

# UNCOPS

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

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## **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 United Kingdom**

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Thank you for the opportunity to speak today and thank you to my colleagues from across the globe and briefers here at the United Nations for your insightful remarks.

I would like to start by paying tribute to the men and women serving in police deployments around the world.

UN policing is fundamental to peacekeeping. Police play a central role in restoring security and justice systems and the rule of law in conflict-affected states. But as we are all aware, the landscape our officers operate in is constantly evolving. If UN policing is to stay effective, we all need to respond.

The UN Secretary-General's A4P initiative and A4P+ priorities provide a clear path to strengthening UN policing and peacekeeping more broadly. The priorities offer strong, tangible outcomes on political solutions, planning, capabilities, performance and accountability, including for conduct, as well as mainstreaming Women Peace and Security. These deserve our full support.

Action for Peacekeeping provides a framework for reform, but we all have a responsibility to drive it forward. UN Police are often the first and the last to meet with the local population in response to a crisis. They need to be trained in the range of skills to support all the challenges they face, whether States are in active conflict or peacebuilding processes – UN Police has a role to play in all scenarios.

We all have responsibility as Police contributing countries to make sure our officers are trained to the highest standard, vetted before deployment and that we take action in response to any instances of poor performance or misconduct – including applying the Secretary-General's zero-tolerance approach to sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment.

I encourage the UN Police Division to fulfil its responsibility to establish doctrine and define clear standards both for effective performance of UN Police in missions, as well as for preparation for deployment. We need to see the strategic guidance framework fully integrated into missions.

Yet colleagues, UN police can only perform at their best when they reflect the communities they are there to serve. Men and women. We all know that greater numbers of women in all roles and at all levels in peacekeeping are essential for operational effectiveness. We need to see female officers across the full range of roles to ensure police components are operating at their best.

I welcome steps taken by PCCs to meet the UN Secretary-General's uniformed gender parity targets, including through the work of the Elsie Initiative. We know that women and girls in host communities feel empowered by female peacekeepers, and that women's participation rates in local police increase as a result. This improves the capacity of national forces to take over security responsibilities, and ultimately paves the way to sustaining peace.

The UK is particularly keen to work with UNPOL on how we can help build the next generation of female police leaders and officers, so critical to any Mission, and are looking to explore opportunities to support the delivery of future female command courses.

Colleagues, we all have a responsibility as Member States to share best practice and challenge the status quo as we strive to improve the effectiveness of UN policing and its contribution to peacekeeping.

Thank you.