

CELEBRATING  
SIXTY YEARS OF  
UNITED NATIONS POLICING

# UN POLICE MAGAZINE

UNITED NATIONS DEPARTMENT OF PEACE OPERATIONS



United Nations



United Nations Police Adviser Luis Carrilho,  
then the Police Commissioner for the United Nations  
Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste (UNMIT),  
hands over the flag of the Timorese police to Longuinhos  
Monteiro, General Commander of the Polícia Nacional  
de Timor-Leste, during a ceremony in Dili (March 2011).  
See Page 16 for more information.



United Nations Police with the United Nations Force in Cyprus on duty near the Greek Orthodox Church in Nicosia (October 1964)

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# Foreword by Secretary-General António Guterres

This year marks the seventy-fifth anniversary of the founding of the United Nations, six decades since the first United Nations Police deployment and the twentieth anniversary of Security Council resolution 1325, which reaffirmed the central role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts.

While people around the world are currently experiencing the serious consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic, the milestones we are now celebrating were born of optimism and the commitment to work together to rise to common challenges. The pandemic presents a major challenge, but also an opportunity to rebuild stronger and better. Addressing global crises is the *raison d'être* of the United Nations, and this is the time to renew our commitment to strengthen cooperation and support across borders and communities and to reinforce, not retreat from, multilateralism.

Comprising officers from more than 90 Member States, the United Nations Police are the epitome of multilateralism in action. The year 1960 saw the first deployment of civilian police personnel to a United Nations Peacekeeping Operation as part of the United Nations Operation in the Congo (ONUC), complementing the force's presence with distinct policing skills and expertise. As part of United Nations peacekeeping operations, the United Nations Police remains among the most visible representatives of the Organization in many of our host settings, where they have continued to evolve in response to changing needs. The United Nations Police have prioritized the participation of women officers at all levels, and we are proud of the progress that we have made on diversity and representation.

A measure of success for United Nations peacekeeping is a timely exit, where host States are able to undertake primary security responsibilities, protect populations and enhance people's trust and confidence in State institutions. The United Nations Police has supported effective transitions in places such as Côte d'Ivoire, Haiti, Liberia, Timor-Leste and, at present, Darfur.

The assistance provided to national police and other law enforcement services and host communities to deal with COVID-19 has highlighted the essence of United Nations policing, which, at its core, is to protect and to serve in accordance with international human rights law. I commend the United Nations Police for continuing to carry out their mandated tasks while providing critical and often life-saving support to host-State authorities and local populations, despite the additional challenges of the pandemic.

From Action for Peacekeeping to the Sustainable Development Goals, from peacekeeping to preventing conflict and sustaining peace, the United Nations Police is a vital tool and key enabler for realizing the peace and security, development and humanitarian objectives of the entire Organization. I congratulate the United Nations Police on 60 years of significant contributions, service and sacrifice in the pursuit of peace for all.



The Secretary-General with the senior leadership of the Department of Peace Operations and heads of United Nations Police components during the fourteenth United Nations Police Week (November 2019)



Members of the Nigerian Police unit serving with the United Nations Operation in the Congo at the airport awaiting the arrival of Mr. Moïse Tshombé, President of the Provincial Government of Katanga (March 1967)



Top: United Nations Protection Force civilian police officers speak with a member of the community in Kumonovo, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (April 1994)

Left: A United Nations Transition Assistance Group police monitor talks with residents of Katutura, a township in Windhoek (April 1989)

On the outskirts of Cap-Haïtien, local police train new police officers as Canadian UNPOL officers serving with the United Nations Support Mission in Haiti observe (May 1997)



UNPOL officers serving with the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire patrol a market area (April 2009)



# United Nations Police contributions to Action for Peacekeeping

By Jean-Pierre Lacroix, Under-Secretary-General for Peace Operations

Two and a half years ago, the Secretary-General launched the Action for Peacekeeping (A4P) initiative, calling on all stakeholders – including Member States, the Security Council, the General Assembly, financial contributors, troop- and police-contributing countries, host countries, intergovernmental and regional organizations and the United Nations Secretariat – to collectively address the challenges facing peacekeeping. Since then, the Department of Peace Operations has made measurable progress in delivering on our mandated tasks, ever mindful that peacekeeping remains an essential multi-lateral tool for preventing conflict and sustaining peace for millions of vulnerable people around the globe. A4P priorities are overarching. They guide the work of the Department of Peace Operations and peacekeeping operations in the field, the implementation of Security Council mandates and our response to the COVID-19 crisis. The United Nations Police (UNPOL), as a key component of United Nations peacekeeping, is strongly committed to advancing A4P priorities and to further strengthening the effectiveness of peacekeeping operations.

In the area of women, peace and security, gender-responsive policing is essential for effective United Nations and host-State policing. In United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) and United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA), Specialized Police Teams have ramped up training and advisory services to the South Sudanese National Police Service and the Internal Security Forces, respectively, to address surges in cases of sexual and gender-based violence and conflict-related sexual violence amid COVID-19. UNPOL has also continued to engage with police contributing countries to surpass the already achieved intermediate gender parity targets for 2020, including at the command levels. Greater women's participation sends a strong message to populations in our host countries, which is amplified when those women occupy positions of leadership and authority.

Regarding partnerships, UNPOL collaboration with regional and subregional organizations, a wide range of United Nations entities and national police services remains critical to every area of their work, particularly

during transitions. While the COVID-19 pandemic forced us to postpone the third United Nations Chiefs of Police Summit (UNCOPS), originally scheduled for June 2020, I encourage all Member States to recommit to participate when it is next convened. UNCOPS remains the premier platform for engagement among senior police executives on strengthening global security and triangular cooperation to address current and emerging cross-border threats, including in the post-COVID era.

In Darfur, UNPOL worked closely with the African Union on the drawdown of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) and the transition to UNITAMS, with a view to sustaining peace and preventing a relapse into conflict by ensuring adequate interim policing capacities. UNAMID and the United Nations Country Team continue to jointly deliver programmatic activities in four states in Darfur through State Liaison Functions (SLF) in the key areas of rule of law; durable solutions, resilience and livelihoods; and human rights.

UNPOL advances political solutions by supporting host States to realize effective, efficient, representative, responsive and accountable police services that serve and protect the population in adherence to the rule of law and international human rights law. As part of MINUSCA, UNPOL supports the internal security forces in their efforts to facilitate electoral security during the upcoming presidential elections in December 2020.

UNPOL plays a key role in all aspects of protection of civilians, including physical protection. In Mali, UNPOL helps the Malian Security Forces extend state authority through the deployment of personnel of the Malian Security Force, now totaling 3,537 to the northern and central regions. In Darfur, UNPOL contributed to 15 SLF construction projects comprising three community-oriented policing centres and two police stations and family child protection units. In the Central African Republic, UNPOL fosters a protective environment through police capacity-building, including by assisting with the recruitment and training of 1,000 gendarmerie and police cadets, with an additional 1,000 forthcoming. During these unprecedented times, UNPOL has been instrumental in raising awareness about preventing the spread of COVID-19 and have distributed personal protective equipment, hygiene products and medical supplies throughout our mission settings, particularly among communities in vulnerable contexts (including to those that are internally displaced).

UNPOL contributes to the continuous implementation of the Action Plan for Improving the Security of United Nations Peacekeepers and other measures to increase safety and security. In Mali, UNPOL has focused on assessing security levels, increasing training in security awareness and first aid, and conducting table-top exercises on medevac and violent demonstrations. In conjunction with the United Nations Mine Action Services (UNMAS), UNPOL undertakes improvised explosive device threat mitigation, post-blast investigations and

training on forensic laboratory processes, carrying out simulation exercises on camp defense plans.

To ensure the highest levels of performance and accountability, UNPOL – in close cooperation with Member States and other partners – have advanced several initiatives. These include the Integrated Peacekeeping Performance and Assessment Framework and the Comprehensive Performance and Assessment System, pursuant to which UNPOL has issued and implemented standards to further evaluate the impact of deployed officers and to take action in cases of underperformance. Aligning pre-deployment training by Member States with the Organization's in-mission training is central to enhancing performance. The Department of Peace Operations Police Division, together with the Department's Integrated Training Service, progressed the development of standardized training modules under the UNPOL Training Architecture Programme. This program aims to ensure that United Nations police personnel are able to implement mandated tasks based on the Strategic Guidance Framework for International Policing, international human rights.

In the area of conduct, UNPOL has continued to make the reinforcement of zero tolerance for sexual exploitation and abuse a priority, including through pre-deployment and in-mission training.

Finally, in the area of our missions' environmental impact, UNPOL has refined the UNPOL Environmental Management Framework by aligning mission-specific initiatives decreed by heads of police components in MINUSCA, United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA), United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) and UNAMID with their missions' environmental risk management plans. Climate insecurity, the devastating consequences of which have been laid bare by the COVID-19 pandemic, is a growing threat multiplier for our missions and host communities. I expect this, in line with the achievement of all of the Sustainable Development Goals, to become a larger focus of United Nations policing as we go forward.

The A4P agenda aims to make peacekeeping missions stronger and safer, to mobilize greater support for political solutions and for well-equipped, well-trained forces, and to set and manage expectations. Peacekeeping today is better prepared, more robust and more reactive, but we are still at the start of this journey and we cannot go it alone. Collectively strengthening the effectiveness of our missions is critical to mandate delivery, to responding to the COVID-19 pandemic and to dealing with the crises that we will inevitably face in the future.

UNPOL is a key part of this endeavour. In 2017, during the annual United Nations Police Week, the Secretary-General, called UNPOL "a link to the future of peacekeeping operations". The stakes are high. It is crucial that UNPOL has all the support it needs to meet these challenges.

# Contributions de la police des Nations Unies à l'Action pour le maintien de la paix

Le Secrétaire général de l'Organisation des Nations Unies a lancé, il y a deux ans et demi, l'initiative « Action pour le maintien de la paix », dans laquelle il appelait tous les acteurs du maintien de la paix, notamment les États Membres, le Conseil de sécurité, l'Assemblée générale, les donateurs, les pays qui fournissent des contingents et du personnel de police, les pays hôtes, les organisations intergouvernementales et régionales et le Secrétariat de l'ONU, à répondre collectivement aux défis que rencontrent les opérations de maintien de la paix. Depuis lors, conscient que le maintien de la paix demeure un outil multilatéral essentiel pour prévenir les conflits et maintenir la paix pour des millions de personnes vulnérables dans le monde, le Département des opérations de paix a réalisé des avancées tangibles dans la mise en œuvre des mandats qui lui ont été confiés. Les priorités de l'Action sont globales : elles guident non seulement le travail du Département et les opérations de maintien de la paix sur le terrain, y compris l'exécution des mandats du Conseil de sécurité, mais aussi notre réponse à la crise de la COVID-19. La police des Nations Unies, composante clef du maintien de la paix, est fermement résolue à soutenir ces priorités pour renforcer l'efficacité des opérations de maintien de la paix.

Sur la question des femmes, de la paix et de la sécurité, l'intégration de la perspective de genre est essentielle tant pour la police des Nations Unies que pour les services de police des États hôtes. Au sein de la Mission des Nations Unies au Soudan du Sud (MINUSS) et de la Mission multidimensionnelle intégrée des Nations Unies pour la stabilisation en République centrafricaine (MINUSCA), des équipes de police spécialisées ont intensifié les activités de formation et les services consultatifs auprès de la police du Soudan du Sud et des forces de sécurité intérieure, respectivement, pour améliorer la lutte contre les cas de violences sexuelles et sexistes et de violences sexuelles liées aux conflits, qui connaissent une hausse dans le contexte de l'épidémie de COVID-19. La police des Nations Unies a aussi continué de collaborer avec les pays qui fournissent du personnel de police pour dépasser les objectifs intermédiaires de parité des sexes, déjà atteints pour 2020, à tous les niveaux de responsabilité. Une plus grande participation des femmes envoie un message fort aux populations hôtes, et ce plus encore lorsque les femmes occupent des fonctions de commandement.

En ce qui concerne les partenariats, la collaboration de la police des Nations Unies avec les organisations régionales et sous-régionales, ainsi qu'avec un large éventail d'entités des Nations Unies et les services nationaux de police, demeure primordiale dans tous les domaines de travail, et particulièrement lors des périodes de transition. Alors que la pandémie de COVID-19 nous a contraint à repousser le troisième Sommet des chefs de police des Nations Unies (UN COPS), initialement prévu pour juin 2020, j'encourage tous les États Membres à s'engager de nouveau à y participer dès qu'il aura lieu. La police des Nations Unies demeure un forum de premier plan où les plus hauts responsables de police œuvrent au renforcement de la sécurité mondiale et de la coopération triangulaire afin de faire face aux menaces transfrontières d'aujourd'hui et de demain, y compris dans l'après-COVID.

Au Darfour, la police des Nations Unies a œuvré, en étroite collaboration avec l'Union africaine, au retrait de l'Opération hybride Union africaine-Nations Unies au Darfour (MINUAD) et à la transition de la Mission intégrée des Nations Unies pour l'assistance à la transition au Soudan (MINUATS) afin de maintenir une paix durable et d'empêcher une reprise du conflit. La MINUAD et l'équipe de pays des Nations Unies poursuivent ensemble leurs activités programmatiques dans quatre États du Darfour, par l'intermédiaire des équipes chargées de la liaison dans les domaines clefs de l'état de droit, des solutions durables, de la résilience et des moyens de subsistance, et des droits humains.

La police des Nations Unies soutient les solutions politiques en aidant les pays hôtes à assurer des services de police de manière efficace, efficiente, représentative, souple et responsable, au service de la population et pour sa protection, dans le respect de l'état de droit et du droit international des droits de l'homme. Dans le cadre de la MINUSCA, elle soutient les efforts menés par les forces de sécurité intérieure pour assurer la sécurité des élections présidentielles de décembre 2020.

