Dear colleagues and partners, let me take the occasion to wish you all a fruitful and prosperous New Year 2015. At the end of last year an important milestone was reached with the adoption of UN Security Council Resolution 2185. This year will encompass a range of development processes that will affect UN policing in general. For the SPC, this year will mark a turning point in our outreach to you – our colleagues and partners – in order to enhance our mutual efforts to address disturbances and criminality in fragile states. The SPC has a number of senior officers with a collection of very useful skill sets that are at your disposal for deployment, also with short notice. I, and all SPC staff, are very much looking forward to this year and to cooperate with you all in a mutual effort to enhance sustainable peace. Kind regards, Maria

SPC Transnational Crime officer, Stephanie Tieles, is currently deployed to MINUSMA to support initiatives including planning a seminar on organized crime and terrorism, identifying good practice to implement in Mali, focusing on intelligence assets and facilitation of information exchange. The SPC Legal officer, Cristina Iampieri, is also likely to be deployed to MINUSMA shortly.

SPC Gender officer, Odile Kantyono, has been supporting UNDP in Chad on gender and training initiatives, including provision of a strategic training plan and will complete her mission in January before providing assistance to MINUSTAH to help them produce policy frameworks on gender equality, equal opportunities, gender mainstreaming and SGBV.

SPC Logistics officer, Majed Hachaichi, is currently acting UNPOL Chief of Staff in MINUSCA. The SPC Public Order officer, Paolo Bonanno, Transnational Crime officer, Derek Simmonds and Legal officer, Miriam Mafessanti ended their missions in December 2014 having contributed towards the implementation of the mandate in their areas of expertise.

SPC Community Policing officer, Won Hyuk Im and Training officer, Amod Gurung are currently deployed to UNAMA and are working with the mission and the PAU (Police Advisory Unit) supporting the implementation of the Afghanistan Democratic Policing Project (ADPP) to improve the accountability and responsiveness of police. One of the six components of the project is the development of police women councils for Afghan female police officers, to allow them to network and become more empowered. In October, 200 participants attended a workshop that attracted significant media attention. Afghan police women can suffer from structural discrimination, workplace isolation and physical/sexual violence. The Afghan Ministry of Interior now has a strategy and implementation plan and has announced plans to introduce police women councils in all provinces.

SPC IT officer, Gerrit Schut is currently deployed to UNMIL to continue to develop and implement L-SMART, which is an IT system that will revolutionize how UNPOL records, tracks and analyses the capacity building progress of their counterparts. L-SMART has also been used in Haiti and East Timor and it is also a management tool that records the activities of UNPOL. It is currently being extended to collate data on Charge of Quarters and inclusion of FPU activity is under consideration.
3 SPC officers travelled to Kenya in November, to train AMISOM and Somalian police officers on “police mentoring, advising and election security”. 25 officers attended including 9 females. All students actively participated and the feedback was excellent. The participating officers are now expected to train and mentor their colleagues. Five modules were covered: 1. Mentoring, training and advising 2. Framework for democratic policing 3. Mission planning, implementation and coordination 4. Police reform in the context of SSR/RRR 5. Protection of civilians.

SPC has a strong partnership with the Centre of Excellence for Stability Police Units (CoESPU) by provision of support to different training initiatives which contributes towards the effectiveness of UN police officers. Positive feedback was received about previous support provided and, whilst bearing in mind that SPC deployments to the field remain a priority, cooperation will be further extended. SPC officers have the skills and experience to provide training on specialist and themed topics when required.

Jane Rhodes, SPC Police Reform officer, speaks about the skills necessary for International Police Advisors to successfully assist host states. Jane spent nearly 3 years in UNMIL as the Reform and Restructure Coordinator until August 2014:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VH9puWlq_li

In December 2014, SPC Training officer, Amod Gurung, facilitated an interactive workshop in Malaysia on ‘Deaths in Custody’ attended by 25 senior leaders from the police, prison, bar association and ministries. The sessions were very productive as key operational challenges were discussed and participants acknowledged the importance of working together.

SPC Police Reform officer, Jane Rhodes, travelled to Japan in December, to facilitate a workshop on ‘Gender and Peacebuilding’. Participants had prior experience in peacebuilding and the workshop aimed to strengthen their knowledge in relation to gender issues by a series of lectures and role play. The workshop was very interactive and the feedback was excellent.

SPC Police Reform officer, Odia Godfrey Aropet, attended and participated in the JMAC course held in November in Norway to further prepare SPC to help set up JMAC in new missions and provide support to existing peacekeeping and political missions. 24 nations were represented on the course and all participants actively shared their experiences.

COMMUNITY POLICING TRAINING: SPC Community Policing officer, Mona Nordberg, conducted a lecture on ‘Community Orientated Policing in Post Conflict Situations’ at a European seminar arranged by CEPOL (European Police College) in December 2014. 29 police officers attended from 23 countries. The aim was to discuss developing relationships between police and communities by maximizing interventions with the different relevant actors.

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