Executive Summary

This Current and Emerging Uniformed Capability Requirements Paper is focused on the types of pledges of uniformed and related capabilities that are requested of Member States in association with the upcoming Peacekeeping Ministerial, to be held on 7 and 8 December 2021 in Seoul, Korea.

The Seoul UN Peacekeeping Ministerial will be the latest in a series of meetings at head of state, government or ministerial level held since 2014 on United Nations Peacekeeping. Past meetings have focused primarily on generating and enhancing uniformed capabilities while also considering broader peacekeeping reform priorities, with an emphasis on concrete deliverables and targets, such as increasing the deployment of women peacekeepers. The objective of the 2021 Ministerial is to strengthen UN peacekeeping, including by improving the performance and impact of UN peacekeeping operations in line with A4P+; and to further this objective, close capability gaps through concrete pledges, including by facilitating new and sustainable partnerships while strengthening existing ones.

Based on the A4P and A4P+ priorities, and the regular assessment conducted by the Secretariat, the paper aims to provide information on mid to long-term critical uniformed capability needs in our field missions, current gaps and other opportunities, such as training and capacity building, for Member States to contribute to UN operations by providing concrete offers to the Peacekeeping Capability Readiness System (PCRS). Additional information on possible Ministerial pledges will be provided through a separate, comprehensive pledging guide.

We urge Member States to consider early pledging of units that are in high demand and low supply, such as helicopter units, cargo/combi fixed wing aircraft, unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) units, and quick reaction force companies. It is important to highlight that when a pledge is made as part of the Secretariat’s strategic force/police generation process, no immediate commitment from the T/PCC to deploy the pledge is required, nor does the Secretariat promise to deploy any pledged capability. Rather, the process facilitates the UN’s understanding of the T/PCC’s peacekeeping capabilities as well as the T/PCC’s understanding of UN
requirements and standards, with an aim to expedite the mission-specific force and police generation process and to allow the Secretariat to make more informed deployment selection decisions.

On 1 July, the PCRS will start a new cycle for the United Nations Peacekeeping Fiscal Year 21/22. Member States with registered pledges have already received an automated reminder and are requested to confirm the continued availability of their PCRS pledges or delete them. It is a simple process of confirmation in the PCRS website without the need to re-enter any information or documents. Detailed instructions can be found in the PCRS Users Guideline.

I. TRAINING

Training is a shared responsibility between the Member States and the UN Secretariat. It is the UN Secretariat’s responsibility to provide policies, standards and training materials, but to allow a better understanding these framework materials, Member States are relied upon to host the rollout of new and updated materials. PCCs are encouraged to pledge to conduct the regional rollout of the new Individual Police Officers Standard Training Material (STM) in three different events/regions: Africa; Asia and South East Asia/Pacific; and Latin America.

There is also a requirement for pledges by national training institutions to host Trainers of Trainers rollout of new and revised training materials. In particular, we need offers to host the rollouts of the peacekeeping military intelligence and UN infantry battalion STMs from one European Member State, two African Member States, one Latin American Member State, and two Asian Member States. The same distribution is required for pledges to host and financially support 50/50 male/female UN Military Observer course and 50/50 male/female UN Staff Officer course. We would also be grateful if T/PCC could provide pledges of one qualified subject matter expert to support the development of thematic training materials, in particular for the UN Force Protection STM. Lastly, to expand the comprehension of military and police training materials, we require pledges to support their translation, especially into Arabic, French and Spanish.

II. CAPACITY BUILDING

The Secretariat requests that pledges related to capacity building are focused on supporting other Member States to create sustainable force generation, training, deployment, learning structures and procedures. Understanding the recipient’s needs and tailoring the support is crucial for the success of these efforts that should generate future performance and mandate delivery improvements.

The Secretariat is looking for Member States to pledge targeted capacity-building assistance to current or potential T/PCCs that can be coordinated by the Light Coordination Mechanism (LCM). Member States looking to provide these partnerships can contact Mr. Herbert Loret (loret@un.org).

