Security Council

Committee Staff

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Agenda

I. Improving the Security of United Nations Peacekeeping Personnel
II. The Situation in Ukraine

Resolutions adopted by the Committee

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The Security Council held its annual session to consider the following agenda items:

I. Improving the Security of Peacekeeping Personnel
II. The Situation in Ukraine

The session was attended by representatives of 15 Member States. On Tuesday evening, the committee adopted the agenda as I, II, beginning the discussion on the topic: Improving the Security of Peacekeeping Personnel.

During Wednesday morning and afternoon sessions, the Committee focused on discussing Member States’ initiatives on how to best address the issue at hand and delegates worked together in designing different strategies to ensure the safety of UN Peacekeeping Personnel and the success of their operations. During these sessions, the committee addressed the importance of implementing specialized offensive counter-measures capable of neutralizing hostile threats and unanimously rejected any act aimed at obstructing UN Peacekeeping Personnel protection while reaffirming the importance of the sovereignty of Member States, as enshrined in Article II of the Charter of the United Nations. The work of the body showed the commitment of every delegation to achieve a comprehensive and collaborative solution to improve the current situation of UN Peacekeeping Personnel. By Wednesday evening, the Dais had received a total of 6 working papers, covering a wide range of topics and subtopics including: the threat posed by Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) to the security of peacekeepers; the importance of effective communications and partnership between Peacekeeping Personnel and local authorities of the host Member State; the pivotal role of providing comprehensive cultural proficiency training to peacekeepers; the lack of representation of civil society in Peacekeeping missions’ planning; and the importance of strengthening the mandate of the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) in the protection of civilians and peacekeepers. The atmosphere of the committee was of full collaboration between and the 15 delegations present worked together to merge 5 working papers into 1 comprehensive Draft Resolution.

On Thursday, 2 draft resolutions were approved by the Dais, 1 of which had one friendly amendment. The committee adopted 2 resolutions, following voting procedure, both of them received unanimous support by the body and were adopted by acclamation. The resolutions addressed a wide range of issues, including: undermining the threat of IEDs towards peacekeeping personnel; limiting the role of private military security within peacekeeping operations; underlining the vital need for increased information sharing and non-sensitive intelligence gathering among willing Member States, and strengthening the instrumental roles of the UN Operations Crisis Centre (UNOCC) in providing intelligence support to field operations and the Organization for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) in gathering and providing information on the humanitarian aspects of conflict-afflicted regions. The passionate rhetoric employed by the body and the diligence seen in their hard work highlighted the serious nature of the issue at hand. Transparency, efficiency, and rationality were the tenets championed by the body in their approach to resolution writing and their commitment to improving the security of Peacekeeping Personnel.
The Security Council,

Distressed by the marked increase in violence towards peacekeeping personnel,

Noting with alarm that Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) are the second-highest cause of death of peacekeeping personnel, according to annual reports by United Nations Peacekeeping,

Condemning any act aimed at obstructing UN peacekeeping personnel protection from menace or physical attacks in accordance to Article 39 of Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations,

Bearing in mind the sovereignty of Member States who agree to receive peacekeeping operations as addressed in Security Council resolution 2337 (2017) and as enshrined in Article II of the Charter of the United Nations,

Recognizing previous works by the adoption of General Assembly resolution 70/46 (2015) on Counting the Threat Posed by Improvised Explosive Devices and Security Council resolution 2365 (2017) on Highlighting the Danger of Improvised Explosive Devices (IED) and the Need for Enhanced Mobility and Safety of Peacekeepers,

Reaffirming the 2009 A New Partnership Agenda: Charting a New Horizon for UN Peacekeeping as an exemplary model for heightening peace and security in relation to Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) no. 17,

Recalling the report, General Assembly resolution 70/46 (2015) on Counting the Threat Posed by Improvised Explosive Devices, specifically the objectives of prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery,

Taking note with satisfaction the World Health Organization (WHO) on their Comprehensive Mental Health Action Plan 2013-2020 in strengthening information systems, evidence, and research for mental health,

