

GHANA'S RESPONSE TO THE UNITED NATIONS REVIEW ON THE FUTURE OF PEACE OPERATIONS

RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS FOR ALL MEMBER STATES

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

Response:

Regarding current and future challenges, Ghana observes several critical issues affecting peace operations. Operationally, Ghana faces persistent difficulties in equipment maintenance due to prolonged shortages of spare parts and unreliable supply chains, as experienced in missions like UNISFA and UNMISS. The security environment has grown increasingly complex with asymmetric threats, including IED attacks that have directly impacted Ghanaian troops during the MINUSMA mission. Politically, Ghana observes concerning misalignments between mission mandates and host nation consent, particularly evident in transitional contexts like Mali. Looking ahead, emerging risks such as climate-induced displacement, pandemics, and digital misinformation threaten to further complicate mission environments and erode public trust

Question 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)?*

Response:

To address these challenges, Ghana recommends implementing "rolling mandates" with periodic reviews to ensure responsiveness to evolving threats, similar to UNMISS's successful shift to community violence reduction strategies. Logistically, establishing regional UN logistics hubs in locations like Accra or Dakar could significantly improve equipment sustainability, building on Ghana's innovative but ad-hoc in-mission procurement solutions. Ghana's proven pre-deployment training model, combining classroom lectures with field drills, should be expanded to include specialized modules on counter-terrorism and cyber security. Additionally, Ghana advocates for greater integration of surveillance technologies, including drones, particularly in missions like UNMISS where troops face difficulties with patrols especially during the rainy seasons just like it is done in UNISFA Ghana Battalion.

Question 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?*

Response:

Concerning future expectations for peace operations, Ghana believes they should maintain core focuses on civilian protection and political process support while increasingly addressing conflict prevention in climate-affected regions. Our experience shows operations are least effective when mandates lack host nation consent (as seen UNISFA), when resources prove inadequate, or when geopolitical rivalries obstruct consensus. Conversely, success is most likely with clear exit strategies, strong regional partnerships like AU-UN hybrid missions, and meaningful involvement of Troop Contributing Countries in planning processes - an approach exemplified by Ghana's productive ECOWAS-UN collaborations.

Question 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?*

Response:

On partnerships, Ghana emphasizes their vital role in enhancing peace operations. Regional organizations like the AU and ECOWAS bring critical advantages, including capacity for rapid deployment and local legitimacy, as demonstrated by Ghana's 2017 intervention in The Gambia. International financial institutions could play transformative roles in funding post-mission economic recovery to prevent conflict relapse. However, we caution against duplication of efforts and highlight the need for principles of sovereignty respect, equitable financing, and joint decision-making - all reflected in Ghana's model of UN-AU mission cooperation.

Question 5: *Please share any other observations that may benefit the Review.*

Response:

Additional observations from Ghana's experience include the demonstrated benefits of our troop welfare policies, particularly guaranteed leave rotations (typically 6-month tours with R&R), which we recommend for broader adoption to sustain morale. Our female engagement teams in UNIFIL have significantly improved community trust, suggesting the value of gender parity quotas in leadership roles. We also stress the importance of balanced accountability mechanisms that investigate misconduct without unfairly stigmatizing Troop Contributing Countries.

QUESTIONS FOR TROOP- AND POLICE-CONTRIBUTING COUNTRIES (T/PCCS)

Question 6: *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/PCC in future United Nations peace operations?*

Response:

Ghana's longstanding participation in UN peace operations stems from our commitment to Pan-African solidarity (evident since our 1960s Congo mission) and fundamental belief in the UN Charter's vision for collective security. Future contributions will depend on predictable funding mechanisms, adequate safety assurances including modern counter-IED technologies, and ensuring Troop Contributing Countries have meaningful roles in mandate design processes

Question 7: *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?*

Response:

While we acknowledge DPO's efforts to engage TCCs, such as consulting Ghana on UNMISS mandate renewals, persistent operational challenges like equipment gaps reveal concerning disconnects between policy discussions and field realities. More substantive mechanisms are needed to incorporate frontline experiences into decision-making

Question 8: *From your perspective as a T/PCC, what are the most pressing challenges confronting the United Nations peace operations that you are involved in?*

Response:

The most pressing challenges from Ghana's perspective include the absence of standardized supply chains for equipment spares (forcing our MINUSMA, UNOCI, UNMISS and UNISFA contingent to resort to cross-border procurement) and the rapid evolution of security threats, particularly the growing use of drones by militant groups as observed in UNDOF, which outpaces current mission capabilities.

Question 9: *Based on your experience deploying peacekeepers, what capabilities and support would be needed for deployments in the future?*

Response:

Based on our deployment experience, future capabilities should emphasize advanced training through institutions like Ghana's Kofi Annan Centre (particularly for urban warfare scenarios) and digital tools for real-time threat mapping. Critical support requirements include UN-funded equipment pools, comprehensive mental health programs, and institutionalizing Ghana's proven leave rotation policies as universal standards