

UNCOPS

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Third United Nations Chiefs of Police Summit (UNCOPS)

Third Session on Bridging the Gap on Performance

1 September 4pm, New York, GA Hall

Remarks by Mr. Atul Khare, Under-Secretary-General for Operational Support

*Excellencies,
Distinguished colleagues,
Ladies and gentlemen,*

It is my great pleasure to join you once again in the General Assembly Hall for the United Nations Chiefs of Police Summit.

Since our last summit some four years ago, the world has witnessed unprecedented challenges. We have collectively addressed obstacles arising from the COVID-19 pandemic while carrying out the important work of sustaining peace and building a post-pandemic future.

I would like to join my colleagues in expressing my gratitude to all of you for your continued commitment and support to United Nations policing.

We are gathered today to consider together, how to further enhance the effectiveness and positive impact of deployed uniformed personnel.

We owe it to you, our Member States and partners, to ensure the most cost-effective, efficient and optimal stewardship of personnel and resources provided to us.

Performance, in my view, depends on four discrete but inter-dependent factors: capacity which is a function of pre-deployment and in-theater training; equipment; motivation, particularly dependent upon the assurances of safety, security, including medical care that we can provide, and a clear vision.

Since we have discussed other elements in previous sessions, I will focus on equipment and the required assurances of safety and security of personnel.

Our police contingents must have the capabilities required to deliver on the mandates entrusted to them. FPU operational preparedness and incorporating trained personnel, relies on Contingent-owned Equipment aligned with mandated tasks.

I am also aware that operational security challenges in some Missions, like Mali, require necessary enhanced measures. I particularly encourage all PCCs to deploy capabilities that enhance personnel safety, such as PPE and first-aid kits.

The Police Division, in coordination with the Uniformed Capabilities Support Division (UCSD) of my Department, regularly assesses equipment requirements and serviceability.

UCSD's quarterly performance metrics also inform DPO's integrated performance meetings. These metrics are also incorporated in the *Integrated Peacekeeping and Accountability Framework* (IPPAF). UCSD works closely with DPO and Member States to improve the performance of riot control equipment, APCs and medical capabilities.

For units with persistent capability gaps, my office regularly sends letters to the respective Permanent Missions requesting remedial actions and offering support to their efforts to do so.

The GA-agreed reimbursement framework for formed units supports the deployment and maintenance of required capabilities. A triennial COE Working Group will convene in January 2023 to consider changes to the framework.

I wish to thank you for your cooperation and participation in the preparatory work currently underway. The success of the Working Group rests on you, and I urge you to make recommendations reflecting the changed peacekeeping context and requirements.

If I may, I would also like to thank you for your support in agreeing on a new standard reimbursement rate for uniformed personnel and the first revision to the *Recreational Leave Allowance* since 2009. These revisions contribute to the enhanced motivation, and hence, to the performance of deployed personnel.

Further, your active support now allows us to disburse pending COE claims from closed missions and D&D claims (including PTSD claims).

*Distinguished colleagues,
Ladies and Gentlemen,*

Enhancing the safety and security of our peacekeepers - which is inextricably linked to performance - is and must remain a priority for us. Timely access to life-saving medical support remains essential.

To that end, we have undertaken major initiatives like the Covid-19 MEDEVAC Mechanism, bolstering timely access to life-saving medical care. Since its operationalization in 2020, we have provided support to evacuation and medical care of **42** uniformed personnel serving across

4 peacekeeping missions (*MINUSCA, MINUSMA, MONUSCO, UNMISS*) and in AMISOM, suffering from serious COVID-19 complications.

We also launched a pilot Telemedicine Project aimed at improving overall access to healthcare in four missions.

*Distinguished colleagues,
Ladies and gentlemen,*

I would like to express appreciation for the invaluable contribution of PCCs to environmental management. We stand ready to support PCCs deploy with environmentally responsible equipment, such as renewable energy systems, enhanced by environmentally responsive mindsets.

Together with the Police Division, we are bolstering data gathering and analysis and raising environmental awareness in line with the UNPOL Environmental Management Framework, aimed at reducing mission footprints.

To support implementing the Women, Peace and Security Agenda, we are working closely on cross-component field-mission surveys to identify and address barriers preventing the full, equal, and meaningful participation of women.

To bridge the gender gap, the DOS Elsie Initiative for Field Missions has been working for the past three years on “improving the working and living conditions in field operations”, with a focus on improved minimum standards for camp living and working environments.

*Distinguished colleagues,
Ladies and Gentlemen,*

In line with our joint vision of a modern, agile, mobile and specialized United Nations police, we need your best and brightest.

We seek your vetted, trained, equipped, technologically proficient personnel. We also particularly need your Francophone personnel to support our current deployments.

Let me assure you that my Department will continue to do its utmost to support your peacekeepers, so that United Nations Police, wherever deployed, can undertake their tasks and have the greatest positive impact.

Thank you.