

Questions for all Member States

1. What are the main challenges confronting peace operations today and what challenges are expected to be faced by peace operations in the future?

- We concur with the challenges that have been widely identified, both by the UN secretariat and experts (including in SG reports and the October 2024 Independent Study).
- Two particularly grave challenges are the **recent flare ups of, on the one hand, (a return to) interstate wars and aggressions in violation of the Charter**, and on the other hand of **actions** (including the use of kinetic force against UN Peace Operations (UNPO), spreading mis- and disinformation about UNPOs, not living up to financial obligations towards the funding of UN Peace Operations) **by UN Member States against UN Peace Operations**. In addition to the human suffering they cause, these phenomena also erode the **legitimacy of the UN**, its instruments and multilateralism as a whole.

2. How can United Nations peace operations adapt in response to current and future challenges (e.g., in terms of political and substantive work, mandates, operational and administrative requirements, capacities)?

- **Enhance coordination efforts** (eg. establishing liaison officers, information sharing, enhance coordination on early warning, joint context analysis, information and assets sharing) **with other partners (including regional partners)** whose missions are deployed in the same area, and particularly in the field of **Security Sector Reform**.
- Conduct joint and **integrated planning** inside the mission at the lowest possible level.
- **Outreach** to the host communities should be held at all levels, including at the level of individual troops and UNPOL agents. Outreach also implies the use of local languages.
- Incorporate the spirit of partnership with, capacity building for, and the transfer of responsibilities to authorities of the host country. Every peace operation is *de facto* in transition. **National ownership and capacity building** are a guarantor for sustainability.

3. What could United Nations peace operations be expected and mandated to do in the future? Under what conditions are United Nations peace operations least likely to be effective in achieving their objectives? Under what conditions are United Nations peace operations most likely to achieve their objectives?

- BE strongly appreciates the willingness of the African Union to complement UN Peace Operations with Peace Enforcement operations that fall beyond the scope of the UN,

and strongly supports the allocation of UN Assessed Contributions to such African led-initiatives, on a case by case basis under the modalities included in UNSC Resolution 2719.

- Circumstances and security threats in the field notwithstanding, the success of UNPOs also depends on the **level of support and ownership by communities and authorities of the host State**. It is in this regard that the various modalities of dialogue with civil society actors (on the ground, through the PBC, via the Youth Office) offer opportunities for awareness and soft power, by highlighting respective responsibilities and avoiding blame exchanges and misinformation.

4. What could be the role of partnerships, with regional organizations, international financial institutions, or other actors, in future United Nations peace operations? What are the opportunities and challenges presented by partnerships, and what principles should underpin them?

- We align with many other Member States in firmly believing that regional organizations such as the European Union and the African Union are natural partners of the UN. UN peace operations, AU-led peace support operations, and EU CSDP missions are often deployed in the same host country.
- Stressing that the primary responsibility **to deal with the financial, fiscal and economic consequences** of the withdrawal of a PKO/special political mission lies with the national and regional/local authorities, partnerships between UNPOs and host state authorities, regional organizations, international financial institutions, or other actors must help **prepare** these actors to deal with the consequences of a transition.
- Within the UN family, the lead for support to national authorities that requires a long term horizon, such as SSR or DDR, should be attributed to UN country teams. UNPOs should play a supporting role (and notably through their assessed contributions). UNCT leadership (Resident Coordinators) that acknowledges and leverages the political nature of their mandate, will help **preserve the legacy of the UN's contributions in these domains**.

5. Please share any other observations that may benefit the review.

Questions for Member States that are hosting United Nations peace operations or have hosted them in the past

6. From your national perspective, having hosted one or more United Nations peace operations, what are the most critical considerations and conditions for success?
7. Based on your country's experience, what lessons learned should inform future United Nations peace operations?
8. What positive and/or negative examples can you share in terms of how current or past United Nations peace operations have implemented their mandates in, or related to, your country/context?

Questions for current and former Troop- and Police-Contributing Countries

9. What factors shaped your country's decision to become a T/PCC to United Nations peace operations? What factors and considerations will determine whether your country will remain an active T/PCCs in future United Nations peace operations?
10. How would you assess the degree to which your views as a T/PCC were, or are, taken into consideration with regard to the mandates of United Nations peace operations and their implementation?
11. From your perspective as a T/PCC, what are the most pressing challenges confronting the United Nations peace operations that you are involved in?
12. Based on your experience deploying peacekeepers, what capabilities and support would be needed for deployments in the future
 - Specialized teams for short-term (e.g. 3 months) assignments, could be a useful addition to the UNPO toolbox, depending on the specific needs on the ground.