

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 The Nordics

Ministers, Ambassadors, Chiefs of Police,

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Allow me on behalf of the Nordic countries – Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden and my own country Denmark – to thank the Department of Peace Operations and Police Division for convening this conference on the important work on strengthening international peace, security, and development through the unified efforts and capabilities of national and United Nations policing. We welcome this initiative to gather police leaders from across the globe to facilitate a dialogue on the challenges facing UN Policing and suggestions for solutions.

This debate is necessary to promote and consolidate UN peace operations and peacekeeping efforts, where police components play a vital role in maintaining peace and enhancing capacity building.

Distinguished delegates,

The challenges faced by UN peacekeeping efforts are complex, which in turn requires a multifaceted response. The focus of efforts must therefore not only be on keeping peace but also on mitigating the risk of conflict. Conflict and crime are closely connected, and illicit profits sustain conflict and violence. The police have an integral role to play in this by strengthening law enforcement and rule

of law and by discouraging tensions and violence between different parties, but also in peacekeeping efforts in preventing conflicts.

The deployment of police forces assists host states with strengthening the capacity of their rule of law and law enforcement institutions, such as the police, security and justice systems. The police component can play a substantial part in state-building efforts by assisting with the security sector reform or development of the host state's police, by providing temporary core policing functions, by helping to resolve local disputes in places where the formal police and justice actors are not operational, as well as by protecting civilians and UN personnel and facilities.

In order to address some of the challenges the UN's peacekeeping efforts are facing, there is a need to focus on the following:

Firstly, prevention - through the integration of police, military and civil components in order to address the root causes of conflict. Preventing conflicts and sustaining peace requires a holistic approach to peacekeeping crossing security, development and human rights dimensions, including crime prevention perspectives. Policing and rule of law need to be at the heart of decision making, not an afterthought in peacekeeping planning. We cannot ensure security without development, or development without security. The Nordics have a long-standing and comprehensive experience working with the integrated approach to peacekeeping efforts, and thus the basis for contributing to the scaling up of a whole-of-mission approach in the UN's peacekeeping efforts. This is vital to effectively address the increasingly complex conflict environments around the world. To better be able to deliver on a holistic approach to peacekeeping with crime prevention perspectives, another long-standing Nordic experience should be further elaborated; close cooperation and joint planning between all justice actors. In a UN-peace keeping context the need for closer Office of Rule of Law and Security Institutions-cooperation cannot be overemphasized.

Secondly, the protection of civilians is a core policing responsibility. Member States need to support the strengthening of a human rights-centered approaches in peacekeeping. It is not only a matter of physical protection but also of establishing a platform for dialogue and a protective environment. These efforts must ensure that the different security needs of women, men, girls and boys are met.

Finally, we reiterate the importance of involving women and youth in all peacekeeping and peacebuilding measures in line with the Women, Peace and Security agenda as well as the Youth, Peace and Security agenda. At the very heart of policing is a police service that is responsive,

representative, and accountable to all the people it is set to serve. This requires an understanding of how crime and violence affect men, women, boys and girls differently. Violence against women and girls is used as a weapon of war and often part of organized crime. Without gender responsive policing, security, and justice for victims of violence will not be attainable. Police-contributing countries and the UN must provide gender training in order to ensure sustainable peace and security for all, with due consideration for the specific threats and risks experienced by different groups, and an inclusive work environment, in which sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment is prevented.

The Nordics remain steadfast in exploring further possibilities for the UN Police in implementing the promises by the Action for Peacekeeping and Action for Peacekeeping + agendas. UN policing needs an operating model fit for purpose to address conflict and crime and the close connection between the two. Such an operating model must also provide structures, practices and standards to rapidly deploy police and justice personnel to special political missions and in non-mission settings. Our personnel are our most valuable resource. We need to use them to the best of their capacity. We need a 'New Agenda for Peace' and therefore also welcome this important dialogue between states to further understand the challenges that UN policing faces today and the possibilities for tackling them.

Thank you for your attention.