The Secretariat also welcomes capacity building pledges that can be delivered through DOS Triangular Partnership Programme (TPP) in key peacekeeping capability areas including, but not limited to, engineering, medical, C4ISR (Command, Control, Communications, Computers, Intelligence, Surveillance and
Reconnaissance), air operations, aircraft management and, airfield/runway rehabilitation. The Secretariat would also welcome innovative pledges that can meet established needs. On this note, the Secretariat has identified gaps in capabilities and experiences related to night vision device operations in its deployed aviation units. This is not only in aircrew capability and tactics, but in the development of an overall and sustainable capability that can maintain and develop aircrew proficiency.

Providing access to equipment and the ability to maintain it, supporting the professional development of cadres and creating training structures, both physical and conceptual, are some examples of meaningful and impactful capacity building projects.

III. MISSION-SPECIFIC UNIT GAPS

Member States can directly support filling outstanding requirements through mission-specific pledges in the PCRS and going through an expedited Assessment and Advisory Visit process to confirm the readiness and preparedness of the pledge against the Statement of Unit Requirements prior to a final selection and invitation for deployment.

The list of mission-specific gaps remains dynamic and will change as T/PCCs make pledges and they are accepted for deployment, or the missions revise their capability requirements.

MINUSMA and MINUSCA are currently the missions where no PCRS pledges are available, or pledges available did not meet the missions’ requirements, or T/PCCs with pledges do not wish to deploy. Member States are recommended to contact DPO’s Force Generation Service and/or Police Division for real-time updates or for more details, and then engage the PCRS manager to register the pledge. The below table provides the current gaps in both these missions that require pledges from Member States.

**MINUSMA**
3 x MUH units with AMET;  
1 x Armed Helicopter unit;  
1 x Attack Helicopter unit;  
1 x Quick Reaction Force (QRF) Coy; and  
Forward surgical capabilities, such as FMT and/or LMSM.

**MINUSCA**
1 x QRF Coy;  
1 x Bridge Engineering Coy;  
1 x Attack/Armed Helicopter unit; and  
5 x UAS (Class II) units.

NB: Gaps are only removed from this list when existing pledges are officially accepted by DPO
IV. GENERAL CAPABILITIES

Military units

The operational scenario in many of our missions requires specific high-end capabilities with quick tactical response to threats, especially in support of the protection of civilians.

TCCs are requested to pledge the following military capabilities: quick reaction forces at company level; recce units at company level; medium utility helicopter units with night operations and CASEVAC/MEDEVAC capabilities; passenger, cargo and combi fixed wing; attack and/or armed helicopter units with night operations capabilities; unmanned aerial systems (UAS) with short runway operations or vertical take-off and landing (VTOL) type, surgical mobile capabilities and EOD/EIDD units at platoon or company levels. In addition, field missions require particular equipment deployed as part of the maneuvering units to support better mandate implementation and the safety and security of troops. Chief among these requests is the need for Armed Armoured Personnel Carriers (APCs) with stronger blast protection/mine resistance (10kg) and High-Mobility Light Tactical Vehicles.

Police units

PCCs should consider pledging well-trained and equipped Formed Police Units with embedded SWAT teams, K-9 capabilities, riverine units or teams of experts in police maritime operations which could be embedded to FPU and Police Guard units. Francophone units are in particular demand.

Rapid Deployment

The Secretariat requires special attention and support from T/PCCs with units registered at PCRS Level 2 and above to pledge their units to the Rapid Deployment Level. Pledges of capacity-building support to assist T/PCCs to maintain units on the RDL would also greatly facilitate this process. Police Division is also looking for a platoon or company size quick reaction police force (QRPF) for immediate deployment under emergencies.
Gender

Key to the success of our mandate implementation is the participation of women at all levels in the UN’s military and police components, both as individuals as well as part of formed contingents. All T/PCCs are asked to pledge to achieve the Secretary-General’s Uniformed Gender Parity Strategy targets for 2022 and deploy a minimum women representation of 19% of UNMEM and SOs; 9% of contingent troops; 23% of IPO; and 12% of FPU. All Infantry Battalions and Companies that are deployed in missions with protection of civilians responsibilities should include Engagement Platoons/Teams composed of 50 percent men and 50 percent women.