La police des Nations Unies joue un rôle clef dans tous les aspects liés à la protection des civils, y compris leur protection physique. Au Mali, elle aide les forces de sécurité maliennes à étendre l'autorité de l'État par le déploiement de personnel, qui compte aujourd'hui 3 537 policiers dans les régions septentrionales et centrales du pays. Au Darfour, elle a participé à 15 projets d'établissement de fonctions de liaison, dont trois centres de police de proximité, deux commissariats et des unités de protection de la famille et de l'enfance. En République centrafricaine, elle contribue au renforcement de la sécurité grâce au développement des capacités de police, incluant le recrutement et la formation de 1000 élèves de police et de gendarmerie (et 1000 autres à venir). En ces circonstances sans précédent, elle a joué un rôle clef dans la sensibilisation des populations afin de prévenir la propagation de la COVID-19. Elle a également distribué des équipements de protection individuelle, des produits d'hygiène et du matériel médical dans l'ensemble de ses missions, en particulier aux communautés vulnérables (y compris aux personnes déplacées).

La police des Nations Unies contribue à la mise en œuvre continue du plan d'action pour l'amélioration de la sécurité des Casques bleus de l'ONU. Au Mali, elle s'est concentrée sur l'évaluation des niveaux de sécurité et le développement des formations de sensibilisation aux questions de sécurité et aux premiers secours. Elle a également conduit des exercices sur les thèmes des manifestations violentes et des évacuations médicales. En partenariat avec le Service de la lutte antimines de l'ONU, elle a développé ses activités pour réduire les menaces liées aux engins explosifs improvisés, améliorer les enquêtes après explosion, et former ses équipes aux procédures de police scientifique. À cette fin, des exercices de simulation ont été mis en place.

Pour assurer les plus hauts niveaux de performance et de responsabilité, la police des Nations Unies a lancé, en étroite collaboration avec les États Membres et d'autres partenaires, plusieurs initiatives comme le cadre intégré

de gestion de la performance et de la responsabilité dans le domaine du maintien de la paix et le système complet d'évaluation de la performance. Sur cette base, elle a élaboré et appliqué des critères permettant d'évaluer l'impact des policiers déployés et, le cas échéant, les mesures correctives à prendre. L'alignement de la formation des États Membres avant le déploiement sur celle conduite par l'ONU dans les missions est primordial pour améliorer la performance. Avec le Service intégré de formation du Département des opérations de paix, la Division de la police a poursuivi l'élaboration de modules de formation standard dans le cadre du programme des Nations Unies pour l'organisation des formations du personnel de police. Ce programme vise à garantir que le personnel de police des Nations Unies est en mesure d'accomplir ses tâches selon le Cadre d'orientation stratégique concernant le rôle de la police dans les opérations internationales de maintien de la paix et selon les normes internationales relatives aux droits humains.

En ce qui concerne la déontologie, la police des Nations Unies a continué de donner la priorité au renforcement du principe de tolérance zéro à l'égard de l'exploitation et des atteintes sexuelles, notamment en développant la formation préalable au déploiement et la formation continue dans les missions.

Enfin, pour ce qui est de l'impact environnemental de nos missions, la police des Nations Unies a affiné son cadre de gestion de l'environnement en alignant les initiatives spécifiques aux missions, décidées par les chefs des composantes police de la MINUAD, de la MINUSCA, de la Mission multidimensionnelle intégrée des Nations Unies pour la stabilisation au Mali (MINUSMA) et de la Mission de l'Organisation des Nations Unies pour la stabilisation en République démocratique du Congo (MONUSCO), sur les plans de gestion des risques environnementaux de leurs missions. L'insécurité climatique et ses conséquences dévastatrices, mises en lumière par la pandémie de COVID-19, sont une menace grandissante pour nos missions et les populations hôtes. Aux fins de la réalisation de tous les objectifs du développement durable, je souhaite que la préservation de l'environnement occupe une plus large place au sein de la police des Nations Unies.

L'initiative « Action pour le maintien de la paix » vise à rendre les missions de maintien de la paix plus fortes et plus sûres, à mobiliser un appui plus large en faveur de solutions politiques et de forces bien équipées et correctement formées, et à mieux définir et gérer les attentes. Les activités de maintien de la paix sont aujourd'hui mieux préparées, plus robustes et plus souples, mais le chemin ne fait que commencer et nous ne pouvons le poursuivre seuls. Renforcer ensemble l'efficacité de nos missions est essentiel pour permettre l'exécution des mandats, surmonter la crise liée à la COVID-19 et faire face aux crises auxquelles nous serons inévitablement confrontés dans le futur.

La police des Nations Unies est une composante importante de cet effort. En 2017, à l'occasion de la semaine de la police des Nations Unies, le Secrétaire général a déclaré qu'elle était un lien vers le futur des opérations de paix. Il est essentiel qu'elle bénéficie de tout le soutien dont elle a besoin pour relever ces défis.

# The role of the United Nations Police in preventing conflict and sustaining peace

By Alexandre Zouev, Assistant Secretary-General for Rule of Law and Security Institutions



**P**olicing, when undertaken within a legal framework based on the rule of law, is a core element in building peaceful and prosperous societies. As the most visible representatives of the State, the police play a key role in ensuring sustained peace and development by preventing, detecting and investigating crime; protecting persons and property; and maintaining public order and safety. Done effectively, policing is as much preventive as it is responsive, and it is central to global efforts to avert, mitigate and resolve violent conflict. In line with his “surge

in diplomacy for peace” initiative, which aims to leverage the United Nations’ vast normative and policy potential to move from a culture of reaction to crises toward a culture of prevention and early action to sustain peace, the Secretary-General envisions a greater role for UNPOL, as well as the other components of the Office of Rule of Law and Security Institutions, across three dimensions of conflict prevention: operational, structural and systemic.

As to the first dimension, the COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the critical operational role of UNPOL officers as first responders in the face of immediate crisis. UNPOL maintains a physical presence on the ground, often in remote locations and in co-location with host-State security services. Given the immense potential for the pandemic to destabilize communities, increase criminality, endanger vulnerable populations and threaten the implementation of mandated tasks, UNPOL mobilized quickly to support host-State authorities remotely with operations and investigations, and to raise awareness among communities to prevent the spread of the virus. UNPOL also facilitated the delivery of humanitarian assistance in all peace operations, as well as in non-mission settings such as Angola and the Maldives, where UNPOL advised national authorities on human rights and police operations amid COVID-related states of emergency.

Secondly, UNPOL implements structural prevention measures to ensure that crises do not arise in the first place or, if they do, that they do not recur. Community-oriented policing activities contribute to a better understanding of drivers of conflict by helping address potential disputes and underlying tensions before they escalate and by supporting enhanced early warning, which can clear a path for further preventive diplomacy efforts. By assisting with the reform, rebuilding and restructuring of police and other law enforcement institutions, UNPOL supports host States to realize representative, responsive and accountable police services, which are crucial for managing conflict and fostering sustainable peace. In Mali, UNPOL has helped the Malian Security Forces establish internal oversight and accountability structures; facilitated stabilization efforts by increasing the deployment of Malian Security Forces personnel to the northern and central regions of the country; and provided capacity-building assistance on reform, planning, monitoring and evaluation, and oversight, in close coordination with the European Union’s civilian police mission and other partners.

Finally, through both their operational and capacity-building activities, UNPOL supports systemic mechanisms to address emerging threats that transcend borders. In the Central African Republic, together with INTERPOL, UNPOL has trained internal security forces on conducting and contributing to cross-border operations and investigations, strengthening national and regional responses to trafficking and other forms of transnational organized crime. Environmental sustainability initiatives that reinforce broader efforts to address the global climate are being developed by UNPOL components at the mission level. Those include managing waste, preserving and protecting natural resources, and reducing their environmental footprint.

Bolstering our contributions to preventing conflict and sustaining peace is the Global Focal Point for the Rule of Law, co-chaired by the Office of Rule of Law and Security Institutions and the United Nations Development Programme and comprising partners throughout the United Nations system. The arrangement with the Global Focal Point was established to ensure comprehensive and coherent policing and other rule of law assistance and service delivery. In Haiti, for example, partners of the Global Focal Point have supported the Government in carrying out legal reforms by strengthening judicial institutions, improving security and access to justice for marginalized communities and increasing the capacity of the police and security sector. Critical to the further operationalization of the Global Focal Point are our standing capacities for police; justice and corrections; and disarmament, demobilization and reintegration based in Brindisi, Italy, which can deploy rapidly to provide urgent operational or capacity-building support. By way of example, the Standing Police Capacity deployed to Malawi in 2019 to support the United Nations Development Programme in assessing the preparedness of the country’s police service to provide effective security during the tripartite elections.

In January 2019, the Secretary-General designated the Office of Rule of Law and Security Institutions as a United Nations system-wide service provider to ensure systematic collaboration with all relevant United Nations and external actors. The designation recognized, among other things, the increased demand for United Nations policing assistance in non-mission settings and the greater need for such services by relevant entities of the United Nations system across the peace continuum. I take every opportunity to encourage the leadership of the United Nations peace and security and development pillars to better integrate policing expertise in conflict analysis, horizon scanning and early warning processes and to take advantage of United Nations police capacities to support envoys negotiating peace agreements or supporting regional mediation and dialogue efforts.

The Office of Rule of Law and Security Institutions generally, and UNPOL specifically, are supporting Member States during this challenging time while planting the seeds for durable peace and security, in an efficient and cost-effective manner. General and specialized policing assistance provided by UNPOL, as part of the conflict prevention toolbox, is perhaps now more essential than ever, given the potential impact of the pandemic on the prospects for large-scale investment in conflict management and post-conflict recovery down the road.



Members of a Nigerian formed police unit serving with the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti on patrol in Martissant, Port-au-Prince (April 2009)



An all-woman formed police unit from Bangladesh arrives at the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti to assist with Haiti's post-earthquake reconstruction (June 2010)



A United Nations Police Division Selection Assistance and Assessment Team visits Colombia (2014)



United Nations Police officers serving with the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic assist with the evaluation of potential new police recruits in the Central African Republic



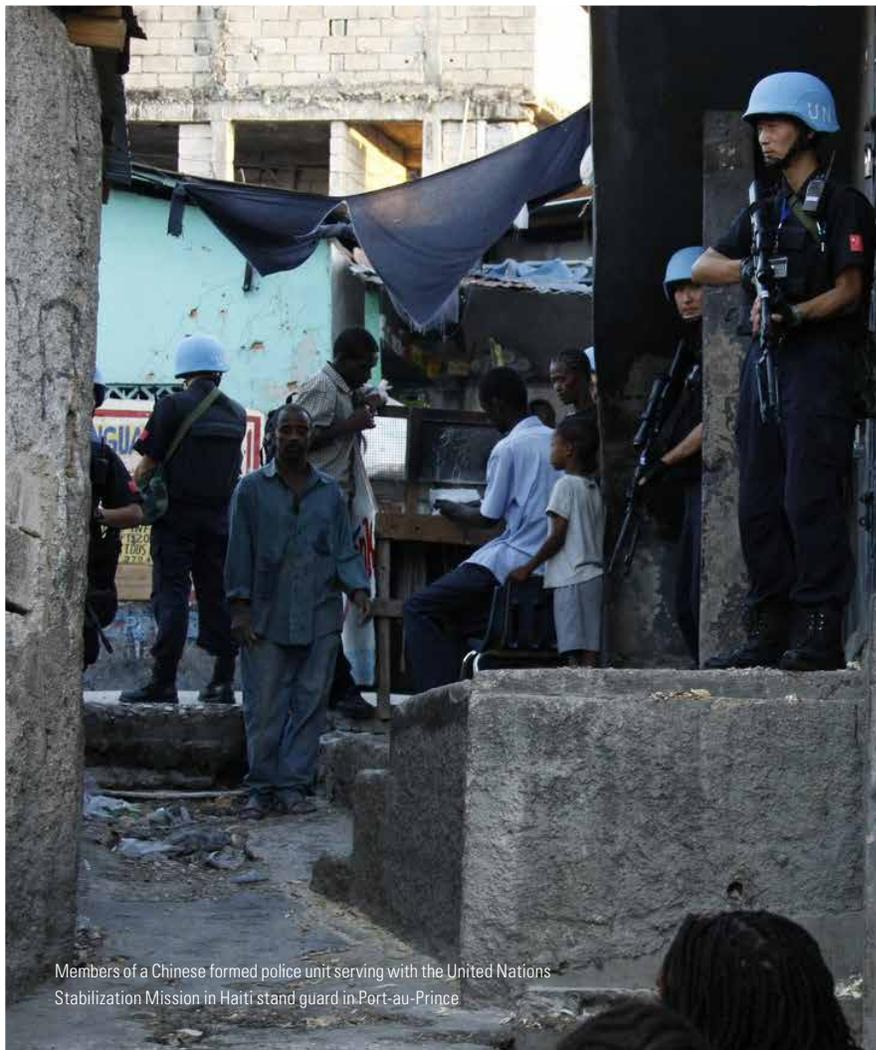
A member of Indonesia's formed police unit in the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur interacts with children at the Abu Shouk Camp for internally displaced persons during his morning patrol (August 2012)



Members of a Senegalese formed police unit in the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali speak with Malians while they patrol outside Mamadou Konaté Stadium during a sports event organized by the mission's Outreach Unit to promote peace among the youth (January 2016)



Women demonstrating against gender-based violence alongside United Nations Police stationed at the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo



Members of a Chinese formed police unit serving with the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti stand guard in Port-au-Prince



# The evolving role of the United Nations Police and future challenges and opportunities

By United Nations Police Adviser Luís Carrilho



The United Nations Police occupies a unique role among the world's police, with about 11,000 authorized women and men from over 90 countries serving on the front lines in 16 peace operations across the globe. Day in and day out, we maintain law and order, protect civilians and empower the most vulnerable segments of society by providing direct operational support to host-state police and other law enforcement agencies or by helping to build the capacities of current officers while preparing the next generation of police officers and leaders

to assume these responsibilities themselves. Throughout the last 60 years of United Nations policing, we have traditionally stood at the nexus of justice and security. But the COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the critical role of the United Nations Police as first responders at the nexus between public security and public health. As demonstrated by our flexible and timely responses to support our host States and communities during this unprecedented time, we will continue to evolve and adapt in the face of new and emerging realities on the ground.

