Intelligence Academy.

153 The latest submissions from field missions indicate an increase in the frequency of unmanned aircraft systems incidents within missions' areas of responsibility. The use of such platforms against peacekeepers in the field, however, remains limited. The Current Military Operations Service will continue to request quarterly updates from the field.

154<sup>a</sup> Addressing harmful information requires a multidimensional approach. The Department of Peace Operations is supporting peacekeeping missions in the establishment of monitoring, analysis and response systems and integrated working groups. Capacity-building support was provided to MINUSCA, MONUSCO, UNMISS, UNISFA, UNFICYP and UNMIK, and had been provided to MINUSMA before its withdrawal. Several missions have begun regular reporting on harmful information.

The Department of Peace Operations has enhanced its support for monitoring and analysis activities in Mali, Abyei and the Central African Republic to fill capacity gaps. Regular engagement with key stakeholders, including Member States, civil society and technology platforms, was ongoing. The strategic communications unit established by MINURSO continued to implement its communications strategy, using social media to reach identified key audiences to highlight the work of the peacekeepers and their contribution to regional stability. United Nations-supported radios in South Sudan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Central African Republic are providing accurate information about mission mandates and guarding against disinformation.

A new draft policy on information integrity and addressing misinformation, disinformation, mal-information and hate speech in peacekeeping provided strategic-level guidance and a clear framework detailing approaches, procedures, workflows, and roles and responsibilities. The policy also informed training sessions for peacekeepers at several levels. Periodic technical training for personnel involved in monitoring, analysis and response efforts was provided. Comprehensive training modules have been developed and delivered in person to five peacekeeping missions. Predeployment training for uniformed personnel and a reinforcement training package for staff officers and commanders have been finalized. A review of relevant uniformed capabilities will be conducted in the latter half of 2024.

155 MINUSCA, MONUSCO and MINUSMA provided technical assistance and capacity-building support to their respective host countries for the implementation of Security Council resolution [2589 \(2021\)](#) on accountability for crimes against peacekeepers. This included advisory support, logistical assistance for investigations, forensic support, assistance for the collection and preservation of evidence, specialized training and assistance for the organization of trials. Additional support is required to provide the full range of assistance needed to host countries to implement their responsibilities under resolution [2589 \(2021\)](#), including through the possible establishment of standby arrangements of specialized investigation and prosecution experts. Support was also provided by the Secretariat to the Group of Friends to Promote Accountability for Crimes against Peacekeepers.

A strategic action plan on accountability for crimes against peacekeepers (2023–2026) was adopted by the Secretariat in December 2023.

A database on accountability for crimes against peacekeepers, as mandated under resolution [2589 \(2021\)](#), was made available to Member States in September 2024.

Missions will include in their transition plans options to transfer, as appropriate, to the relevant United Nations entity such tasks and functions, including as part of their cooperation with the Secretariat.

The first formal meeting between the working group on accountability for serious crimes against peacekeepers and interested Member States is scheduled to take place in 2024.

156 The relevant Secretariat entities are revising the standard operating procedure.

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157 Please refer to the status of recommendation 196 in the Secretariat's online repository of recommendations of the Special Committee for 2023.

A briefing to the Special Committee will be delivered prior to its next substantive session.

158 Please refer to the status of recommendation 197 in the Secretariat's online repository of recommendations of the Special Committee for 2023.

159 The Secretariat has taken note of this recommendation and relayed it to peacekeeping operations missions.

The Secretariat and peacekeeping missions established a common set of categories of status-of-forces agreement incidents, which was used to design a harmonized documentation mechanism for status-of-forces agreement-related incidents. These categories were integrated into the Situational Awareness Geospatial Enterprise database, which serves as a common platform for the systematic documentation and analysis of violations of status-of-forces agreements. The tracking system has been rolled out across nine peacekeeping missions. Further refinements may be made based on lessons learned.

The Secretariat will provide an update to the Special Committee prior to its next substantive session.

160 The accommodations standards are included in a draft engineering support manual that is pending approval.

161 The Secretariat takes note of the recommendation.

162<sup>a</sup> To provide the military components of United Nations peacekeeping missions with a strategic framework for the development of contingency plans, the Office of Military Affairs has established a planning cell to revise and/or review existing military concepts of operations and develop exit concepts of operations, in coordination with relevant departments and missions, for all applicable United Nations peacekeeping operations. These exit concepts of operations will enable missions' headquarters to develop contingency plans for possible scenarios. UNIFIL and UNDOF have contingency plans approved by their respective force commanders.