Environment

In support of the Environment Strategy for Field Missions, and with the objective of achieving its vision in relation to environmental management in peace operations by 2023, Member States – both T/PCC as well as capacity builders – are requested to pledge to support these efforts.

Most power currently used by UN Peace Operations is produced by diesel generators. While providing a flexible and low upfront cost energy solution, these diesel generators contribute almost half of the UN Secretariat’s total Greenhouse Gas emissions. Phase two of the DOS environment strategy (available from dos-ousg-env@un.org) sets out a number of pathways for improvement, including an increase in the deployment of renewable energy solutions by T/PCCs.

In addition to reducing the carbon footprint of T/PCCs and the UN as a whole, renewable energy solutions can bring other practical benefits to field operations, including: increased self-sustainment capacity of T/PCCs and UN camps, decreasing fuel supply convoys, relieving the burden on escorts and convoy protection (especially in areas with asymmetric attacks) and increasing the capacity to perform substantive tasks; and increased safety, security and health of the contingents, with reduced fire hazards as well as noise, air and soil pollution.

A number of mechanisms are available for Member States to contribute renewable energy to UN Missions, including through MOUs, with reimbursement rates having been introduced in the 2017 amendment of the COE Manual. The upcoming Peacekeeping Ministerial in the Republic of Korea, coming shortly after the launch by DOS of phase two of its Environment Strategy for peace operations, represents a good opportunity to bring renewable energy solutions to the forefront.

Potential pledges include:
1. Member States with formed units can pledge to pilot a deployment with renewable capacity at one or more locations (a table of options in terms of solution design is available upon request, and DOS can provide assistance in selecting appropriate locations);
2. Member States can pledge to provide bilateral capacity-building support to one or more T/PCCs for the T/PCCs to deploy with renewable capacity; and
3. Member States can pledge to contribute a large scale (~MW scale) hybrid or autonomous photovoltaic and battery system to provide power to several co-located T/PCC units and/or UN staff in large UN sites.

DOS can provide technical support to Member States in scoping and analysis to identify pilot opportunities, as well as in system solutions and engineering design. Discussion can be facilitated on reimbursement modalities, transportation, training, and other considerations. Please contact dos-ousg-envs@un.org for more information.

IV. PCRS PLEDGES

PCRS must have a diverse number of pledges of different capabilities placed at the system’s different levels. This provides options to better formulate force and police generation and deployment plans in support of existing or new missions. The early pledging and assessment and advisory process is critical for the success of the system.

Special attention and support are required from T/PCCs with pledges registered at PCRS Level 2 and above to make their offers available for the Rapid Deployment Level. Since 2019, seven military and police pledges were deployed from the RDL or used to be upgraded for deployment, showing the ability of the Organization to respond in the shortest possible time to field missions’ request. To achieve this capacity, the RDL must be completely filled, and some units must be in the pipeline to replace units that have been deployed from the RDL. Recent planning and deployment data indicate that it is recommended to have the following minimum critical pledges made and elevated at the different levels of the PCRS.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of units</th>
<th>Ideal # of pledges at PCRS Levels 2, 3 and RDL</th>
<th># of units in PCRS Level 2</th>
<th># of units in PCRS Level 3</th>
<th># of units in PCRS RDL</th>
<th>Number of new pledges required</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Infantry Battalions</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>6</td>
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<td>Infantry Company/Platoon</td>
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<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Recce Company</td>
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<td>0</td>
<td>4</td>
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<td>Special Force Units/ groups</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quick Reaction Force (Coy)</td>
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<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Engineer Companies/ Platoons</td>
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<td>Demining/EOD Units</td>
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<td>Formed Police Units + SWAT (non-Francophone)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Formed Police Units + SWAT (Francophone)</td>
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<td>1*</td>
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<td>Police Guard Units</td>
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* All 3 FPUs with French language capacity are earmarked to deploy to MINUSCA.