## Addressing today's challenges...

From the trafficking of drugs through West Africa and the Sahel to natural resource exploitation by organized networks in Kosovo and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, serious and organized crime remains particularly harmful in conflict settings because it threatens mandate implementation, the safety of United Nations personnel, and long-term efforts to sustain peace. Even when organized crime is not a direct driver of violence, it can indirectly corrupt and weaken state institutions, thus undermining the rule of law. Cybercrime and cyberthreats will only multiply in the future as more and more professional, academic and social activities move online because of COVID-19.

Meanwhile, climate change and related risks, including extreme weather events, food insecurity, competition over natural resources, and the expansion of armed groups, are growing, as we have seen in the Lake Chad Basin, the Sahel, the Horn of Africa, and other areas. Indeed, our Secretary-General has called the planet's unfolding environmental crisis a bigger threat than COVID-19. Adopting environmentally responsive policing as a guiding principle – as we have in Cyprus, where we are cooperating with communities along the buffer zone to prevent the illegal dumping of waste and hunting of endangered species, or in the Central African Republic, where we collaborate with the national anti-fraud unit on the prevention and response to illegal mining – contributes to global efforts to slow down or reverse environmental degradation.

The intersectionality between climate security and human rights could not be more evident. As police services and national law enforcement entities are oftentimes the “make or break” institutions, promoting and protecting those

international principles is a key element of our job. After all, assisting Member States in attaining police services that are representative, responsive and accountable to the communities they serve is crucial for sustainable peace.

## ... while preparing for tomorrow's opportunities

A core tenet of democratic policing is policing that is representative of the people it serves, and we have made great progress in bringing more women officers into our ranks. Within the framework of the Uniformed Gender Parity Strategy, the United Nations Police has developed an implementation plan to increase the number of women police in leadership roles, create a harassment-free work environment, and increase diversity in police components at all levels. I am very proud that the United Nations Police continues to lead by example. Women officers currently head five of our police components – in the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA), United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP), United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA), United Nations Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) and United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS). More fundamentally, we recognize the challenges police-contributing countries face to increasing the numbers of women officers in their own domestic services, and we have been working with them to address those barriers while creating an enabling environment that makes field service attractive to more women. Those efforts directly contribute to gender-responsive policing, which helps us address the disproportionate impact criminality in post-conflict settings has on women and children.

As a learning organization, we also continue strengthening our knowledge management orientation by collating and codifying lessons learned, including within the Strategic Guidance Framework for International Policing, which the United Nations Police developed with Member States, partner organizations, academic institutions and others. Ongoing guidance development, in parallel with the implementation of a streamlined approach to training, provides a clear blueprint for more consistent, harmonized methods for the provision of public safety, police reform and support to host-State police services.

On this occasion of the sixtieth anniversary of United Nations policing, I urge Member States to continue investing in international policing. We are among the most cost-effective solutions to today's most pressing security challenges. By providing police officers with sought-after skills and capacities from their national services, including for example digital dexterity; by financing salaries, training and equipment; and by facilitating political and other support, all Member States contribute to and are part of the United Nations Police. Every contribution enables United Nations Police to continuously adapt to evolving operational environments and risks. The COVID pandemic has laid bare the need for greater, not less, multilateralism. Global security challenges, including not only COVID but also ongoing geopolitical tensions, the climate crisis, transnational organized crime and cyber-enabled threats, require global policing responses, and the United Nations Police, working closely with entities across the United Nations system and regional, subregional and professional partner organizations, stand ready to address these challenges head-on.

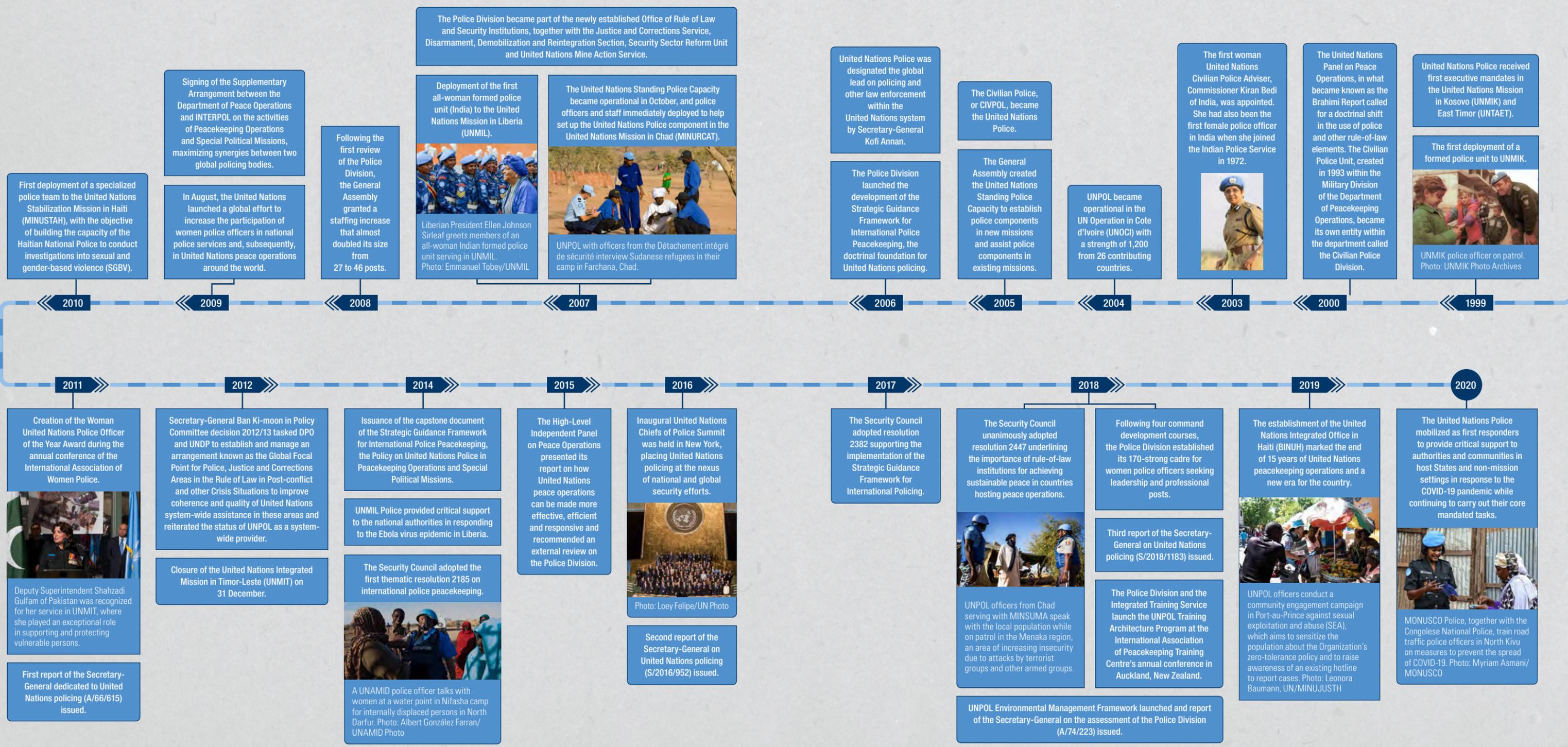
# United Nations Police around the world: deployments and presences from 1960 to present

(in alphabetical order by mission acronym)

- United Nations Integrated Office in Haiti (BINUH)
- United Nations Verification Mission in Guatemala (MINUGUA)
- United Nations Mission for Justice Support in Haiti (MINUJUSTH)
- United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad (MINURCAT)
- United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO)
- United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA)
- United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA)
- United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH)
- United Nations Civilian Police Mission in Haiti (MIPONUH)
- United Nations Observer Mission in Angola (MONUA)
- United Nations Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC)
- United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO)
- United Nations Operation in Burundi (ONUB)
- United Nations Operation in the Congo (ONUC)
- United Nations Operation in Mozambique (ONUMOZ)
- United Nations Observer Mission in El Salvador (ONUSAL)
- United Nations Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA)
- United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI)
- African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID)
- United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda (UNAMIR)
- United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL)
- United Nations Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM)
- United Nations Confidence Restoration Operation in Croatia (UNCRO)
- United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP)
- United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL)
- United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau (UNIOGBIS)
- United Nations Organization Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA)
- United Nations Integrated Transition Assistance Mission in Sudan (UNITAMS)
- United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE)
- United Nations Mission to Support the Hodeidah Agreement (UNMHA)
- United Nations Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina (UNMIBH)
- United Nations Mission in Haiti (UNMIH)
- United Nations Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK)
- United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL)
- United Nations Mission in Sudan (UNMIS)
- United Nations Mission of Support in East Timor (UNMISSET)
- United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS)
- United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste (UNMIT)
- United Nations Mission of Observers in Tajikistan (UNMOT)
- United Nations Office to the African Union (UNOAU)
- United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa (UNOCA)
- United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI)
- United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia (UNOMIG)
- United Nations Preventive Deployment Force (UNPREDEP)
- United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR)
- United Nations Civilian Police Support Group (UNPSG)
- United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM)
- United Nations Security Force in West New Guinea (UNSF)
- United Nations Support Mission in Haiti (UNSMIH)
- United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL)
- United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC)
- United Nations Transitional Administration for Eastern Slavonia, Baranja and Western Sirmium (UNTAES)
- United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET)
- United Nations Transition Assistance Group (UNTAG)
- United Nations Verification Mission in Colombia (UNVMC)

# Milestones on the path to 60 years of United Nations policing

Former Secretary-General Trygve Lie first suggested the establishment of a United Nations police service in 1948. The first deployment occurred 12 years later, to the United Nations Operation in the Congo (ONUC) in 1960. Since then, tens of thousands of women and men police professionals have served under the United Nations flag around the world in pursuit of peace.



1960

United Nations Police deployed for the first time to the United Nations Operation in the Congo (ONUC).



Deployment to ONUC.

1964

The first component of police deployed to the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP), where the United Nations Police still serve today.



Danish police serving with UNMIK patrol a street that divides the two communities in Ayios Theodoros, Larnaca District, Cyprus.

1989

The number of United Nations peacekeeping operations increased, and components were deployed to United Nations Transition Assistance Group (UNTAG), United Nations Observer Mission in El Salvador (ONUSAL), United Nations Operation in Mozambique (ONUMOZ) and United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC).





A police monitor talks with a resident of Katutura Township in Windhoek, Namibia.

UNPOL officers serving with ONUSAL observe a Salvadoran police officer making a traffic stop in San Salvador.

UNPOL officers serving with UNTAC directing traffic in Phnom Penh.

1995

The General Assembly requested the Secretary-General strengthen further the civilian police function within the Department of Peacekeeping Operations.

2010

First deployment of a specialized police team to the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH), with the objective of building the capacity of the Haitian National Police to conduct investigations into sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV).

2009

Signing of the Supplementary Arrangement between the Department of Peace Operations and INTERPOL on the activities of Peacekeeping Operations and Special Political Missions, maximizing synergies between two global policing bodies.

In August, the United Nations launched a global effort to increase the participation of women police officers in national police services and, subsequently, in United Nations peace operations around the world.

2008

Following the first review of the Police Division, the General Assembly granted a staffing increase that almost doubled its size from 27 to 46 posts.

2007

The Police Division became part of the newly established Office of Rule of Law and Security Institutions, together with the Justice and Corrections Service, Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Section, Security Sector Reform Unit and United Nations Mine Action Service.

Deployment of the first all-woman formed police unit (India) to the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL).



Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf greets members of an all-woman Indian formed police unit serving in UNMIL. Photo: Emmanuel Tobey/UNMIL.

The United Nations Standing Police Capacity became operational in October, and police officers and staff immediately deployed to help set up the United Nations Police component in the United Nations Mission in Chad (MINURCAT).



UNPOL with officers from the Détachement intégré de sécurité interview Sudanese refugees in their camp in Farchana, Chad.

2006

United Nations Police was designated the global lead on policing and other law enforcement within the United Nations system by Secretary-General Kofi Annan.

The Police Division launched the development of the Strategic Guidance Framework for International Police Peacekeeping, the doctrinal foundation for United Nations policing.

2005

The Civilian Police, or CIVPOL, became the United Nations Police.

The General Assembly created the United Nations Standing Police Capacity to establish police components in new missions and assist police components in existing missions.

2004

UNPOL became operational in the UN Operation in Cote d'Ivoire (UNOCI) with a strength of 1,200 from 26 contributing countries.

2003

The first woman United Nations Civilian Police Adviser, Commissioner Kiran Bedi of India, was appointed. She had also been the first female police officer in India when she joined the Indian Police Service in 1972.



2000

The United Nations Panel on Peace Operations, in what became known as the Brahimi Report called for a doctrinal shift in the use of police and other rule-of-law elements. The Civilian Police Unit, created in 1993 within the Military Division of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, became its own entity within the department called the Civilian Police Division.

