



Concept Note
Regional Conference on
Enhancing the Performance of Peacekeeping Operations: From Mandate to Exit
18-19 November 2018
Cairo, Egypt

Overview

Peacekeeping missions are facing increasing pressure to adapt to riskier and more volatile environments. Today, more than two thirds of UN peacekeepers are operating in complex settings, characterized by asymmetric threats, large-scale humanitarian crises, and ongoing violence. This has greatly impacted their ability to operate safely in mission areas and carry out mandated tasks. And with the mounting pressures on budgets, there are growing expectations for peacekeeping missions to use fewer resources to achieve better outcomes.

While recent reform initiatives have focused on strengthening uniformed capabilities, the operational realities on the ground call for a review of ‘whole-of-mission’ performance to ensure better design and delivery of peacekeeping, from mandate to exit. There is also a need for a clear political strategy to support mandate implementation, embedded in a comprehensive vision to achieving and sustaining peace. Indeed, this is a critical indicator for measuring the effectiveness of peacekeeping and for defining its continued and context-specific relevance.

With the above in mind, significant effort is underway in the UN to reform the peace and security architecture, and to make peacekeeping more fit for purpose. In addition to the ongoing reviews of eight peacekeeping operations, the Secretary General’s new initiative “Action for Peacekeeping (A4P)” is an important step in that direction. It refocuses peacekeeping around three key pillars, namely: aligning peacekeeping with realistic expectations; making missions stronger and safer; renewing commitment to political solutions and well-trained forces. It also calls on key stakeholders to ‘acknowledge and fulfill their respective roles’.

As a top troop- and police-contributing country, Egypt has been at the forefront of efforts to strengthen the effectiveness of peacekeeping operations. In addition to its unwavering commitment to deploy the required capabilities to UN peacekeeping operations, Egypt continues to play an active role in doctrinal and policy debates in the field of peacekeeping. During its recent membership of the UN Security Council (2016-2017), Egypt contributed to the development of detailed guidelines on the role of peacekeeping missions in sustaining peace, as outlined in Security Council Presidential Statement S/PRST/2017/27.

The High-level Regional Conference

To contribute to the ongoing peacekeeping reform initiatives in a manner that takes into account the views of all stakeholders, the Government of Egypt¹ and the Cairo International Center for Conflict Resolution, Peacekeeping, and Peacebuilding (CCCPA), with the support of international and regional partners (Governments of Japan, Norway and Canada, as well as the United Nations Development Programme and UN Women) will organize a high-level regional conference in November 2018 in Egypt, titled:

“Enhancing the Performance of Peacekeeping Operations: From Mandate to Exit”

¹ A joint initiative of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Defense and Interior in collaboration with the CCCPA.



Norwegian Ministry
of Foreign Affairs

Canada





The conference will provide a platform for officials from top troop- and police-contributing countries from Africa and the Arab World to share their views on strengthening UN Peacekeeping, by addressing key strategic and operational dimensions of performance across the various components of missions, including planning, leadership, readiness and capacities. It will also provide an opportunity to exchange views with officials from top financial contributing countries, international and regional organizations, and mission leaders. Specifically, the conference deliberations will address the following issues:

- **Peacekeeping Mandates: From Design to Exit**
- **Preparedness of Mission Personnel and Senior Mission Leadership: Training, Capacity-Building, Enablers, Conduct and Discipline**
- **Safety and Security of Peacekeepers**
- **Integrated Mission Performance
(Joint Analysis, Role of the Police Component and Enhancing Female Participation)**

Participation

The High-level meeting will bring together high-level government officials from Troop-/Police-Contributing Countries (T/PCCs), financial contributors, representatives of international and regional organizations (including the United Nations, African Union, and the League of Arab States), as well as mission leaders. Major African, Arab and international research and training centers, as well as leading scholars, experts, and practitioners will be invited to contribute “think pieces” ahead of the conference, and to present their findings at the conclusion of the official high-level segment.

Date and Location

18-19 November 2018
Cairo, Egypt

Outcome

A Chairman’s Summary of Discussion will be generated and submitted as a contribution to the ongoing peacekeeping reform initiatives. A political document reflecting the key outcomes of the discussions may also be considered, as appropriate and feasible.

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