

# UNCOPS

United Nations Chiefs of Police Summit 2022 • 31 AUG - 1 SEP

## **Third United Nations Chiefs of Police Summit (UNCOPS)**

*Session 1: Addressing key challenges facing United Nations peacekeeping through Action for Peacekeeping (A4P) and A4P+.*

**1 September, New York, GA Hall**

**Statement by Malaysia**

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Assalaamualaikum and a very good morning Your Excellencies, Honourable Colleagues, distinguished officials of the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations, Ladies and Gentlemen.

On behalf of the Inspector General of the Royal Malaysia Police, I would like to record our utmost appreciation and gratitude to the Secretariat of the United Nations Police for organising this third summit. Congratulations on the highly successful of the last summit I attended here in this august hall in the year 2018.

Session 1 of this summit is about addressing key challenges facing United Nations peacekeeping through action for peacekeeping. In this regard, the Royal Malaysia Police would humbly assert that “peacekeeping” should not be confined merely within a post-conflict context. It has to be redefined to bring into context the current challenges being faced by law enforcement agencies throughout the world in the wake of persistent changes.

The reality is that we are now living a VUCA world, where Volatility, Uncertainly, Complexity and Ambiguity are the new order of the day, covering all spheres of political, economic, social, technological, environmental and legal scopes of a nation. In recent years, technology advancement, in particular, the ICT, has posed great challenges to many countries. These challenges must be addressed as they could erode the philosophy and practise of UN Peacekeeping. While UN Police concentrate on the stability and capacity building of law enforcement agencies of Member States, they should also focus on crime prevention strategies that could buttress the peacekeeping initiatives.

Member states cannot be left to their own devices in tackling these new ICT-related challenges. A coherent and concerted effort should be worked out at the highest level such as this forum to

address myriads of issues pertaining VUCA vis-à-vis crime prevention. For instance, illegal trade of endangered flora and fauna should be a going concern for the UN Police to collaborate with Member States that need expertise in the area of prevention and investigation of such crime. This is but one example; others would be issues pertaining to degradation of environmental quality, social unrest, etc. that could well fall within the ambit of peacekeeping.

As we know, ICT-related or telecommunication frauds are rampant lately where millions of dollars being transferred through fraudulent means to online accounts of perpetrators. In majority of the cases, the victim did not even know the perpetrator as the trust was built online. Although much have been done to create awareness amongst the public not to fall prey, there are many more who become newbies for the wrong reasons. If peacekeeping hitherto concerns the social aspect of livelihood, this modern internet and social media menace should also be part of peacekeeping initiatives.

Law enforcement officials would arguably agree that the threat posed by technology in this post-information era would escalate years ahead with more victims being deprived of their freedom and ease of doing business through the advent of technology. Instead, the contrary might be true, that despite providing convenience to users, ICT could well become a fertile ground for fraudsters, illicit syndicates, arms trade, terrorism, human and drug trafficking – you name it, the technology would facilitate these ill causes.

The threat is imminent and it requires a global intervention through a unified international body such as the United Nations. Therefore, it is only proper that UN Police play a pivotal role in this regard.

For example, A4P has laid down eight areas of commitment, two of which, namely “Protection” and “Safety and Security”, which would appropriately be able to address ICT-related concerns within a peacekeeping framework. Further, A4P+ calls for “Strategic and Operational integration” and “Capabilities and Mindsets” as part of its

seven priorities. Thus, the Royal Malaysia Police would urge, as a matter of urgency, for the UN Police to augment the necessary knowledge, skills and abilities in combating these new challenges. This is a tool of capacity building that would be driven by UN Police.

Excellencies and dear colleagues, please accept Royal Malaysia Police request for this august house to seriously consider this proposition to build the capacity and capability of the Member

States to prepare and keep them abreast with the prevention and investigation of ICT-related crimes.

Thank you very much.