1999

United Nations Police received first executive mandates in the United Nations Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) and East Timor (UNTAET).

The first deployment of a formed police unit to UNMIK.



UNMIK police officer on patrol. Photo: UNMIK Photo Archives.

2011

Creation of the Woman United Nations Police Officer of the Year Award during the annual conference of the International Association of Women Police.



Deputy Superintendent Shahzadi Gulfam of Pakistan was recognized for her service in UNMIT, where she played an exceptional role in supporting and protecting vulnerable persons.

First report of the Secretary-General dedicated to United Nations policing (A/66/615) issued.

2012

Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon in Policy Committee decision 2012/13 tasked DPO and UNDP to establish and manage an arrangement known as the Global Focal Point for Police, Justice and Corrections Areas in the Rule of Law in Post-conflict and other Crisis Situations to improve coherence and quality of United Nations system-wide assistance in these areas and reiterated the status of UNPOL as a system-wide provider.

Closure of the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste (UNMIT) on 31 December.

2014

Issuance of the capstone document of the Strategic Guidance Framework for International Police Peacekeeping, the Policy on United Nations Police in Peacekeeping Operations and Special Political Missions.

UNMIL Police provided critical support to the national authorities in responding to the Ebola virus epidemic in Liberia.

The Security Council adopted the first thematic resolution 2185 on international police peacekeeping.



A UNAMID police officer talks with women at a water point in Nifasha camp for internally displaced persons in North Darfur. Photo: Albert González Farran/UNAMID Photo.

2015

The High-Level Independent Panel on Peace Operations presented its report on how United Nations peace operations can be made more effective, efficient and responsive and recommended an external review on the Police Division.

2016

Inaugural United Nations Chiefs of Police Summit was held in New York, placing United Nations policing at the nexus of national and global security efforts.



Photo: Loey Felipe/UN Photo

Second report of the Secretary-General on United Nations policing (S/2016/952) issued.

2017

The Security Council adopted resolution 2382 supporting the implementation of the Strategic Guidance Framework for International Policing.

2018

The Security Council unanimously adopted resolution 2447 underlining the importance of rule-of-law institutions for achieving sustainable peace in countries hosting peace operations.



UNPOL officers from Chad serving with MINSUMA speak with the local population while on patrol in the Menaka region, an area of increasing insecurity due to attacks by terrorist groups and other armed groups.

Following four command development courses, the Police Division established its 170-strong cadre for women police officers seeking leadership and professional posts.

Third report of the Secretary-General on United Nations policing (S/2018/1183) issued.

The Police Division and the Integrated Training Service launch the UNPOL Training Architecture Program at the International Association of Peacekeeping Training Centre's annual conference in Auckland, New Zealand.

UNPOL Environmental Management Framework launched and report of the Secretary-General on the assessment of the Police Division (A/74/223) issued.

2019

The establishment of the United Nations Integrated Office in Haiti (BINUH) marked the end of 15 years of United Nations peacekeeping operations and a new era for the country.



UNPOL officers conduct a community engagement campaign in Port-au-Prince against sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA), which aims to sensitize the population about the Organization's zero-tolerance policy and to raise awareness of an existing hotline to report cases. Photo: Leonora Baumann, UN/MINUJUSTH.

2020

The United Nations Police mobilized as first responders to provide critical support to authorities and communities in host States and non-mission settings in response to the COVID-19 pandemic while continuing to carry out their core mandated tasks.



MONUSCO Police, together with the Congolese National Police, train road traffic police officers in North Kivu on measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Photo: Myriam Asmani/MONUSCO.

# From peacekeeping to peacebuilding: a look at United Nations Police contributions to transitions

The centrality of United Nations Police in the peace and security agenda has been reaffirmed in three reports of the Secretary-General on United Nations policing and two thematic resolutions of the Security Council, not to mention various statements by United Nations officials and Member States during the United Nations Chiefs of Police Summits in 2016 and 2018. As societies emerge from conflict, violence and instability, rule-of-law institutions, including notably the police, are critical in paving the way for sustainable peace, stability and prosperity.

The United Nations Police has been actively supporting transitions from peacekeeping operations for years, for example, through the deployment of the Standing Police Capacity (SPC) to the United Nations Country Team in Chad in the post-MINURCAT period, such that gains made in conjunction with the host State were solidified jointly with the United Nations system. On a larger scale, the effective contribution of United Nations Police to transitions has been seen in Darfur, Haiti, Liberia and Timor-Leste.

## Timor-Leste

Established in 2006, the United Nations Integrated Mission in East Timor (UNMIT) undertook significant work in the reform, restructuring and rebuilding of the Polícia Nacional de Timor-Leste (PNTL). The Supplemental Policing Arrangement of 1 December 2006 laid out a road map for the resumption of policing by the PNTL, by which a phased implementation was conducted district by district and unit by unit, in accordance with agreed criteria jointly verified by UNMIT, the Secretary of State for Security and the PNTL.

In line with the PNTL Strategic Development Plan 2011–2012, formulated by the PNTL itself, a PNTL-UNPOL Joint Development Plan was developed and endorsed by the PNTL General Commander and the UNMIT Police Commissioner in February 2011, laying out a broad capacity-building programme. The Joint Development Plan focused on five priority areas for capacity-building support: legislation; training; administration; discipline; and operations. Harnessing the synergies of the United Nations system, a joint project of the PNTL, United Nations Police and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) was implemented to enhance the capacity of the PNTL in four out of five areas of the Plan, successfully drawing on expertise from UNMIT, the PNTL and UNDP.

In October 2012, based on the Joint Assessment of the Institutional Capacities of the PNTL, full policing authority was transferred from the United Nations Police to the PNTL, and UNMIT successfully closed on 31 December 2012. Of note, specific recommendations endorsed by the UNMIT Police Commissioner and the PNTL General Commander served as a foundation for continued development of the PNTL with the support of UNDP, other members of the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) and bilateral donors.

## Liberia

After almost 15 years in Liberia, the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) came to an end with the conclusion of its mandate on 30 March 2018. Coordination between the Mission and the UNCT was constant throughout the life of UNMIL; however, the collaborative work with respect to security transition was particularly notable, bringing together UNMIL and the UNCT under the joint leadership of the two Deputy Special Representatives of the Secretary-General working in coordination with the Government in support of an integrated plan. The first joint programme ran from 2011–2016 with the specific goal of enhancing access to justice and security. The second joint programme, “Strengthening the Rule of Law in Liberia: Justice and Security for the Liberian People”, a three-year programme launched in 2016, focused on strengthening coordination across the Liberian rule-of-law sector. The Police Division provided additional support to the Mission and UNCT in the transition, but even more through the deployment of experts from the SPC during the drawdown of the UNMIL police component and after the completion of the mandate.

Additionally, the active participation of the Police Division and the UNMIL Police Component in the joint lessons learned exercise undertaken by the Office of Rule of Law and Security Institutions of the Department of Peace Operations, an International Security Sector Advisory Team and UNMIL provided a tool for Liberia and its international partners to inform engagements to sustain peace and stability in the country beyond UNMIL’s withdrawal.

## Haiti

Following a longstanding peacekeeping presence in Haiti, the United Nations transitioned from MINUSTAH, a large peacekeeping operation deployed since 2004 with a military component, 11 Formed Police Units (FPUs) and 1,001 Individual Police Officers (IPOs), to MINUJUSTH in 2017, a smaller rule of law operation with seven FPUs and 295 IPOs. As of October 2019, peacekeeping was replaced by the UN Integrated Office in Haiti (BINUH), which plays a good offices, advisory and advocacy role at the political level, to advise the Government on strengthening political stability and good governance, supported by a police and corrections component of up to 30 UN advisers, including 13 IPOs, working in synergy with the UN Country Team.

By the end of the MINUJUSTH mandate, the Police Nationale d’Haïti (PNH) demonstrated increased professionalism, as well as the ability in difficult times to manage public safety across the country, which continues to require assistance to ensure a fully functioning criminal justice system and increased compliance with international human rights standards. The UN Joint Rule of Law Program, during MINUJUSTH, and the international donor community helped significantly in this multi-year transition with the strategic advice from UNPOL. Today, the PNH is a functioning institution that relies exclusively on its own capacities to conduct operations, with a presence across the territory and 10.5% female representation. Recognized as one of the main successes of the UN peacekeeping missions in Haiti, many of the remaining challenges facing the PNH now relate to the country’s economic growth and socio-economic development, as well as the improvement of the rule of law and good governance across all state institutions.

Recognizing the demonstrated value illustrated by these and other examples, the Secretary-General has underscored the continued role of the Office of Rule of Law and Security Institutions, including the Police Division, in serving as a system-wide service provider for mission and non-mission settings, as subsequently endorsed by the General Assembly. Moving forward, transitions, and peacebuilding more broadly, should increasingly benefit from the unique skills brought to bear by the UN Police, not only in missions and transitions, but non-mission settings as well.



Women in the Abu Shouk Camp for internally displaced persons near El Fasher, North Darfur, attend English classes facilitated by the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur Police (February 2014)

## The evolving support of United Nations Police to Sudan

Since the inception of the transitional administration in 2019, the United Nations Police have strengthened their engagement with the Sudan Police Force (SPF), including participating in meetings and workshops conducted at the Darfur and Khartoum level, such as those of the National Police Development and State Development Coordination Committees.

In support of institutional development of the SPF, UNPOL with the support of the SPC has jointly developed and handed over nine standard operating procedures to the SPF leadership, covering conduct and ethics, arrests, crime investigation, public order management, traffic control, use of force and other topics in line with democratic policing standards, respect for human rights and the rule of law. The institutionalization of these SOPs has strengthened the SPF's institutional capacity for ensuring the protection of civilians through the increased reporting of cases, as well as enhanced public perceptions of the SPF and police-community relations in many areas of Darfur.

UNPOL with the support of SPC also conducted an impact assessment of UNAMID Police projects and activities to identify critical areas for intervention to strengthen national capacities in crime prevention, reporting, mitigation, investigation and prosecution of offenders to address impunity including sexual and gender-based violence. That assessment formed the basis for the development of the Transitional Implementation Plan in close coordination with the SPF, which focused on eight essential benchmarks: protection of civilians, sexual and gender-based violence, training, investigation, human resources, community-oriented policing, accountability and enabling services, and development projects to support the SPF's protection of civilians strategy.

UNPOL has continued to contribute to capacity-building activities in support of the Government's national plan for the protection of civilians. For instance, UNPOL initiated, with the implementation by the UNCT, the development of information and communications technologies and the establishment

of a digital control room, which is going in four states in Darfur and one in Khartoum, in support of the SPF to enhance quick response and early warning capabilities in civilian protection.

Also in support of the government's priorities and protection needs, UNPOL conducts joint patrols with the SPF in some team sites to ensure a continued presence and also forms part of the joint UNAMID and Government of Sudan protection of civilians task force at the level of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs comprising UNAMID Police, SPF and other law enforcement institutions. UNPOL has facilitated the establishment of a forensic lab in Nyala to carry out crime scene management and DNA analysis to support investigations into cases of sexual and gender-based violence.

To enhance the human resources of the SPF, through the support of the SPC, UNPOL developed software for the SPF to gradually shift from manual to digitized human resource development. UNPOL has also established an online compliant mechanism to ensure accountability of the SPF. The SPC provided technical support and successfully conducted a virtual training during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The transition concept contemplated joint planning with the UNCT on the implementation of projects and programmes through State Liaison Functions (SLF). SLF is an innovative concept for the transition from peacekeeping to peacebuilding and has strengthened national ownership and capacity through collocation with the SPF to ensure the transfer of police knowledge and skills. UNPOL is assisting in building the institutional capacity of the SPF, which has achieved considerable progress in restoring peace in Darfur.

The Police Division was part of the planning team for a new integrated political and peacebuilding mission in Sudan that was linked to the drawdown of UNAMID and continues to make a substantial contribution in support of peacebuilding and the protection of civilians.

# United Nations Police on the front lines of the response to COVID-19

**B**uilding on the Secretary-General's peacekeeping objectives during this pandemic communicated to the Security Council in April 2020, the United Nations Police (UNPOL) immediately adapted to support national police and other law enforcement entities' efforts to fight the spread of COVID-19, sustain operations without dispersing the virus by systematically following and advocating for compliance with World Health Organization and guidance of the Organization on social distancing and other mitigation measures, and advance mandated their tasks.

For example, to assist the Congolese Ministry of Health and the Police nationale congolaise with implementing a national contact tracing strategy, UNPOL in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, equipped with vast expertise in contagious disease control and response attained during Ebola outbreaks in the country, helped establish a COVID-19 Response Command Center, raised public awareness of contingency and preventive measures, and provided technical assistance in contact tracing and geolocation identification initiatives. As a result, 5,683 out of 5,938 people who had contact with COVID-19 positive cases were able to be tracked. UNPOL further assisted the Police nationale congolaise in developing a contingency plan, directives on COVID-19 and a business continuity plan and with publishing informational materials in English, French and Swahili.

In Abyei, even though operational activities were stalled to prevent the spread of COVID-19, UNPOL conducted virtual communications with national authorities to continue mentoring and advising on issues related to law and order, human rights, sexual and gender-based violence, and overcrowding in detention centers. UNPOL also appointed several women leaders in different communities as COVID-19 champions to help disseminate timely and reliable information. Similarly, UNPOL and the International Organization for Migration supported the Women's Union in Abyei to produce and distribute over 8,000 face masks to community protection committees and joint protection committees, detainees, health workers, patients and traders in local markets.