The Office of Military Affairs has initiated the review of all concepts of operations through a rigorous and collaborative review by all stakeholders to ensure that these documents are comprehensive and meet United Nations established doctrine, policy and guidelines. In addition, the Office ensures that policies, doctrines and guidance materials are consulted using a focal point group on guidance so that they are coherent and consistent with strategic directives and other guidelines produced across the United Nations Secretariat.

The requested briefing will be provided.

## IX. Women and peace and security

166<sup>a</sup> The Department of Peace Operations continued to provide technical and strategic support to missions to enhance the integration of gender across the implementation of mandates. A revised policy on gender-responsive United Nations peacekeeping operations was adopted and rolled out to missions, and leadership task forces, such as those in the Department of Peace Operations and UNIFIL, contributed to accountability and gender-responsive leadership. The Action for Peacekeeping Plus framework and the Comprehensive Planning and Performance Assessment System in missions monitor the integration of women and peace and security and gender-specific considerations into priority areas to increase accountability for gender-responsive outcomes; however, more comprehensive gender analysis is needed.

The Department of Peace Operations and missions continued to build partnerships with women's civil society organizations and host Governments, for example on election awareness-raising campaigns in the Central African Republic, trust-building efforts in Cyprus, the national action plan on women, peace and security of Lebanon and the constitution-making process in South Sudan, with the aim of increasing women's full, equal and meaningful participation in peace and political processes. UNMISS, MONUSCO and MINUSCA convened regular meetings with women's civil society organizations, creating platforms for them to inform mandate delivery.

Strategic communications initiatives were used to amplify the voices of women and report on progress made on women and peace and security.

167<sup>a</sup> Gender expertise was included in the electoral needs assessment conducted in the Central African Republic in June 2024, resulting in strong gender recommendations with regard to United Nations electoral assistance support.

On transitions, a practice note on gender-responsive transitions was developed. Gender experts from MONUSCO and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) worked closely to integrate gender and women and peace and security concepts into the road map for the Mission's withdrawal from South Kivu. In February 2024, the Department of Peace Operations and Mission senior leadership met with women who expressed concerns about the withdrawal of United Nations forces from South Kivu in the absence of a State presence that could provide security.

168<sup>a</sup> During the reporting period, the United Nations made progress towards gender parity in peacekeeping, with women making up 33 per cent of civilian personnel, up from 31 per cent during the previous period. This growth is largely due to targeted recruitment efforts. In 2023, 13 selections were made from the pool of candidates in the senior women talent pipeline, comprising the highest annual number ever.

Supporting these gains are retention initiatives such as the establishment of a dedicated coordination team on mental health and well-being. In addition, the 2023/24 mobility exercise offered staff the opportunity to change duty stations, and one third of the reassigned participants from peacekeeping entities were women.

The Department of Peace Operations met the 2023 targets of the uniformed gender parity strategy 2018–2028 for all personnel categories except military contingents.

As at 31 December 2023, female government-provided personnel represented 44.4 per cent of deployed justice and corrections officers. As of March 2024, half of the MINUSCA corrections team leaders were women (10 out of 20). In MONUSCO, 9 of 14 corrections team leaders were women. In November 2023, the second corrections officer recruitment exercise in Kenya doubled the number of rostered female corrections officers available for deployment from 32 to 64.

The 2024 Trailblazer Award for Women Justice and Corrections Officers recognized the outstanding contributions of female justice and corrections government-provided personnel.

As at 1 August 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. However, progress towards gender parity is very tenuous and easily reversible, requiring continuous outreach and support. The heads of mission positions in the four military-led peacekeeping operations are all encumbered by men. In all but a few instances, Member States have nominated only men for these posts.

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The United Nations has mainstreamed gender considerations throughout its selection process and instituted additional outreach efforts, including through the Secretary-General's 2024 global call for nominations for candidates for special representatives, deputy special representatives and special envoys of the Secretary-General in United Nations field missions. In addition, leadership support activities for current senior leaders have been strengthened.

169<sup>a</sup> The Secretariat and peacekeeping operations have taken concrete steps to continuously identify challenges and obstacles to the increased deployment of women, such as cross-component and mission-specific surveys, focus group discussions with female peacekeepers and gender focal points and in-mission structured feedback. Findings from qualitative data collection among policewomen note that inappropriate hygiene facilities and the lack of portable toilets affect women's ability to participate in short- and long-distance patrols or co-locate with counterparts.

The second corrections officer recruitment exercise in Kenya used innovative and gender-sensitive assessment methodologies, creating an environment to share best practices and enhance South-South cooperation.

The Elsie Initiative for Women in Peace Operations in field missions, in its sixth year, aims at improving working and living conditions in the field (see item 175 below for more details).

