

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 10:30 -12:00, New York, GA Hall

Statement by Under-Secretary-General Jean-Pierre Lacroix

Excellencies,

Distinguished guests,

Ladies and gentlemen,

I would like to extend a warm welcome to all of you to the third United Nations Chiefs of Police Summit, also known as UNCOPS. As you know, our original plan to convene in 2020 was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. I am particularly pleased that we are finally here together for this very important event – and not a moment too soon.

UNCOPS is a continuation of high-level summits that we have organized since 2014 to seek greater Member State engagement to modernize peace operations, improve the performance and capabilities of uniformed personnel, support rapid deployments and reinforce the foundation for peacekeeping efforts. I express my deep gratitude to the countries that made policing-related pledges during the last Peacekeeping Ministerial in Seoul in December 2021, including for individual personnel and formed units with specialized capabilities such as SWAT, K9, disaster victim identification, as well as training and other resources. I hope we can build on that momentum and spirit of partnership during this event as well.

United Nations peacekeeping remains one of our most effective tools to promote and maintain international peace and security, but we face persistent challenges on multiple fronts. Political solutions in conflict-affected areas are often absent, complex threats are again leading to more peacekeeper casualties, and field missions at times lack the personnel and equipment

necessary for success. The volatile operating environments in which peacekeepers increasingly operate compound the challenges.

UNCOPS is a unique and timely opportunity to reaffirm the vital role that the United Nations Police play in peacekeeping and peacebuilding, of which responsive and accountable governance, including police services, are central. Throughout this event, we will discuss some of the key challenges facing United Nations policing and how to best address them through the unifying and mutually reinforcing power of national and United Nations policing. These issues will likely resonate with you and your own efforts in your home countries.

For the Department of Peace Operations, the immediate way forward is Action for Peacekeeping Plus, or A4P+. Today, I will discuss how the United Nations Police are helping to advance the seven A4P+ priorities and two crosscutting themes designed to further strengthen the effectiveness of our operations. I also welcome hearing your own views in support of the A4P+ agenda.

Excellencies,
Distinguished colleagues,

Ensuring coherence behind political strategies is the first priority of A4P+. It acknowledges that entities across the United Nations system bring to bear varied resources and leverage that can support and influence a country's political trajectory. For example, in the Central African Republic, MINUSCA Police worked with UN Women to establish an emergency hotline for women candidates and voters to report election-related violence to the authorities of the Central African Republic. It's critical that we do our utmost to create an environment conducive to women's political participation.

There are many other good examples of collaboration between the United Nations Police and other United Nations entities involved in aspects of policing and law enforcement. We are working to strengthen these synergies in line with the second priority of A4P+, which is greater strategic and operational integration. To this end, the United Nations Secretariat established the Inter-Agency Task Force on Policing, co-chaired by our Department and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, to unite policing efforts throughout the United

Nations system. This is particularly around strategic planning, guidance development and training.

We are also working to enhance capabilities and mindsets, the third A4P+ priority, including by aligning pre-deployment training by Member States with the Organization's in-mission training. To this end, the Police Division together with the Integrated Training Service of the Department of Peace Operations is developing a curricula under the United Nations Police Training Architecture Programme. In addition, United Nations Police has created a new mandatory online course based on the Strategic Guidance Framework for International Policing. It was developed with policing experts from many Member States to nurture the knowledge and mindsets necessary for United Nations Police personnel to carry out their mandated tasks effectively. This course will form the baseline for future personnel and their performance assessments.

The fourth priority of A4P+, ensuring the highest levels of accountability to peacekeepers, remains critical to improving the safety and security of our personnel. The Action Plan to Improve the Security of United Nations Peacekeepers continues to structure our efforts towards this goal. The United Nations Police has supported the implementation of the Action Plan including through in-mission performance assessment and evaluation team visits to our missions in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Mali and South Sudan.

To advance our fifth priority, which is the accountability of peacekeepers, the United Nations Police continues to underline zero tolerance for sexual exploitation and abuse, including through enhanced pre-deployment and in-mission trainings. Conduct also relates to how we manage the environmental footprints of our missions, and the United Nations Police continues to contribute to the environmental adaptation and mitigation measures of our missions and host-State counterparts.

Regarding the sixth priority of strategic communications, United Nations Police work to amplify the tangible impact of our presence through effective strategic communications, including engaging across all digital and social media platforms and through community policing initiatives on the ground. A priority is to help prevent and respond to a surge in misinformation and disinformation which is hindering our work to protect civilians and build peace and threatening the safety of communities as well as peacekeepers. My recent visit to the

Democratic Republic of the Congo with Police Adviser Carrilho and General Diop made clear the urgent need to enhance United Nations Police communication capacities to better manage expectations and de-escalate tensions. In today's digital age, strategic communications can no longer be seen as a luxury for peacekeeping, but as essential as hardware and equipment.

Finally, in line with the seventh A4P+ priority, our efforts to improve cooperation with host countries will help enable smooth transitions, just as we witnessed in Sudan, where experts from our Standing Police Capacity are helping the Mission to establish its Monitoring Support Component and operationalize the ceasefire mechanisms as part of the Juba Peace Agreement. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, MONUSCO Police have been working with United Nations partners, the Congolese National Police, and the Ministry of the Interior to advance the United Nations Joint Police Reform Support Programme.

In addition to integrating more technical tools and innovation in peacekeeping, where the United Nations Police are fully supporting the implementation of our Digital Transformation Strategy, the crosscutting issue of the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda is also infused throughout all aspects of A4P+.

For the United Nations Police, gender-responsive policing efforts ensure that the different security needs of women, men, girls and boys are considered. With the support of our Member States, the United Nations Police has already achieved its gender parity targets for 2025, and I am very pleased that six of our police components are currently headed by women. Nowhere is the promise of WPS more robust than our peacekeeping operation in Cyprus, where women comprise almost half of all police posts, including key positions at the Mission HQ and sector levels. We will continue to count on your assistance in helping us expand and sustain these numbers.

The United Nations Police is also working towards creating a gender-responsive working and living environment. This includes providing guidance to personnel at all levels through the United Nations Police Gender Toolkit, conducting mission-specific courses on increasing the participation of women police officers; and supporting women's career development through the United Nations Police Women Command Development courses.

We will continue to count on your assistance in helping us enhance gender parity, and foster not only diverse, but also more inclusive, mission environments.

Excellencies,

A4P+ is part of a renewed collective engagement to strengthen peacekeeping as an invaluable instrument for peace and security, and an expression of international solidarity. Through it, we are better placed to address today's challenges to peace and security and, ultimately, improve the lives of the people we serve.

I thank everyone gathered here today. We are extremely grateful for your support.

Thank you very much.