Since the COVID-19 outbreak in Mali, UNPOL launched motorized patrols to limit contact with the population. UNPOL also continues delivering capacity-building, monitoring and advisory services by remaining agile and innovative, including through virtual assistance. In support of the Malian Security Forces and the Ministry of Health, UNPOL also helped to disinfect markets and other gathering areas, sensitize local populations and raise public awareness while distributing personal protective equipment. And in Cyprus, UNPOL supported humanitarian efforts to deliver critical medicines and oxygen cylinders to the most-affected areas, including Cypriot communities.

The Standing Police Capacity, together with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the United Nations Development Programme, delivered remote training and advisory services to several national police counterparts in Angola, the Maldives and Zambia on protecting and promoting international human rights norms in their daily policing activities amid states of emergency related to COVID-19. At the outset of the global public health crisis, the Police Division developed guidance on police planning and operations during COVID-19, which the Global Focal Point for Rule of Law shared with United Nations agencies, funds and programmes in 132 country offices. Virtual UNPOL discussions on emerging good practices and lessons amid COVID-19 confirmed the utility of the rapid issuance of that guidance and forecasted future scenarios for United Nations policing, while at the same time reflecting on UNPOL's reimagined role at the nexus between public safety and public health. To ensure that UNPOL and its national counterparts continue to facilitate safety and security to host-State communities during COVID-19, sustained cooperation with Member States on equipping them with personal protective equipment, facilitating access to medical facilities and integrating COVID-19 guidance in pre-deployment readiness efforts is essential.

United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic



United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo



# Dispatches from the field

As first responders during the COVID-19 pandemic, UNPOL continues to maintain a physical presence on the frontlines to support host-state authorities' efforts to combat COVID-19 while maintaining law and order, protecting civilians and sustaining peace. While fulfilling their mandates and building on their peacekeeping objectives, amid the pandemic, UNPOL is reinforcing national capacities through life-saving awareness-raising, provision of personal protective equipment, and assistance with humanitarian efforts. Examples of that assistance in action include:

## MONUSCO

To assist the Congolese Ministry of Health and the Police nationale congolaise with implementing a national contact tracing strategy, MONUSCO UNPOL, equipped with vast expertise in contagious disease control and response attained during Ebola outbreaks in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, helped establish a COVID-19 Response Command Centre, raised public awareness of contingency and preventive measures, and provided technical assistance in contact tracing and geolocation identification initiatives. As a result, 5,683 out of 5,938 people, who had contact with COVID-19 positive cases, were tracked using geolocation identification technology. UNPOL further assisted the Police nationale congolaise in developing a contingency plan, directives on COVID-19 and a business continuity plan and by publishing informational materials in English, French and Swahili languages.

## UNISFA

Even though operational activities were stalled to prevent the unintentional spread of COVID-19, UNPOL conducted virtual communications with national authorities to continue mentoring and advising on issues related to law and order, human rights, sexual and gender-based violence and overcrowding in detention centers. UNPOL also appointed several women leaders in different communities as COVID-19 champions to lead in the dissemination of information. Similarly, UNPOL and the International Organization for Migration supported the Women's Union in Abyei to produce and distribute about 8,000 face masks to community protection committees and joint protection committees, detainees, health workers, patients and traders in local markets.

## MINUSMA

Since the COVID-19 outbreak in Mali, UNPOL launched motorized patrols to limit contact with the population and prevent accidental contamination. UNPOL also continues delivering capacity-building, monitoring and advisory services by adopting new methods, including virtual assistance. In support of the Malian Security Forces and Ministry of Health, UNPOL also helped sensitize local populations and raise public awareness while distributing personal protective equipment.

United Nations Force in Cyprus



United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic



# Advancing Action for Peacekeeping

## ACTION FOR PEACEKEEPING



### Commitment #1: Advancing lasting political solutions

Given that the respect for the rule of law at national and local levels is fundamental for conflict prevention and resolution, (i) advocating for the integration of policing priorities in peace processes and agreements to enhance the durability of political solutions; (ii) advising on the provision of clear, credible, achievable and adequately resourced tasks mandated by the Security Council for United Nations policing; and (iii) supporting the implementation of existing peace processes, including through assistance to police reform and electoral security, or transitional justice and/or alternative dispute resolution mechanisms to address drivers of conflict through community-oriented policing.

Fostering trilateral cooperation between police-contributing countries, the Security Council and the Secretariat, including by convening biannual United Nations Chiefs of Police Summits (UNCOPS), which bring together police executives from around the world to engage on United Nations policing priorities.



### Commitment #2: Implementing the women, peace and security agenda

Undertaking gender-responsive policing by (i) applying gender perspectives to crime and criminality, which disproportionately affects women and girls in conflict situations and is further exacerbated by COVID-19, (ii) devising targeted prevention and response strategies to, for example, sexual and gender-based violence and conflict-related sexual violence through the deployment of specialized police teams to bolster early warning, training and advisory services to host-State counterparts or set up child protection units.

Increasing the number of police women serving in United Nations policing at all levels, in line with Security Council resolutions 1325 (2000), 2242 (2015) and successive resolutions, through close collaboration with Member States on all women pre-deployment assistance and command training efforts, maintenance of the Senior Women Police Leadership Roster, and the soon-to-be-launched voluntary compact to attain commitments on addressing systemic challenges to increasing the number of women police in United Nations policing.

Proportion of United Nations Police women



### Commitment #3: Strengthening protection

Fostering dialogue and engagement by reinforcing trust between the police and community, including women and youth organizations, through community-oriented policing to facilitate joint early warning and response mechanisms in MONUSCO and UNISFA.

Providing physical protection through joint patrols with host-State counterparts across areas of responsibility to extend state authority in MINUSCA and MINUSMA.

Establishing a protective environment by, together with justice and corrections counterparts, including the Global Focal Point for Rule of Law, assisting host-State police services in advancing police reform plans that focus on gender-balanced personnel succession planning, infrastructure development and refinement of accountability and oversight mechanisms, among others, in BINUH, MINUSCA and MONUSCO.

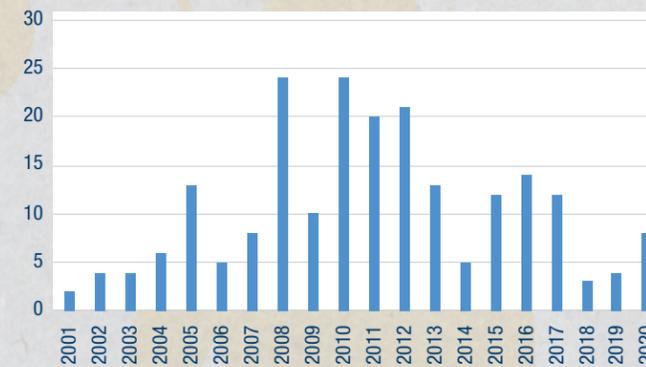
### Commitment #4: Improving safety and security

Contributing to the realization of the Action Plan to Improve Security of Peacekeepers including by improving base perimeters and adjusting footprints; regularly assessing security levels; increasing training workshops on SAFE, IED-threat mitigation or individual first-aid kits; augmenting shooting exercises for incoming personnel; conducting table-top exercises on medevac for command posts; widely disseminating guidance and information on precautionary measures for infectious or other diseases including for inclusion in pre-deployment training; developing guidance on road safety and traffic management; or attaining personal protective equipment for crowd control and COVID-19 first-responder tasks.

Supporting initiatives to strengthen accountability for criminal acts against United Nations peacekeepers.

Increasing situational awareness through intelligence-led policing and the effective use of crime intelligence.

United Nations Police fatalities



### Commitment #5: Supporting effective performance and accountability

Building on Security Council resolution 2436 (2018) and requests of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations (General Assembly resolutions 72/19 and 74/19), contribution to the Comprehensive Performance Assessment System and the Integrated Peacekeeping Performance and Accountability Framework (IPPAF).

Supporting Member States in their pre-deployment assessment readiness efforts through assistance visits and validations of individual police officers, specialized police teams and formed police units and by including human resources screening and other data in relevant systems, such as HERMES, UMOJA 2 and the Peacekeeping Capability Readiness System.

Strengthening a common understanding of United Nations policing through the Strategic Guidance Framework for International Policing and the UNPOL Training Architecture Programme to ensure that UNPOL personnel can function cohesively once deployed by aligning the principles and standards of pre-deployment training delivered by Member States and in-mission training provided by the United Nations.

### Commitment #6: Strengthening impact on sustaining peace

Strengthening national capacities and ownership through the development and assistance on the implementation of national police development plans to help Member States realize the ideal of an effective, efficient, representative, responsive and accountable police service of the highest professional standard possible.

Advancing transition planning and analysis, including MINUJUSTH-BINUH and UNAMID-UNITAMS.

Advancing the UNPOL Environmental Management Framework.

### Commitment #7: Improving partnerships

Working with regional and subregional organizations and other partners, including the African Union and the European Union consistent with Chapter VIII of the United Nations Charter, AFRIPOL, AMERIPOL, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and ASEANAPOL, the Collective Security Treaty Organization, EUROPOL, the International Criminal Police Organization, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, the Organisation internationale de la Francophonie, and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe on assistance to Member States for pre-deployment readiness preparations, guidance development, planning, selection and recruitment of personnel, and operations.

### Commitment #8: Strengthening conduct

Enforcing the United Nations zero-tolerance policy with its victim-centred approach to all forms of sexual exploitation and abuse.

Implementing the United Nations Human Rights Due Diligence Policy for all UNPOL support to national police services and other law enforcement institutions.

Operationalizing the UNPOL Environmental Management Framework.





The United Nations Police Division conducts an Assessment and Advisory Visit in Rwanda to evaluate the Formed Police Unit's operational capability and readiness (December 2020)



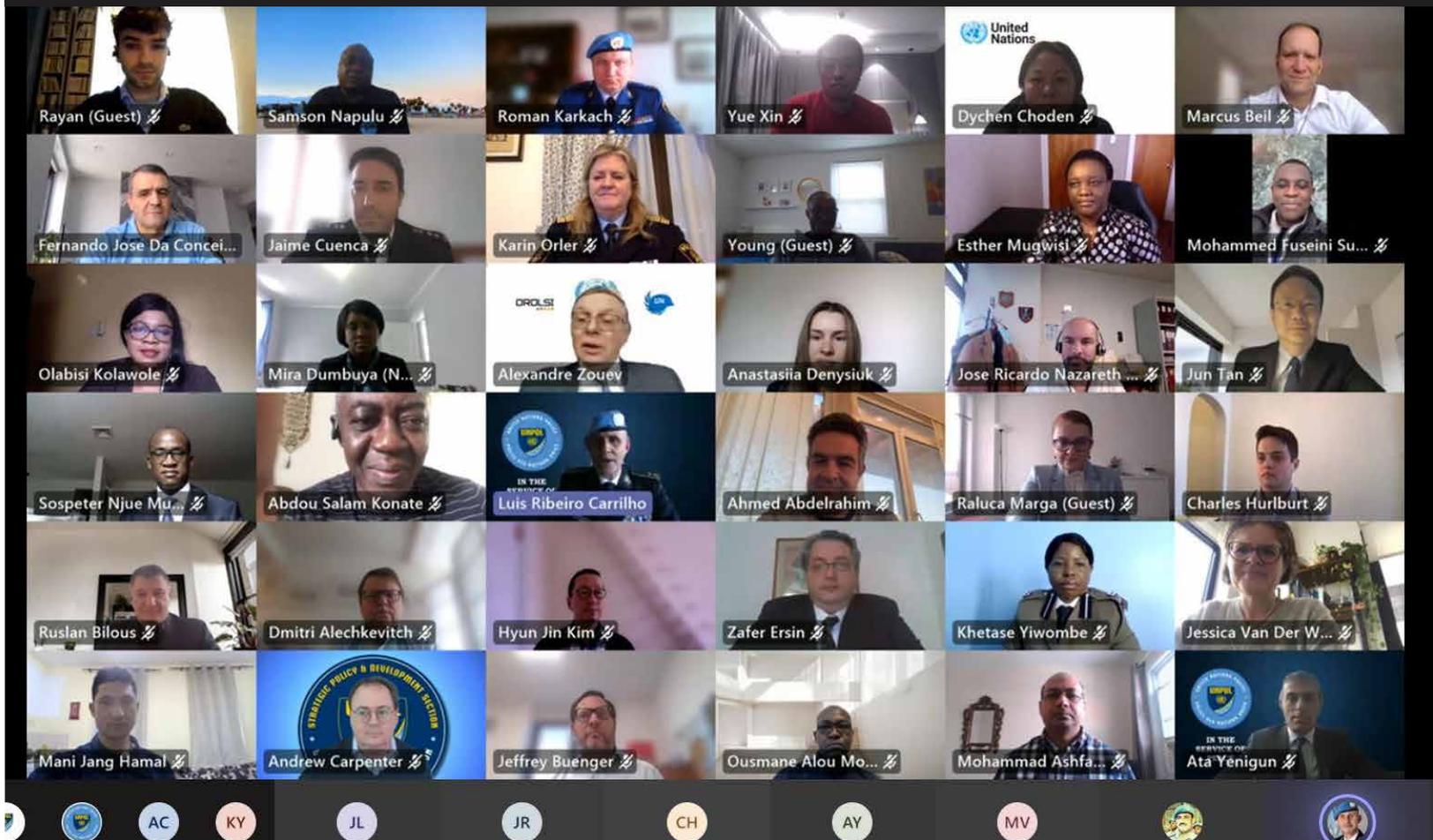
United Nations Mission to Support the Hedaydah Agreement police and military observers at Kilometer 14, a strategic crossing point in the south of Yemen (2018)



United Nations Police commissioners brief the Security Council during the annual Police Week (November 2018).