An action plan for supply chain management launched in January 2024 incorporates gender considerations into a wide range of goods and services essential to field operations.

The requested update will be provided to the Special Committee.

170<sup>a</sup> The creation of enabling environments for all peacekeepers, and women in particular, was prioritized. Structured exchanges between female officers and leadership to discuss concerns and provide feedback served as an important step to promote gender-responsive leadership.

In 2023, the Department of Peace Operations conducted outreach with female government-provided personnel as part of ongoing efforts to revitalize the United Nations Women Corrections Officers Network.

Increased support mechanisms provided through internal mission-level women's networks and gender focal points served to amplify women's voices and provide advice to senior management. A number of missions held gender bias and sexual harassment training sessions and workshops. Relevant training and guidance material is being developed.

The Department of Peace Operations launched a pilot network for uniformed women peacekeepers in UNMISS in November 2023 to connect female military, police, justice and corrections personnel to provide peer support and exchange deployment experiences. More than 26 per cent (409) of uniformed women deployed to UNMISS have signed up for the network (against an initial target of 10 per cent). The network allowed for a better understanding of uniformed women's deployment experiences and elevated issues and support needs.

171 Missions made efforts to prevent and respond to all forms of violence against women. Gender-responsive patrolling by United Nations police and peacekeeping missions' military components helped address women's particular protection needs, for example by deploying patrols along women's mobility patterns. Women were engaged to inform the missions about early warning signs and women's protection needs. In response to the impacts of armed group activity on women's security, MONUSCO strengthened community alert networks. In Kosovo, UNMIK supported the establishment of an interministerial coordinating group on domestic violence, established an inter-ethnic women's shelter in northern Kosovo, and raised awareness on gender-based violence and child marriage in 17 municipalities.

Missions mandated to support elections have made efforts to prevent violence against women in elections. In the Central African Republic, MINUSCA ensured that the integrated plan for the securitization of elections signed with the Government included specific protection measures for women, such as rehabilitating an emergency hotline to manage and respond to security threats against women voters and candidates. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, during elections in 2023, MONUSCO supported the creation of a network of women electoral observers to monitor electoral operations and cases of violence against women. During the post-election period, MONUSCO supported the Minister for Gender, Family and Children in the adoption of a road map for the prevention and response to electoral violence against women. Lessons learned from this experience were exchanged among gender advisers from all peacekeeping missions.

172 Peacekeeping missions continued to support host States to ensure women's participation in rule of law institutions. In the area of corrections, MONUSCO supported the operationalization of gender desks in two priority prisons in Kinshasa, and UNMISS continued to conduct training sessions on gender-mainstreaming in prison management and facilitated the creation of a network for female prison officers in Jonglei State to serve as a platform to engage with prison management on challenges faced by female prison officers. Female corrections officers in MINUSCA helped establish the Central African Republic prison service's first all-women rapid intervention team. UNMISS and partners facilitated a workshop on gender stereotypes and women's empowerment in advance of a customary law review conference with the aim of encouraging the repeal of discriminatory practices.

173 UNMISS facilitated the establishment and gradual extension throughout the country of security sector women's networks, and partnered with several United Nations entities to bolster women's participation in security sector leadership, in line with the 35 per cent quota stipulated in the Revitalized Agreement. MINUSCA secured the integration of provisions on women's recruitment, living conditions and merit-based appointment to command positions into the national defence policy and organized workshops for defence and security personnel responsible for monitoring and reporting incidents of sexual and gender-based violence. MONUSCO supported the national armed forces in conducting a sensitization campaign at universities and training centres in Bunia, Bukavu and Goma to encourage female students to join the national army and thus break cultural barriers. MONUSCO also facilitated a workshop for a women's advisory group for security sector reform set up by the Ministry of Gender, Family and Children to help address women's underrepresentation in national security policymaking.

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.

174 The Secretariat published the report entitled "Towards equal opportunity for women in the defence sector", which was developed to address recommendation 17 of the report of the Secretary-General on strengthening security sector reform ([S/2022/280](#)). Member States are encouraged to take advantage of the findings and recommendations in that report to further equal opportunity for women in defence sectors.

175<sup>a</sup> Now in its sixth year, the Elsie Initiative for Women in Peace Operations aims at improving working and living conditions in the field. Based on the latest biannual reporting cycle conducted from August 2023 to January 2024, on average 40 per cent of living accommodations, 53 per cent of ablutions units, 40 per cent of recreational spaces and 43 per cent of camp layouts in 13 field missions reflect gender-responsive design recommendations. The Initiative has expanded its scope into mental well-being, physical well-being, privacy and social interactions. An action plan for supply chain management launched in January 2024 incorporates gender considerations into a wide range of goods and services essential to field operations.

