



**Current and Emerging Uniformed Capability Requirements  
for United Nations Peacekeeping**

## Executive Summary

The 2021 Seoul UN Peacekeeping Ministerial took place virtually on 7 and 8 December as the latest in a series of high-level events since 2014 that have seen world leaders pledge substantial resources to strengthen UN Peacekeeping. Seventy-five Member States and two international organizations, including 45 Foreign and Defence Ministers, expressed their collective commitment to UN Peacekeeping. The offers made during the event were in line with the Secretary-General's Action for Peacekeeping (A4P) initiative—specifically within the seven priorities presented by the UN Secretary-General as part of A4P+, the implementation strategy to speed up progress on the initiative over the next two years.

As we move forward to assess and confirm these offers, significant work will be necessary to materialize them and make an impact in the peacekeeping environment. Special attention will be given to critical uniformed capabilities that were pledged and the need to elevate them in the Peacekeeping Capability Readiness System (PCRS) through the strategic Assessment and Advisory Visits (AAV). Only after a successful AAV is a unit considered for a new deployment selection process.

Throughout 2022, T/PCC support will be critical to not only elevate these new pledges, but also to replenish the PCRS with pledges at Level 2 and above. Since March 2020, 12 new units have fully deployed to missions leading to a total of 2,969 new troops and police on the ground. In addition, 25 military and police units are now earmarked/invited or are already in an advanced stage of generation for deployment, accounting for 5,839 troops and police to soon reach our missions. This generation effort has impacted our ability to keep a sufficient number of options in the PCRS at high readiness levels for future selections, in part because the number of AAVs has been heavily impacted by travel restrictions during the time considered. The table in page 7 shows the PCRS requirements by unit types for a competitive selection process in case a new medium to large mission is needed versus what is currently available in the system. As was the case prior to the pandemic, the Secretariat still has a critical shortage of utility and armed/attack helicopter units.

To maintain the positive momentum and commitments made by Member States, OMA and PD are finalizing plans to conduct in mid-2022 the Chiefs of Defense's Conference (CHODs) and the UN Chiefs of Police Summit (COPS) in the UNHQ.

### I. THE EVOLVING PEACEKEEPING ENVIRONMENT

United Nations peacekeeping operations face distinct challenges in implementing their mandates. The conflict landscape continues to be extremely volatile in certain missions, most notably in MINUSMA. Peacekeepers are

threatened by non-state armed groups employing asymmetric tactics, including improvised explosive devices, as well as direct attacks. In addition, misinformation and disinformation campaigns threaten to distort public perception of our work, make peacekeepers less safe and impede mandate implementation.



*Mongolian Inf Batt foot patrol in UNMISS*

The COVID-19 pandemic has made difficult times even more challenging. However, with the support of Member States and the resilience of our peacekeepers, our women and men on the ground have adhered to the necessary COVID-19 precautions and protocols, enabling continuous support of our host countries and their populations.

To address the military and police requirements in this operational environment, we continue to focus our efforts on the strategic generation of critical capabilities, the conduct of capacity-building through training and mentoring, and the introduction of new technologies.

## II. 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 of these framework materials, Member States are relied upon to host the rollout of new and updated materials.

In 2022, DPO will deliver training to PCCs in the new Individual Police Officers Standard Training Materials (STM) and three job specific police training programmes. Also, in 2022, DPO, in partnership with Member States, will deliver the new National Investigation Officer (NIO) training of trainer programmes. A minimum of four courses are planned during the year. The aim of the NIO courses is to build Member State capacity to train NIOs to UN standards. Effective NIO investigations are an essential element in the United Nations and Member States' commitment to respond to allegations of serious misconduct. Member States are strongly encouraged to ensure that their nominees for these courses are trainers who will remain in training functions for at least 12 months after attending the DPO-led courses.

DPO seeks offers from Member States to host and financially support 50/50 men/women UN Military Observer courses and 50/50 men/women UN Staff Officer courses. Ideally, Member States hosting these courses should fund all women participants. To increase the usability of military and police training materials, we require Member States to support their translation, especially into Arabic, French and Spanish.



*United Nations Senior National Planners Course – Thailand Dec 21*

Throughout 2022, we will develop new training material and revise existing material. To assist us, we would also be grateful if T/PCCs could provide pledges of one qualified subject matter expert to support the development of training materials in the following areas: Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance; Military Engineers; Staff Officers; Military Signals; CIMIC; Force Protection; and Core Pre-deployment Training Materials.

## II. CAPACITY BUILDING

The Secretariat is looking for Member States to pledge targeted capacity-building assistance (technical, financial, logistical (infrastructure) and equipment) 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 (loreh@un.org).