Police Division Monthly Meeting

The Police Division monthly staff meeting conducted remotely, with the participation of Assistant Secretary-General of the Office of Rule of Law and Security Institutions Alexandre Zouev





A police forensics expert from Spain serving with a Specialized Police Team in the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic demonstrates the tools of the trade



A United Nations Police officer, stationed at the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo speaks to women



A United Nations Police Division performance assessment and evaluation team inspects the equipment of a Formed Police Unit in United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (2019)

# Achieving gender parity, an operational necessity



United Nations Police officers from Rwanda and Niger serving with the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali speak with residents in Gao (right) and Timbuktu (left), where they do frequent patrols to enhance security amid increased threats of terrorism and banditry (March 2017).

The goal of gender parity at all levels reflects a core value of the United Nations. Upon taking office, Secretary-General António Guterres made a commitment to reach full parity at the Under-Secretary-General and Assistant Secretary-General levels by the end of his mandate and to put in place a road map to ensure parity across the system before 2030. In September 2017, the Secretary-General launched the System-wide Strategy on Gender Parity by which the organization should reach 50 per cent representation of women among professional posts by 2028.

In January 2015, women police officers serving with the United Nations Police as part of formed police units and as individual police officers constituted 6 per cent and 17 per cent, respectively. A little under five years since the passage of Security Council resolution 2242 (2015), which called for doubling of the numbers of uniformed women personnel, the participation of women police officers as formed police unit personnel and individual police officers currently stands at 10.9 per cent and 28.2 per cent, respectively.

The participation of women police in peacekeeping operations is critical to operational efficiency and has a direct impact on the sustainability of peace. To that end, the United Nations Police remains committed to increasing the number of women police in peace operations and addressing the concerns and vulnerabilities of women, men, boys and girls in all its activities. The ability of the Police Division to reach its target depends on police-contributing countries nominating and deploying women police for United Nations service. Additionally, the Police Division has developed a five-year Gender Strategy and Action Plan. With the global effort launched by the United Nations Police Division to increase the number of women police officers to have reached 10 years of service in 2019, we reflect on some of the most significant achievements to date:

- Adopted a five-year Gender Strategy and Implementation Plan focusing on temporary special measures for increasing the representation of women police in United Nations police components and ensuring the coherent implementation of gender mainstreaming throughout field missions.
- Developed a dedicated e-learning course entitled United Nations Police Gender Toolkit: Standardized Best Practices on Gender Mainstreaming in Peacekeeping.
- Implemented an all-women training project to train and test women police on the basic requirements for deployment to peace operations.
- Provided international recognition to women police peacekeepers through an annual United Nations Woman Police Officer of the Year Award (see page 27 for an interview with the winner in 2019).
- Intensified outreach to women police associations at the national, regional and international levels and other organizations.

While the United Nations Police is proud of how much has been accomplished to date, achieving and maintaining gender parity is a continuous process. To that end, the Police Division has launched several initiatives to ensure that it continues to meet and even surpass its goals. It has established the UNPOL Female Police Command Cadre as a talent pipeline to increase the nominations of women police in leadership positions. In support of that cadre, a Female Senior Police Officer Command Development Course was launched with a target to train 200 women command officers. Courses were held in Ethiopia, Jordan, Malaysia and Senegal, and, to date, a total of 192 officers with the rank of lieutenant colonel to major-general have been trained. One hundred and seventy graduates of

that course have joined the cadre and, so far, one cadre member was selected to lead the United Nations police component in UNFICYP, two have become deputy heads of police component in MINUSMA and MONUSCO, and three have undertaken strategic planning positions in the Police Division, the United Nations Office at the African Union and MINUSMA.

The Senior Women Leadership Roster is now in place, having drawn 83 nominations from 27 countries in the first call. The roster is a talent pool that will fast-track recruitment of women police in senior positions. Strategic and high-level engagements with police-contributing countries to increase recruitment of women police at annual conferences of the International Association of Peacekeeping Training Centres, International Association of Chiefs of Police, National Association of Women Law Enforcement Executives and at United Nations Chiefs of Police Summits (UNCOPS), among others, are continuing virtually and will resume in-person when possible.

The Police Division will also continue the all-women Selection Assistance and Assessment Team project for individual police officers, pending the availability of funding, and prioritize women Selection Assistance and Assessment Team-cleared officers' deployments and the re-deployment of women police peacekeepers within two years of their end of duty (in which their Assessment of Mission Service-Selection Assistance and Assessment Team clearance is still valid). It is also strengthening standard operating procedures for the selection of individual police officers and formed police units to include a specific provision to increase every nomination, deployment and rotation of individual police officers to a minimum of 20 per cent women, with formed police units having a minimum number of women police equivalent to one platoon (32 officers), fully integrated, including at the command level. Such units will be deployed as a priority.

**Fang Li** is the Senior Police Adviser in the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) and brings 26 years of national law enforcement experience in Shanghai, People's Republic of China, as well as previous service as a Personnel Officer and Acting Chief of Personnel with the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH).



**What skills that you developed in your national service have been particularly helpful in the United Nations mission setting?**

I started my career as a traffic patrol officer, then moved all the way up to head of the department, gaining an extensive management background in different areas of the Shanghai Police, from public order management to command and control, immigration and traffic. I also was a trainer in human resources and strategic planning. In China, I was Deputy/ Acting Director of a department in charge of 263 community neighbourhoods covering 55.45 km<sup>2</sup> with a diverse population of around 1.2 million, both Chinese and other nationalities. These domestic managerial skill sets, together with my international work and academic experience, provided me with a

better in-depth understanding of police management in an international environment with respect to the core values of the United Nations of diversity, integrity and professionalism.

**What advice do you have for effectively mainstreaming gender issues and gender-responsive policing in peacekeeping?**

UNFICYP, among all United Nations missions, is the only one led by all women, including the Special Representative, Force Commander and Senior Police Adviser. Special Representative Elizabeth Spehar is a strong advocate for the equal participation of men and women in United Nations peacekeeping and particularly women's contributions. Under the leadership of Special Representative Spehar, I act as a

**Unaisi Vuniwaqa**

is the Head of Police Component in the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS). She was previously the Deputy Police Commissioner. She has served for 34 years with the Fiji Police Force.



**What advice do you have for supporting greater women's participation in peace operations in the field? What support can the United Nations give? What can Member States do? And in your own words, why is that critical for effective peacekeeping?**

Increasing the number of women in police organizations in Member States is the starting point. In addition, Member States should support wide exposure in a number of work-streams for women officers so they may gain a broad base of experience that will be useful later in one's career. As for the United Nations, improving working conditions and giving women the opportunity and support are necessary to elicit the best out of them. I believe that empowered women peacekeepers inspire and give hope to fellow women and girls who are most vulnerable in post-conflict countries.

stations funded by UNMISS, or simply closing a training programme and getting a thank you from our counterparts from the South Sudan National Police Service. It makes our presence meaningful by contributing to the protection of civilians and building durable peace in the youngest nation in the world.

The most difficult aspect has been at the onset of the COVID 19 pandemic, managing a component that is expected to protect thousands of internally displaced persons; subordinates infected with the virus; and those whose families were facing difficulties at home, some of whom lost loved ones but were not able to travel to attend their funerals. Those were the most difficult days in this mission but fortunately, we managed well.

**What skills that you developed in national service were particularly helpful in the United Nations mission setting?**

I served at the director level in community policing, strategic planning, training, human resources and later as the Assistant Commissioner of Police Administration. Earlier in my career I headed the establishment of the Sexual Offences and Child Abuse Unit as well as the Juvenile Bureau on Child Protection. This experience prepared me well to manage and lead a police component that is well grounded in gender dynamics and the protection of vulnerable people, including women and children.

**What has been the most difficult aspect of carrying out your role as Head of Police Component and the most satisfying?**

The most satisfying moment in my role has been to see the smiles on the faces of people of South Sudan during confidence and trust-building programs, handing over newly built police

**What advice do you have for women officers who want to follow in your footsteps?**

Set your goals higher and work hard towards them. With the world's focus on gender parity, seize the many attractive opportunities ahead of you.

UNMISS Police Commissioner Police Commissioner Unaisi Bolatolu-Vuniwaqa and officers from the UNPOL Women's Network visit the Juba Children's Hospital and Juba Teaching Hospital to donate non-perishable items. Photo: Nektarios Markogiannis/UN Photo

**Mary Gahonzire**

has served as the Deputy Police Commissioner for the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA) since 2 September 2017. Prior to her current appointment, she was the Senior Police Adviser. Before her service with the United Nations, she served with the Rwanda National Police in a number of key positions, including Inspector General, Deputy Inspector General in charge of Police Operations and Director of Criminal Investigations.



restructuring of the Abyei Police, and these skills not only help me in fostering a police service that is professional and accountable to the people of Abyei but also in promoting the general welfare of UNPOL officers.

**What advice do you have for effectively mainstreaming gender issues and gender-responsive policing in peacekeeping?**

My advice is to integrate all gender aspects within the organizational set-up of UNPOL. For the effective mainstreaming of gender-responsive policing, I would look at it from three angles: senior-level commitment and support, which should be clearly situated in strategic management priorities; institutional cultural change including shaping security institutions to be more gender-responsive organizations; and systems and structural reforms, with improved policies, structures and practices that can lead to real change in the organizational culture.

of police, both men and women; and enhance the roles, positioning and visibility of police women. There is also a need to cultivate a gender-sensitive work environment and better integrate gender awareness into police training curricula. Both the United Nations and Member States could put in place policies that are conducive for women to join peace operations. That is critical for effective peacekeeping because it supports the establishment of an accountable police service that understands, respects and incorporates the security needs of diverse populations into its structures.

**What has been the most difficult aspect of carrying out your role as Head of Police Component and the most satisfying?**

The most difficult has been managing different expectations and priorities, whereas the most satisfying has been to start the community-oriented policing concept in Abyei, which I have seen succeed thanks to the greater inclusion of women.

**What skills that you developed in national service were particularly helpful in the United Nations mission setting?**

While serving at the helm of the Rwanda National Police, I provided command and control for the entire service and oversaw plans for the effective management, coordination and administration of the police. I was responsible for cooperation between the police and other stakeholders, and with my team, I was charged with developing a professional, disciplined police service that was accountable to the people we served. I am currently responsible for the reform and

**What advice do you have for supporting greater women's participation in peace operations in the field? What support can the UN give? What can Member States do? And in your own words, why is that critical for effective peacekeeping?**

I think we need to increase the representation of women in police; further develop the capacities and competencies

**What advice do you have for women officers who want to follow in your footsteps?**

My advice is that the world is waiting on them to be part of the global solution for positive change. They owe it to themselves and to women in conflict countries because women's problems are often better understood by women, and the United Nations has given us the ultimate platform to make an impact.

role model in the police component both in terms of management and values, especially for young women. It is always my priority to encourage more women police officers to participate in peacekeeping. That is exactly what we did in the past and we will continue to do, and it has shown to be successful, with United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus UNPOL having a proud ratio of 35.8 per cent women officers at present. Fully acknowledging and supporting the important role of gender focal points in all components, including UNPOL, is crucial. We work to foster an enabling environment for female police officers to play an effective role in the mission alongside their male counterparts, as well as embed a gender-responsive approach into all our community-oriented policing activities at the earliest stages through training and awareness-raising.

**What advice do you have for supporting greater women's participation in peace operations in the field? And, in your own words, why is that critical for effective peacekeeping?**

I would tell women interested in serving in a peace operation to not be afraid and to show your confidence. I would also ask Member States to fully acknowledge the challenges to increasing women's participation in policing at the domestic level and to develop policies that address the specific needs of women and help them to overcome systemic barriers to recruitment, retention and promotion.

**What has been the most difficult aspect of carrying out your role as Head of Police Component and the most satisfying?**

Keeping an appropriate work-life balance is an ongoing challenge. If I may use the life circle as a metaphor: find balance, keep balance, lose balance and repeat. It is always most satisfying to see more women police officers actively participating in peacekeeping.



## United Nations Woman Police Officer of the Year Award Winners

2011: Deputy Supt. **Shahzadi Gulfam**, UNMIT

2012: Constable **Rezi Danismend**, UNMIL

2013: Commissioner **Codou Camara**, MINUSTAH

2014: Inspector **Shakti Devi**, UNAMA

2015: Chief Supt. **Raluca Domuta**, MINUSTAH



Pakistan  
2011



Turkey  
2012



Senegal  
2013



India  
2014



Romania  
2015

2016: Supt. **Yvette Boni Zombre**, MINUSCA

2017: Assistant Inspector **Annah Chota**, UNISFA

2018: Chief Supt. **Phyllis Osei**, UNSOM

2019: Major **Seynabou Diouf**, MONUSCO

2020: ASP **Doreen Malambo**, UNMISS



Burkina Faso  
2016



Zimbabwe  
2017



Ghana  
2018



Senegal  
2019



Zambia  
2020



# United Nations Police: Advancing

# the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

**1 NO POVERTY**



UNPOL supports income-generating projects, such as sewing, baking, farming, cattle ranching and fishing, by building capacities, strengthening social ties and delivering training courses, especially for women, to promote food production, including in Abyei and Yemen. During the COVID-19 crisis, an Abyei women's network sewed over 8,000 masks for community protection committees, joint protection committees and frontline service providers.



**2 ZERO HUNGER**



UNPOL works with the Office of the Prosecutor General and other local authorities in Abyei to provide food, particularly for detainees, and assist community members with sustainable agriculture, the use of farming lands for increased crop cultivation and training to fight hunger in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization.