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176 As requested by the Special Committee, the Justice and Corrections Service is currently planning for the implementation of an expanded iteration of the corrections officer recruitment exercise to include both female and male candidates, and additional modules on gender advocacy and responsiveness. The extrabudgetary proposal to fund this endeavour is included in the annual appeal to donors by the Department of Peace Operations for 2025.

177 The development of a women's military peace operations course has served as a strong initiative to assist with the development of a talent pool of women who are motivated and prepared to deploy to future United Nations missions.

178 The Department of Peace Operations continued to strengthen the participation of uniformed women in peace operations and met the 2023 targets of the uniformed gender parity strategy 2018–2028 for all personnel categories except military contingents. Through strategic partnerships with troop- and police-contributing countries, the Department of Peace Operations is strengthening targeted capacity-building for uniformed women and building talent pipelines for women, such as: (a) the recently updated command development courses for United Nations policewomen, which have so far benefited over 200 senior women police officers; and (b) the second regional corrections officer recruitment exercise in Kenya.

Outreach with female government-provided personnel continued as part of ongoing efforts to revitalize the United Nations Women Corrections Officers Network.

179<sup>a</sup> As of January 2024, of the 11 peacekeeping missions, 7 had gender units, with a total of 40 civilian gender advisers or gender affairs officers, including three senior gender advisers (P-5). The Department of Peace Operations had seven gender advisers and officers, including one senior gender adviser. Among the missions, there were 9 police gender advisers and 18 military gender advisers. At Headquarters, some posts are reliant on extrabudgetary funding, or gratis personnel, while in missions such posts have been mostly abolished owing to a lack of funding. In addition, there were 3 senior women protection advisers (P-5) and 15 women protection advisers, including 4 gratis personnel in missions. There were approximately 53 civilian gender focal points across missions, and 48 at Headquarters.

Across missions and at Headquarters there were approximately 180 police gender focal points and 323 military gender focal points. Most of the civilian senior gender advisers reported directly to heads of mission.

Civilian gender advisers provided capacity-building for gender focal points. The Department of Peace Operations collaborated with the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) in offering an online self-paced training-of-trainers course for 19 gender affairs advisers/officers/gender focal points in peacekeeping missions.

The Department of Peace Operations supported Member States in ensuring the delivery of predeployment training by integrating gender perspectives and women and peace and security priorities into all training materials. At the annual conference of the International Association of Peacekeeping Training Centres, held in Kenya in November 2023, the Department of Peace Operations provided a briefing on women and peace and security in peace operations and held a panel discussion.

Military gender advisers and the broader gender architecture have to deliver on several competing but mutually supporting mandates. This, coupled with a shortfall in training and experience, can lead to risks in how effectively a gender perspective is integrated. To address this, guidance documents were developed, online training for military gender advisers and focal points was made available and a specific course was developed.

The Secretariat is currently updating its predeployment training materials for government-provided corrections personnel. Efforts were made to improve gender sensitivity and responsiveness through the assistance of a gender consultant and testing performed by gender experts from UNITAR and the Swedish Prison and Probation Service.

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180<sup>a</sup> The Department of Peace Operations has promoted gender-responsive leadership through workshops and sessions such as a United Nations-European Union webinar on gender-responsive leadership in July 2024, and discussions at the annual Heads of Military Components Conference.

A community of practice for gender focal points and other personnel at Headquarters and the mission level was launched in 2022, and at the time of writing comprised 328 members. In May 2024, a webinar was held to discuss how the United Nations system could advance tangible results in women's participation in peacemaking, peacekeeping and peacebuilding by 2030.

The Department of Peace Operations facilitates regular inter-mission learning sessions with gender advisers and officers, including on elections, gender backlash, data and digitalization, gender financing and the tracking of gender funding.

UNMISS engaged the National Elections Commission, the National Constitutional Review Commission and the Political Parties Council of South Sudan in a cross-mission learning exercise with MONUSCO, MINUSCA and the African Union on women's participation in electoral processes.

The Department of Peace Operations has developed several practice notes and documents on lessons learned, including an annual report on women and peace and security. An options paper on advancing tangible results on women's participation in peacemaking, peacekeeping and peacebuilding by 2030 was jointly developed by the Department of Peace Operations, the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs and UN-Women.

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<sup>a</sup> More detailed information is available at the online repository of recommendations of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations, available at <https://peacekeeping.un.org/en/recommendations-of-special-committee-peacekeeping-operations-c34>.

<sup>b</sup> All references to Kosovo are to be understood in the context of Security Council resolution 1244 (1999).