The LCM has recently released “The Deployment Review” mobile app, a mobile application specifically designed by the United Nations to make a knowledge sharing methodology accessible to all military and police personnel, training centres and academies. “The Deployment Review” mobile app is an effective, secure, and user-friendly way to optimize a Member State’s knowledge sharing practices and complement existing information-sharing systems. The app is currently available in English and will be released in French in early 2022. The LCM is seeking partners to translate this new tool into Arabic, Spanish, Russian and Chinese.



*The “Deployment Review” mobile app*

To deconflict training and capacity-building activities, we invite Member States to share, on a voluntary basis, their 2022 police and military peacekeeping related training and capacity building calendars with the LCM by 30 January 2022. A specific template has been prepared and is accessible in the PCRS [here](#).



*Heavy Engineering Equipment Operator Course*

The Department of Operational Support’s Triangular Partnership Programme (TPP) continued to strengthen the engineering, medical and technological capacities of uniformed peacekeepers in 2021 through the launch of new technology and remote learning initiatives, as well as resumption of several in-situ courses. In March, in cooperation with DHMOSH and OICT, the TPP Telemedicine Project was launched with pilots in MINUSMA, MINUSCA, MONUSCO and UNMISS. In September, in-situ training on engineering resumed in Nairobi, Kenya with two Heavy Engineering Equipment (HEE) courses (Intermediate and Training of Trainers) with site-specific COVID-19 mitigation measures in place. In November, C4ISR (Command, Control, Communications, Computers, Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance) in-situ courses also resumed with the

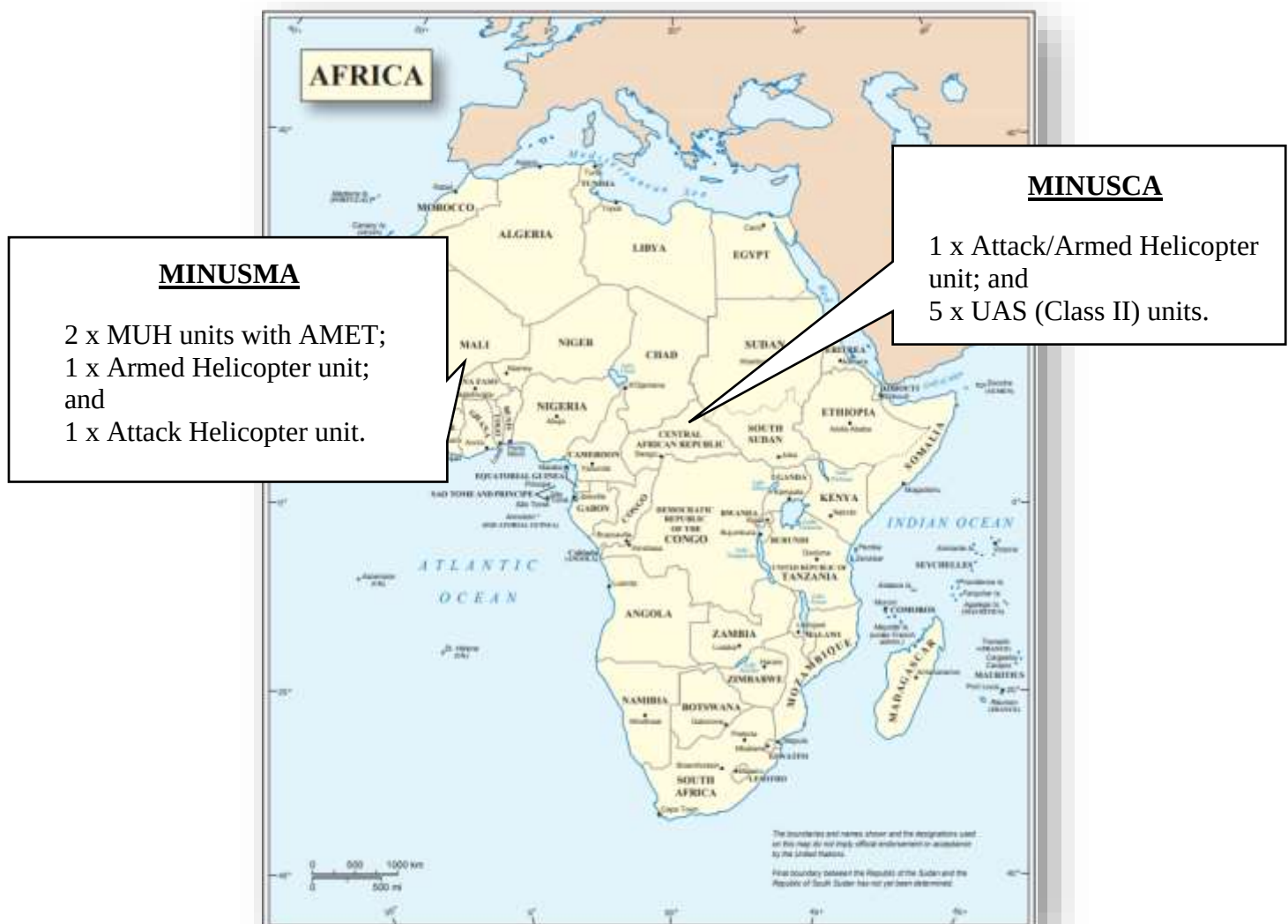
launch of the UN’s first UAS training in Entebbe, Uganda. Moreover, between November and December, the TPP successfully launched three new pilot remote training courses: the UN Environmental Management Course; Physical Security Infrastructure (PSI) Course; and the Construction Process Management (CPM) Course.