**3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING**



In response to COVID-19, UNPOL in the Central African Republic conducts awareness-raising campaigns, training, and donations of sanitary facilities and personal protective equipment, through close collaboration with national authorities. In Mali, UNPOL, together with the Malian Security Forces, has helped disinfect markets and other gathering areas.



**4 QUALITY EDUCATION**



UNPOL in the Central African Republic and South Sudan engages with youth and students to foster a safe environment for the pursuit of learning activities. UNPOL also visits schools to educate students on their right to access to education, on first aid and life-saving skills, and on prevention of sexual and gender-based violence.



**5 GENDER EQUALITY**



Gender focal points established by UNPOL help strengthen national police capacities to provide sexual and gender-based violence prevention, risk mitigation and response, which has led to lower sexual and gender-based violence crime rates in communities in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Haiti and South Sudan. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, 85 per cent of cases of sexual and gender-based violence now receive a timely response, while crimes related to sexual or gender-based violence fell by 15 per cent since the establishment of four gender desks at local police stations.

**6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION**



UNPOL has installed water boreholes in community centers, villages, schools and police stations, in the spirit of the UNPOL Environmental Management Strategy, to provide access to clean drinking water and help reduce crowding amid the pandemic. At least eight boreholes were built in Abyei, while several other boreholes were installed throughout the Central African Republic.

**7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY**



In Darfur, UNPOL supports national counterparts, community members and businesses to upgrade technology and encourage investment in infrastructure for affordable and sustainable energy. UNPOL also serves as a role model: to reduce their environmental footprint, peacekeepers in Lebanon use technologies such as solar panels to generate electricity from clean, renewable sources of energy.

**8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH**



UNPOL assists local authorities and populations to create safe working conditions. Through community-oriented policing in the PK5 commercial district of Bangui, Central African Republic, they have helped improve security and revive economic activity, allowing pharmacies, banks and other businesses to reopen.



**9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE**



UNPOL deploys new and emerging information and communications technologies to strengthen its operational and capacity-building support. In the Central African Republic, it provided the necessary technical equipment and training for national police and other law enforcement to connect to global police databases, including at the international airport for the first time.

**10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES**



With officers from about 90 Member States, UNPOL embodies respect for diversity and policing that is representative of the communities they serve. Mainstreaming gender considerations and increasing the number of women officers and leaders within its own ranks has had positive spillover effects in both police contributors and host countries.

**11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES**



Through community-oriented and intelligence-led policing initiatives tackling armed gangs and urban criminality in the Central African Republic, Haiti and Somalia, as well as ongoing initiatives to promote environmental stewardship and protect livelihoods, UNPOL enhances security, sustainability and quality of life.



**12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION**



To help host communities identify sustainable consumption and production patterns, UNPOL supports national counterparts by conducting workshops and training courses on the efficient use of resources, as demonstrated by its assistance to the Transitional Government of Sudan amid COVID-19.

**13 CLIMATE ACTION**



UNPOL engages with local communities to manage climate-related stresses, including by supporting afforestation campaigns in Darfur. UNPOL fosters human and institutional capacity to mitigate and adapt to climate change and fragility in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, including support to the "Kin Bopeto" initiative, a collaboration between government authorities and communities to make the city of Kinshasa greener.



**14 LIFE BELOW WATER**



UNPOL liaised with Abyei authorities to develop guidance on diversifying income generation and place restrictions on overfishing. In other settings, UNPOL assists with management, recycling and disposal initiatives to prevent the dumping of plastics, pollutants and other waste. Maritime UNPOL units strengthen coastal security and protect marine life.



**15 LIFE ON LAND**



In Cyprus, UNPOL supports national authorities by investigating and reporting illegal dumping of waste in the buffer zone, and preventing and reporting on unlawful hunting, bird trapping and other activities that endanger flora and fauna. UNPOL in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Central African Republic work with national counterparts to combat illegal natural resource extraction and trafficking.

**16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS**



Through capacity-building activities, UNPOL helps foster police and other rule of law institutions that are responsive, representative and accountable. UNPOL strengthens national capacities to fight the exploitation and trafficking of children and all forms of organized crime through crime analysis, forensics and investigations, including in the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Guinea-Bissau and Mali.

**17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS**



As the United Nations system-wide service provider and the focal point on policing and law enforcement, UNPOL promotes impactful and lasting policing responses through multilateralism and partnerships with Member States, host states, and regional, subregional and international partners, including the African Union, the European Union, the Organization of American States, INTERPOL, international financial institutions, think tanks and professional networks.



# Ensuring operational continuity amid COVID-19

Following travel and mobility restrictions related to the COVID-19 pandemic, the United Nations Secretariat issued transitional measures to ensure the timely deployments and rotations of uniformed personnel in support of mandate implementation. In this regard, it was pivotal that the Police Division's Selection and Recruitment Section continued the conduct of assistance and assessment visits to police-contributing countries prior to mission deployments. Such visits play a key role in helping Member States address capability gaps and skillsets requirements and sensitize them of new deployment modalities, including Specialized Police Teams and civilian policing experts.

Temporary measures included the organization of hybrid in-person and virtual pre-deployment assessments of police-contributing countries, namely, Burkina Faso, Djibouti, Egypt, Ethiopia, Jordan, Rwanda, Senegal, Tunisia and Turkey between July 2020 and February 2021. The objectives of these visits (pre-deployment, assessment, inspection and advisory, selection assistance by Assessment Teams and Formed Police Assessment Teams) were twofold.

At the strategic level, the assessments contribute to the early identification of emerging requirements and existing gaps. Recent examples include (i) sustaining rotations and deployments and undertaking efforts to maintain the current parity levels in line with the Uniformed Gender Parity Strategy; (ii) the deployment of policing experts to UNITAMS in January to support ongoing transition efforts; (iii) the identification of policing personnel for MINUSCA to respond to the emerging security situation; and (iv) considering capacities and capabilities for policing gaps in UNISFA and MONUSCO.

At the operational level, ongoing visits advance the Department's performance efforts in line with Security Council resolution 2436 (2018) by analyzing the proposed police personnel's skillsets, including language, driving and shooting abilities through technical exercises, as well as units' capabilities, to facilitate needs-driven rotations and new deployments to peace operations, including MONUSCO, MINUSMA, MINUSCA and UNMISS.



United Nations Police officers during a commemoration ceremony and parade at the headquarters of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan on the occasion of the International Day of Peacekeepers (May 2016).

# Marking 10 years of innovation and collaboration in guidance development and training for international police

This year marks the tenth anniversary of the formal launch of the development of the global police doctrine of the United Nations, the Strategic Guidance Framework for International Policing (SGF), at the annual conference of the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) in Chicago in October 2011. Since the beginning, the aim of this initiative has been to enhance the effectiveness of United Nations policing through more consistent harmonized approaches to the provision of public safety, police governance, and development and support to host-State police services, and to enable the more sophisticated recruitment of staff with the necessary specialized skills and competencies to meet the increasingly complex demands of contemporary policing in both peace operations and non-mission settings.

Guidance developed under the SGF is intended to benefit not only the United Nations but any organization or Member State that deploys police and other law enforcement personnel to multidimensional peace operations or other internationalized contexts. As a result, Member States, the United Nations system and other partners, including the African Union, European Union, IACP, INTERPOL and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, have been deeply involved in every step of this inclusive consultative process, which was commended by the Security Council in its resolutions 2167 (2014), 2185 (2014) and 2382 (2017).

The first output of the SGF, the DPKO/DFS Policy on United Nations Police in Peacekeeping Operations and Special Political Missions, went into effect in February 2014. With the “what” of United Nations policing defined in the form of the Policy, the next step was to define the “how”. This was accomplished through the development of subsidiary guidelines on the four core pillars of a United Nations policing component outlined in the Policy:

-  Police Administration: the administrative systems, including budget management, procurement, record-keeping and personnel management, needed for the effective and efficient performance of the police component
-  Police Capacity-Building and Development: how to best prepare officers and host-state institutions to ensure the long-term sustainability of international peace efforts
-  Police Command: the resources, skills, capabilities and structures required to lead a complex, multidimensional peace operation
-  Police Operations: day-to-day police work, applying the basic principles of community-oriented and intelligence-led policing to carry out investigations, provide public safety and conduct special operations

Manuals on specific areas within these four pillars – community-oriented policing; crime intelligence-led policing; crime intelligence; non-coercive investigative interviewing; mission-based police planning; border policing; donor coordination and fund management; and monitoring, mentoring and advising – have been or are in the process of being developed.

To further operationalize the guidance developed under the SGF, the United Nations Police Training Architecture Programme formally came into existence in April 2019. This joint effort is being undertaken by the Police Division and the Integrated Training Service, in close cooperation with the United Nations

Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), with the aim of updating the current United Nations Police pre-deployment training by ensuring its compliance with the SGF and other relevant United Nations guidance.

All United Nations Member States were invited to join the Programme, and as of 1 October 2020, a total of 32 police-contributing countries have done so. In addition, United Nations Agencies, Funds and Programmes as well as other organizations are supporting the programme, including the African Union, European Union, INTERPOL and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe.

Within the framework of the Programme, in February 2021, the pilot SGF online course was launched for initial testing on the newly created United Nations Police assessment platform. When fully functional, the course will become mandatory for all potential United Nations Police officers, and the portal will allow the transfer of candidates’ test results to the FSS/HERMES system used by the Police Division to deploy personnel to the field, thus ensuring full compliance with mandatory learning requirements. Six Curriculum Development Groups were established to translate existing United Nations guidance into training materials for a new pre-deployment police specialized training module and job-specific training modules for United Nations Police. All groups started their work in June 2019 and by 31 December 2020, they had submitted their respective specialized training module and job-specific training materials to the Programme’s Core Team.

Once a given SGF-compliant curriculum has been completed and formally approved, the Police Division and the Integrated Training Service will invite Member States and partner organizations to send senior police instructors to undertake a specific United Nations Certified Instructors’ Course on that particular curriculum. Instructors who pass the course would be certified to deliver not only the standardized curriculum at their own or another training facility, but also to issue numbered United Nations certificates to the participants successfully completing the courses they deliver themselves. Over the coming months and years, vacancy notices for international policing assignments will increasingly feature language where possession of a numbered United Nations certificate in a given specialism will be listed as “highly desirable”.

The Police Division and the Integrated Training Service look forward to working with the police training centres of the Member States and other partner organizations (including the International Association of Peacekeeping Training Centres) to form a network of facilities, personnel and other resources that can be used to meet the needs of peace operations. This partnership will allow for effective load-sharing and better use of resources. The Police Division and its international partners will provide the network with details of the projected numbers and types of personnel needed for the foreseeable future. The aim of this relationship is to ensure that the right persons are trained on the right thing in the required quantities at the right time. This way, the police personnel will be deployed in their specialized role, having been earlier trained and certified. Accordingly, it will lead to the enhancement of field officers’ performance because it can be monitored, evaluated and reported on against transparent, known and commonly agreed criteria.

# Enhancing support to non-mission settings



Standing Police Capacity officers deployed to Malawi to support the United Nations Development Programme's Electoral Security Management Project with training for public order management and operation of incident command centers.

The primary mission of the United Nations Police is to enhance international peace and security by supporting Member States in conflict, post-conflict and other crisis situations to realize effective, efficient, representative, responsive and accountable police services that serve and protect the population. With the continued advancement of the Organization's strategy to ensure more joined-up, whole-of-pillar and cross-pillar engagement for prevention, crisis response and sustaining peace, the Police Division has continued to reinforce its capacity to serve as a systemwide service provider for policing expertise and assistance. Nowhere is that more evident than in the deployment of technical assistance and expertise from SPC, including through the Global Focal Point for Rule of Law arrangement (GFP), which is led jointly by the Department of Peace Operations and UNDP.

