CONCEPT NOTE

UN PEACEKEEPING MINISTERIAL: UNIFORMED CAPABILITIES, PERFORMANCE & PROTECTION
United Nations Headquarters, General Assembly Hall, New York

29 March 2019, 10:00-18:00

Co-hosts: United Nations, Bangladesh, Canada, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Japan, The Netherlands, Pakistan, Rwanda, Uruguay, United States and United Kingdom

Objectives

On 29 March 2019, ministers from around the world will gather at the UN Headquarters in New York to reaffirm their commitment to UN peacekeeping and discuss concrete ways their countries will work towards strengthening uniformed capabilities, performance and the protection of civilians in UN Peacekeeping in the coming year. Building on the success of previous meetings in this process, as well as the recent High-Level event on Action for Peacekeeping (A4P), the 2019 UN Peacekeeping Ministerial has three main objectives:

1) Continue to generate specialized, high-performing capabilities for UN peacekeeping to meet evolving needs and address new challenges, particularly high-capacity enablers, rapidly deployable capabilities, francophone units and more women peacekeepers;

2) Strengthen compliance with training and performance standards, including to address safety and security issues; and

3) Leverage political momentum and networks to assist the UN in its reform efforts, further galvanizing Member State support for implementation of A4P commitments.

Preparatory Conferences

Three preparatory conferences were held in advance of the 2019 Ministerial.
- In December, Montevideo was the scene of a preparatory meeting hosted by the Governments of Uruguay and the United Kingdom, focused on the topic of training
and capacity-building. Participants there were asked to provide concrete proposals to help prepare deliverables and pledges related to training and capacity-building that could be announced at the Peacekeeping Ministerial. Discussion also centered on the UN’s recent efforts to better coordinate training and capacity-building partnerships among Member States.

- In mid-January, the governments of Rwanda and The Netherlands co-hosted a meeting in The Hague on the topics of performance and the protection of civilians. The aims of this meeting were to take stock of progress in improving the performance of peacekeeping, as well as the implementation of protection of civilians mandates; to report on the implementation of mutual commitments in the Action for Peacekeeping Declaration related to performance and protection; and to prepare for pledges for the Ministerial in terms of troops, police, and other forms of uniformed support to UN peace operations.

- Finally, in late January, Ethiopia and Canada co-hosted a meeting in Addis Ababa on Women, Peace and Security that focused on increasing women’s meaningful participation in peace and security efforts as well as identifying ways and means of enhancing the capacity of the United Nations, host countries, and troop and police contributing countries in their efforts to implement the WPS agenda in peace operations.

Agenda

Keynote speech: Secretary-General António Guterres
Introductory session: Member States with significant new pledges
Session 1: Training and capacity-building
Session 2: Performance
Session 3: Protection of civilians

Each session will be opened by a senior UN official, followed by statements by Member States. The key topic of Women, Peace, and Security will be mainstreamed throughout the 2019 Peacekeeping Ministerial. All participants who speak are invited to include information about their respective efforts in implementing the WPS-related A4P goals, including how they will increase their preparation and deployment of women peacekeepers.

Pledges

As in previous ministerials, Member States are invited to make concrete pledges of uniformed capabilities to fill identified gaps in UN Peacekeeping Operations, including through the provision of sustainable capacity-building and training programs. The Uniformed Capability Requirements for UN Peacekeeping Paper provides updated information on the types of pledges that are being sought for the Peacekeeping Ministerial. The latest paper can be accessed at pcrs.un.org. Capabilities not listed in the requirements paper should not be pledged.