The TPP will continue to actively provide engineering, medical, and C4ISR training in English and French in 2022 through multiple training options (in-situ, remote, and mixed delivery) while exploring opportunities to further address capability gaps in airfield/runway rehabilitation and address gender gap in UN peacekeeping. Member States interested in training and partnership opportunities in key peacekeeping capability areas including, but not limited to, engineering, medical, C4ISR, and airfield/runway rehabilitation through TPP can contact Mr. Takakazu Ito (itot@un.org).

### III. MISSION-SPECIFIC UNIT GAPS

Member States can directly support filling outstanding requirements through mission-specific pledges in the PCRS and undergoing an expedited Assessment and Advisory Visit process to confirm the readiness and preparedness of the pledge against the mission specific 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. In most cases, once a requirement is received from a mission, the pledges at PCRS Levels 2 and above are the ones used to inform the selection process for deployment.

MINUSMA and MINUSCA are currently the missions with gaps for which no relevant 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.



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

## IV. GENERAL CAPABILITIES

### Military units

The unstable operational scenario, difficult terrain, and poor host nation infrastructure in many of our missions require specific high-end military capabilities with quick tactical response to threats, especially in support of the protection of civilians.

Technology and innovation are key to addressing challenges related to mandate implementation and force protection. Units with embedded operational capacity and modern equipment such as unmanned aerial systems (UAS) with short runway operations or vertical take-off and landing (VTOL) type, surgical mobile capabilities EOD/IEDD capacity (including jammers), armed armoured personnel carriers (APCs) with stronger blast protection/mine resistance (10kg) and high-mobility light tactical vehicles are critical to allow troops to safely circulate in their areas of operations to deliver mandated tasks particularly protection of civilians.



*High-mobility light tactical vehicles in MINUSCA*

Some military capabilities that are needed currently in our missions or are very likely to be needed in the near future are: 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; and EOD/EIDD units.

### Police units



*FPU Crowd Control capacity*

The operational environment in which field missions operate requires specific police capabilities. 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 in FPU and Police Guard units. Francophone units are in particular demand.

### Rapid Deployment

As also highlighted in the Executive Summary, there has been an increase in the use of military and police units at the Rapid Deployment Level (RDL) of the PCRS, and the Secretariat requires special attention and support from T/PCCs with units registered at PCRS Level 2 and 3 to pledge their units to the RDL.

Capacity-building support to assist T/PCCs to maintain units on the RDL would greatly facilitate this process. Police Division is also looking for a platoon or company



*Pakistan RDL Inf Batt deploying to UNISFA*

size quick reaction police force (QRPF) for immediate deployment under emergencies. Units at the PCRS RDL enable the Secretariat to quickly address capability gaps in existing or new missions.

## Gender

Participation of women at all levels in the UN's military and police components, both as individuals as well as part of formed contingents, is still an operational goal and part of the Secretary-General's Uniformed Gender Parity Strategy (UGPS).



*Woman Contingent Members*

On the military component, there was a good result in reaching the UGPS target of 18% for UNMEMs and Staff Officers in September. Unfortunately, TCCs still failed to close the gap of the troops/contingent target of 8%, with a minor increase observable in September and October. The total figure reached was only 5.5%. In light of the 2022 targets of 19% for UNMEMs and SOs and 9% for contingent members, attention and efforts on increasing the number of women deployed in contingents will be required by all contributors.

OMA, ITS, UNITAR, and the Gender Unit recently launched a self-paced Military Gender Advisor online course. The completion of this course will be necessary for candidates to be nominated for the positions of Military Gender Advisor and /or Military Gender Focal Point. Applicants can do the course at their own pace and have two months to complete it (from registration to completion). The only requirement is to have access to a computer and the internet. Below are French and English language versions of the course:



(English) [Military Gender Advisor Online Training | UNITAR](#)

(French) [Conseiller\(ère\) Militaire en Matière de Genre Formation En Ligne | UNITAR](#)

The police component has almost achieved in 2021 all the targets set for 2025 in the categories of Individual Police Officers and contracted posts in field missions and HQ. The figure for Formed Police Units is currently at 14.6%, just short of the 2025 goal of 15%.

