

**Security Council**

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**Letter dated 2 September 2025 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i.
of the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Korea to the
United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

In its capacity as President of the Security Council for the month of September 2025, the Republic of Korea intends to organize a Security Council open debate on the theme “The future of peace operations: key issues, opportunities and challenges in the context of the review on the future of all forms of United Nations peace operations”, to be held on Tuesday, 9 September 2025.

In order to guide the discussions on this topic, the Republic of Korea has prepared a concept note (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would circulate the present letter and its annex as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Sangjin **Kim**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.



Annex to the letter dated 2 September 2025 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Concept note for the Security Council open debate on the theme “The future of peace operations: key issues, opportunities and challenges in the context of the review on the future of all forms of United Nations peace operations”, to be held on 9 September 2025

I. Background and objectives of discussions

The Republic of Korea, in collaboration with Denmark and Pakistan, will host a Security Council open debate on peacekeeping on 9 September 2025, on the theme “The future of peace operations: key issues, opportunities and challenges in the context of the review on the future of all forms of United Nations peace operations”.

Over the past eight decades, United Nations peacekeeping operations have been deployed to more than 50 countries across the globe as one of the most tangible and effective tools the Security Council has with which to maintain international peace and security. United Nations special political missions – civilian missions with political mandates – have also been deployed since the early years of the Organization, having worked in close to 100 countries and territories. Their mandates and structures vary considerably and continue to evolve.

Utilizing a broad range of configurations and mandates, United Nations peace operations have a proven track record of success, including the ability to shorten conflict duration, support political solutions to conflict, protect civilians and prevent conflict spillover. At the same time, the increasing complexities of conflict settings, financial constraints and broader changes in the geopolitical landscape require stakeholders to take a closer look at how United Nations peace operations can be adapted to face growing challenges.

While United Nations peace operations have long adapted to changing political and security environments, today, amid border-crossing conflicts and multifaceted challenges, the effectiveness and adaptability of missions are more crucial than ever. This was articulated by Member States in the Pact for the Future, in which States called upon the Secretary-General to undertake a review on the future of all forms of United Nations peace operations and to provide strategic and action-oriented recommendations for how the United Nations toolbox could be adapted to meet evolving needs.

While there is broad rhetorical consensus among Member States on the need for missions to be tailored and agile, more consideration is needed for how this should be operationalized in practice. In particular, efforts to improve the efficiency of missions should not be at the cost of core uniformed and civilian capacities and related mandates, like the protection of civilians, human rights, or the women and peace and security agenda, which are not only in line with the ideals of the Charter of the United Nations, but also strategically and politically necessary to build and sustain peace. At the same time, previous debates have also underlined that more attention should be paid to further strengthening the role of missions in contributing to the pacific settlement of disputes, including through the use of mediation, preventive diplomacy and the Secretary-General's good offices.

One year on from the adoption of the Pact, and against the backdrop of the review on the future of all forms of United Nations peace operations and the UN80 Initiative, the time is ripe to reflect on the progress made towards making United

Nations peace operations more tailored to responding to existing, emerging and future challenges.

Building on the signature open debate in March under Denmark's presidency and the briefing in July under Pakistan's presidency, this Security Council open debate will provide the Secretariat with an opportunity to further update Member States on the progress made on the review since the adoption of the Pact for the Future, and for Member States to articulate their views on what is needed to ensure that United Nations peace operations are fit for current and future challenges. Member States are also invited to reflect on what should be included in the Secretariat's review on the future of peace operations and how the review can best be framed and leveraged to improve the effectiveness of United Nations peace operations.

II. Guiding questions

- What steps are needed to ensure that United Nations peace operations are more agile and tailored to addressing current and future challenges?
- How can efforts to establish more targeted and achievable mandates be balanced with broader peacebuilding imperatives, including by leveraging the broader United Nations system? How can priorities like protection, gender and human rights remain prioritized across a range of mission types, including those with smaller footprints?
- With regard to the UN80 Initiative, what core capacities must be maintained in the field and within the Secretariat to ensure that missions can readily respond to a range of potential peace and security crises?
- What measures are needed to ensure that financial pressures/the liquidity crisis do not affect the performance of mandates, operational priorities and the safety, credibility and effectiveness of United Nations peace operations?
- How can the priorities outlined in the Action for Peacekeeping and Action for Peacekeeping Plus initiatives serve as a guidepost for the future of United Nations peacekeeping?
- How can United Nations peace operations further contribute to the pacific settlement of disputes, including through the use of mediation, preventive diplomacy and the Secretary-General's good offices?

III. Format and briefers

The open debate will be held in connection with the item entitled "Maintenance of international peace and security".

Member States that wish to participate will be able to do so under rule 37 of the provisional rules of procedure of the Security Council and should register their speakers through the e-Speakers module on e-deleGATE+. Registration will open at 9.30 a.m. on 4 September 2025, and Member States need to upload a letter from their Permanent Representative or Chargé d'affaires addressed to the President of the Security Council.

Briefers will include:

- The Under-Secretary-General for Peace Operations, Jean Pierre Lacroix
- The Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, Rosemary DiCarlo

- The Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission (to be confirmed)
 - The Director of Research and Head of the Brian Urquhart Center for Peace Operations at the International Peace Institute, Jenna Russo
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