Starting from an assessment and training for the Mozambique National Police on electoral security together with UNDP and continuing through deployments to support election security, gender mainstreaming, community-oriented policing, mediation, human rights, and training and capacity building, highlights of the assistance it has provided to non-mission settings include:

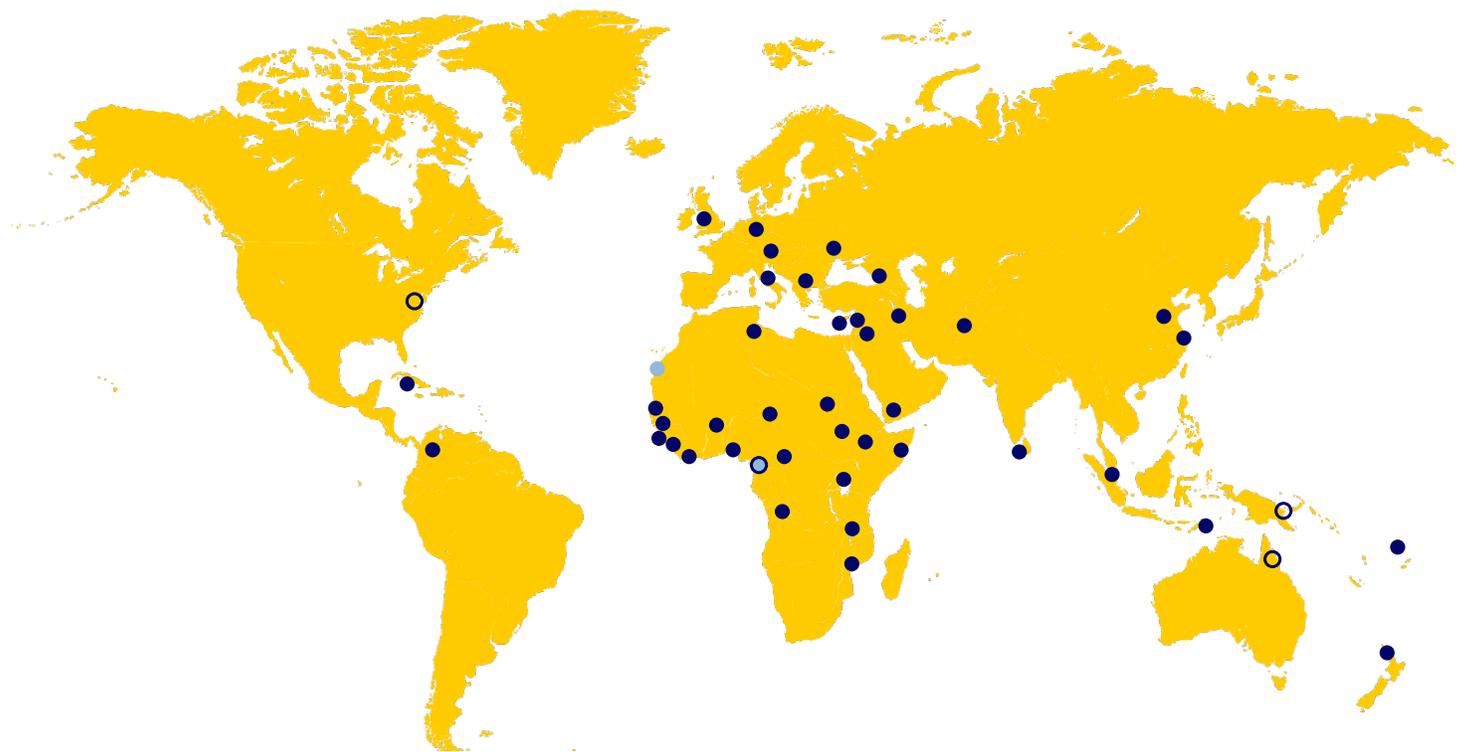
- SPC responded to requests for support to UNDP in Sierra Leone and Malawi for electoral security management capacity-building for national police services to address issues related to conflict prevention and mitigation and prevention of violence against women in elections and assisted in the development of curriculum, instructor development, communications strategies, public order management, community outreach and the establishment of incident command centers.
- It also supported UNDP and UN-Women in Liberia to enhance the institutional capacity of the Liberian National Police and the Liberian Immigration Service, as well as assisted in the development of a five-year implementation plan for a Liberian National Police Gender Policy.
- Through ongoing partnership with UNDP and the United Nations Senior Human Rights Adviser in Malawi and the Malawi Police Service, SPC contributed to post-election assessment and preparation for the decision

by the Constitutional Court on the contested May 2019 presidential elections and expected tensions resulting from the announcement.

- SPC partnered with the UNDP African Union Mission to Somalia and the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia for a training needs assessment, training strategy and curriculum development for leadership courses for the Somalia Federal Police. SPC also supported an assessment and development of recommendations for the planned support initiatives from national and international stakeholders to the national police on electoral security management.
- In the Republic of Korea, SPC experts partnered with the UNDP Seoul Police Centre on an international seminar of experts and a public outreach seminar on police capacity development and victim support mechanisms for gender-based violence, with a focus on training strategies and effective institutional structures.
- In Tunisia, SPC provided technical support to UNDP on the prevention, preparedness and responses related to preventing and countering violent extremism through a training-of-trainers course.
- Support was provided to the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate for follow-up measures with national authorities in Mozambique on the implementation of recommendations related to relevant Security Council resolutions and a visit in 2012.

An identified good practice includes assistance for the assessment, development and implementation of national training curricula and instructor development, which in turn can foster sustainable institutional reforms based on internationally accepted policing standards focused on accountable police and security institutions with respect to human rights and gender mainstreaming. Furthermore, partnerships built with United Nations agencies, funds and programs in non-mission settings offer the promise of more sustainable conflict prevention efforts, smoother quick deployments of the necessary expertise to the field and enhanced service delivery as One United Nations.

# Deployments, bilateral/international cooperation and remote assistance provided by the Standing Police Capacity (2007–present)



- Physical deployments
- Bilateral/international cooperation (including participation in conferences and workshops)
- Remote assistance
- Both remote assistance and physical deployments

## UNITED NATIONS POLICE: FROM A4P TO THE 2030 AGENDA

In the survey “UN75: The Future We Want, The UN We Need,” members of the public from around the world identified conflicts and greater respect for human rights as priorities for the United Nations, and the United Nations Police play a major role in these two areas. Immediately adjusting its priorities to help host-State counterparts and communities respond to COVID-19, the United Nations Police ensures the continuity of critical mandated tasks and support where most needed.

### Context

Geopolitical tensions, the climate crisis, global mistrust and the dark side of technology, which Secretary-General António Guterres called the “looming threats of the twenty-first century”, are affecting the well-being and livelihoods of communities worldwide and the planet itself. National and United Nations Police are on the front lines of averting and addressing these transnational threats. As societies emerge from conflict, violence and instability, rule of law institutions, including notably the police – the first element of the justice chain – are essential to preventing the outbreak or relapse into conflict and paving the way for sustainable peace, stability and prosperity.

Comprising about 11,000 authorized United Nations Police officers from 129 countries (since 1990), the United Nations Police support Member States to realize effective, representative, responsive and accountable police services that serve and protect the population, operating in line with the **Strategic Guidance Framework for International Policing**, the system-wide doctrine. By building and supporting or, where mandated, acting as a substitute or partial substitute for host-State police capacity to prevent and detect crime, protect life and property, and maintain public order and safety in adherence to the rule of law and international human rights law, the United Nations Police contribute to **Action for Peacekeeping (A4P) and its Declaration of Shared Commitments**, including by advancing political solutions through community-oriented policing; increasing gender equality through gender-responsive policing; augmenting the safety and security of United Nations personnel through intelligence-led policing; and contributing to a lasting, positive impact through environmentally responsive policing. The United Nations Police also acts as an enabler of several **Sustainable Development Goals** and thereby help implement the Secretary-General’s peacekeeping priorities amidst COVID-19, namely: (i) supporting national authorities, (ii) protecting United Nations personnel, (iii) mitigating the spread of the virus and assisting in the protection of vulnerable communities, and (iv) ensuring operational continuity in the implementation of mandates.

### Rationale

The year 2020 marks a milestone for the United Nations – its seventy-fifth anniversary. This year also marks the twentieth anniversary of **Security Council resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security** and the sixtieth anniversary of United Nations Police deployments. Member States’ endorsement of the Secretary-General’s vision for the Police Division as the Organization’s focal point and system-wide service provider for policing and other law enforcement matters, together with Security Council resolutions **2185 (2014)**, **2382 (2017)** and **2447 (2018)**, as well as guidance from the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations of the General Assembly, have generated new momentum for the United Nations Police. While recognizing the centrality of United Nations policing, as evidenced by its contributions to mission exits through strengthened host-State police services and other law enforcement institutions including Côte d’Ivoire, Liberia and Timor-Leste, the 2019 Peacekeeping Ministerial highlighted the evolving requirements of the United Nations Police. UNCOPS provides a platform to consider ways to further strengthen these ongoing efforts.

# UNITED NATIONS CHIEFS OF POLICE SUMMIT

## Objectives

UNCOPS will provide an opportunity for senior police executives, key partners and United Nations representatives to advance **A4P commitments** and contribute to the **Decade of Action** by discussing:

- Advancing political solutions by assisting police reforms.
- Protecting civilians through community-oriented policing initiatives focusing on prevention.
- Furthering the **Women, Peace and Security Agenda** and launching the Voluntary Compact on Advancing Gender Parity within United Nations Police.
- Enhancing the **safety and security of peacekeepers** through intelligence-led policing and greater situational awareness.
- Sustaining peace by contributing to comprehensive rule of law assistance, in line with **the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**.
- Increasing performance and accountability through implementing updated guidance on pre-deployment and in-mission regimes of United Nations Police.
- Improving partnerships, including with the European Union and the African Union, to garner stronger support for the further development of the **SGF** and its operationalization.
- Strengthening conduct and discipline through the **A4P** engagement framework, including the United Nations Police Environmental Management Framework.





A United Nations Police officer from Chad serving in the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali speaks with residents of Menaka while on patrol (May 2018).



A United Nations Police officer serving at the United Nations Mission in South Sudan sits with children



The United Nations Police Division carries out a Selection Assistance and Assessment Team visit in Jordan (July 2020)



United Nations Police officers from the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo visit the Grace orphanage in Kibati, North Kivu Province, in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (June 2019)

# Partners of the United Nations Police

(list is not exhaustive)



**African Union**



**Association of  
Southeast Asian Nations**



**Center of Excellence  
for Stability Policing Units**



**China Peacekeeping Police  
Training Center**



**International Association  
of Chiefs of Police**



**International Association  
of Peacekeeping Training  
Centres**



**International Association  
of Women Police**



**INTERPOL**



**Office of the  
United Nations  
High Commissioner  
for Human Rights**



**Organisation internationale  
de la francophonie**



**Organization for Security  
and Co-operation in Europe**



**Pacific Islands Forum**



**THE WORLD BANK**

**The World Bank**



**Collective Security Treaty Organization**



**Egyptian Peacekeeping Operations Training Center**



**European External Action Service**



**Europol**



**International Organization for Migration**



**Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre**



**North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)**



**OAS**

More rights for more people

**Organization of American States**



**UNHCR**  
The UN Refugee Agency

**United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees**



**United Nations Development Programme**



**UNODC**  
United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

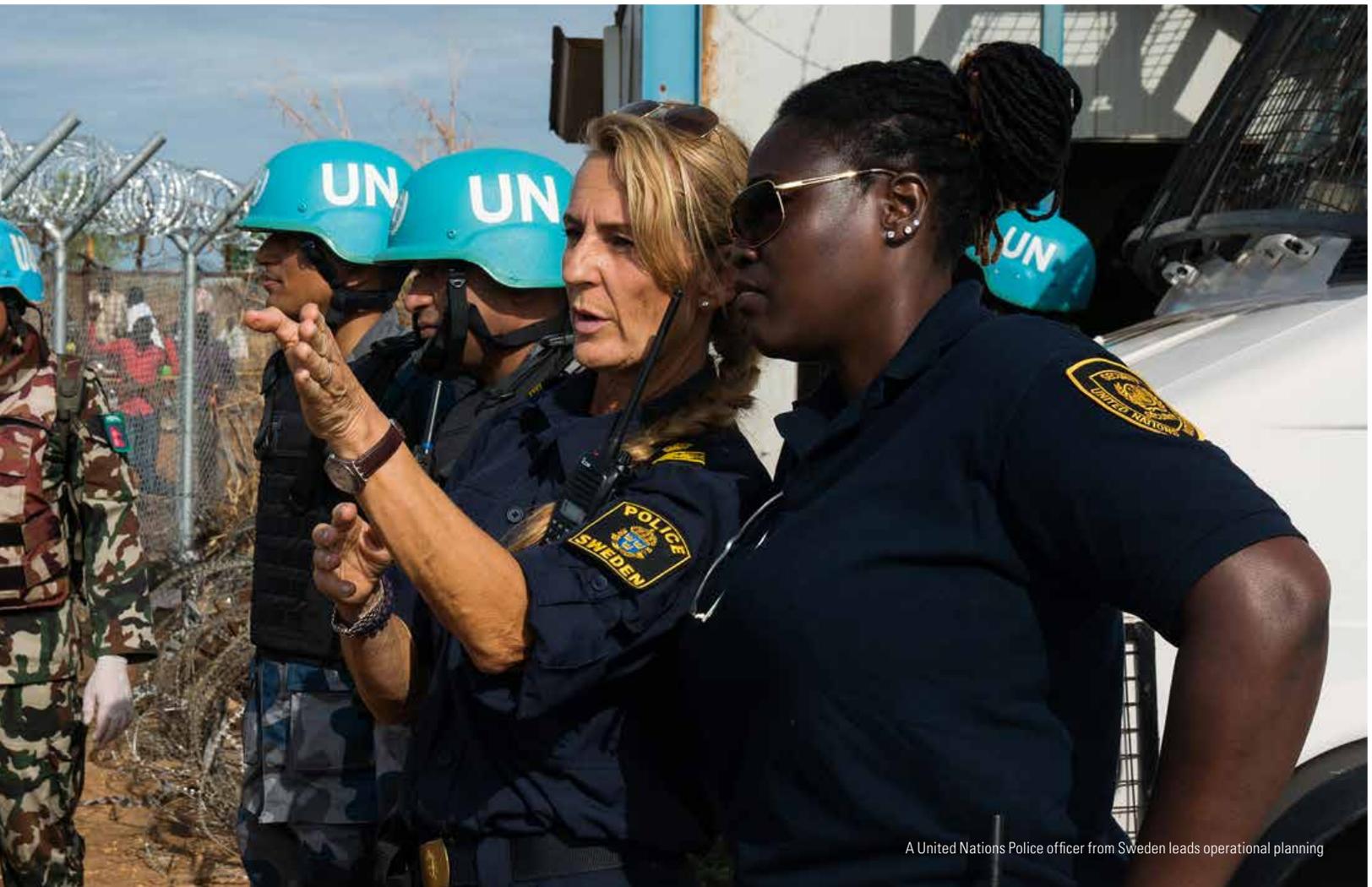
**United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime**



**UN-WOMEN**



A United Nations Police officer from Senegal serving with the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic marches during a medal parade in Bangui (April 2019).



A United Nations Police officer from Sweden leads operational planning



The United Nations Police Division conducts an Assessment and Advisory Visit of pledged formed police units in Tanzania (December 2018)



Secretary-General António Guterres meets with the heads of United Nations Police components during their annual conference (November 2017)



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