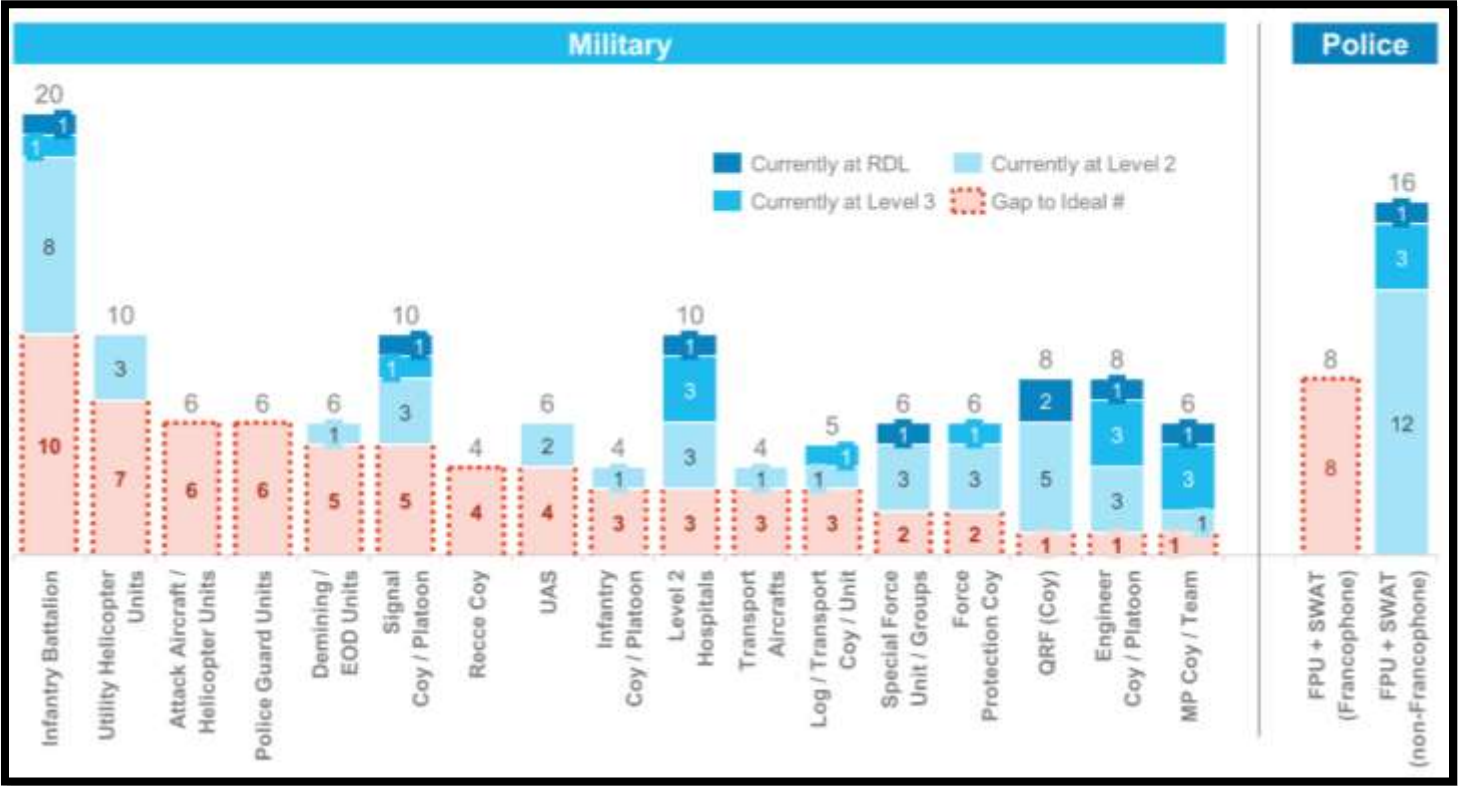
## IV. PCRS PLEDGES

With recent and ongoing force generation efforts, the PCRS must continue to have a diverse number of pledges of different capabilities at the system's different levels. This is what provides options to better formulate force and police generation and deployment plans in support of existing or new missions. As highlighted in the Executive Summary, the early pledging and assessment and advisory process is critical.

Since several units have been used from the PCRS in the last few months, there is a need to elevate critical units and some maneuvering units from Level 1 to Level 2 in the PCRS. 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, as units from this level have been used or are in process of being used for deployment. To

achieve this capacity, the RDL must be completely filled. The existing gaps for Medium Utility and Armed Helicopter units and the Transport unit require Member States’ support to be addressed. 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.

Shown: Total ideal # of pledges, broken down into current pledges + gaps



Not shown: Pledges at Level 1.  
Source: Uniformed Capability Requirements Paper, as-at September 2021