Highly Acknowledging the Department of Field Support (DFS) on their continued work alongside the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) to insure the consistency in the application in support-related policies and practices in Peacekeeping Operations,

1. **Insists** that all Member States deter the use of IEDs where peacekeeping operations are held;

2. **Invites** all Member States to bolster mutual cooperation regarding IEDs locations by establishing communication links between local officials, civilians, and peacekeeping personnel, mindful of the expectation that this sensitive information will stay between the parties, and with consideration for Member States’ preferred method of communication;

3. **Suggests** that DPKO and WHO form a partnership to investigate the threat IEDs pose to peacekeeping personnel mental health, as positive mental health is necessary to fulfill the goals and expectations of UN peacekeeping operations;

4. **Calls for** the DPKO and the DFS to strengthen mindful IEDs mitigation actions through:
   a. Improving intelligence on the locations of IEDs by increasing Peacekeeping Operations’ access to ground-penetrating radar technology;
   b. Informing Member States of the supply chain of IEDs and their components by calling upon the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) to investigate;
c. Dispose of IEDs with controlled detonations, paying special regard to Member States’ infrastructure and civilians;

d. Giving special concern that the sensitive information collected by the DPKO remains proprietary to the DPKO, DFS, and host Member States;

5. **Fully supports** the *DPKO Manual for Road Safety Management in the Field Chapter VII: Good Vehicle Safe Practices* to be expanded to protect convoys from the threat posed by IEDs through respecting the appropriate boundary of electrical jammer signal radius as agreed upon by the host Member State;

6. **Recommends** that the Council reassess IEDs diffusion and removal tactics in light of technical innovations;

7. **Decides** to remain seized of the matter.
The Security Council,

Affirming the Charter of the United Nations, specifically the mission enunciated in Chapter V and the language of the Preamble, and basing itself on relevant peacekeeping committees, such as the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations, and mandates for the purpose of international peace and security,

Further acknowledging that peacekeeping must evolve to fit the rapidly changing state of combat and address asymmetrical threats to both peacekeepers and local populations,

Conscious of the vital need for increased information sharing and non-sensitive intelligence gathering among willing Member States as an effective means of threat mitigation,

Noting with approval Security Council resolution 2436 (2018), which emphasizes in part the importance of Member States to discuss further the principles and protocols for protection of civilians in peacekeeping zones,

Realizing the need for peacekeepers to continue towards the development of safety and security through the use of inventory management and oversight provided by the UN Security Management System (UNSMS) to improve UN personnel capabilities,

Acknowledging the current Handbook on United Nations Multidimensional Peacekeeping Operations and its Basic Principles for Military Activities, in relation to Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) mandates due to a lack of adaptation to changing circumstances in current peacekeeping protocols,

Reaffirming its resolutions 1265 (1999), 1296 (2000), and 1674 (2006), condemning attacks on UN personnel and civilians, and providing a framework to mitigate and prevent attacks on civilians in conflict zones,

Reiterating its resolution 2337 (2017) and its call for maintaining the sovereignty of all Member States in the duration of diplomatic deliberations of peacekeeping operations,

Fully aware of the work done by the Peacebuilding Commission as an advisory body that supports peace efforts in conflict-affected countries and its vital role to execute peacekeeping operations effectively while also safeguarding the lives of peacekeeping personnel,

Having examined the scope and mandate of the UN Strategic Communications Division (UNSCD) and its role in carrying out priority issues and communication campaigns for the substantive goals of the United Nations,

Noting with concern that current medical studies have shown rates of post-traumatic stress disorder, following the conclusion of the deployment of peacekeeping operations,

Emphasizing that the Department of Political Affairs (DPA) is currently the sole Secretariat agency that briefs the Security Council on the political aspects of peacekeeping missions within the Horizon-Scanning Briefing process,

Acknowledging the instrumental roles of the UN Operations Crisis Centre (UNOCC) in providing intelligence support to field operations and the Organization for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) in gathering and providing information on the humanitarian aspects of conflict-afflicted regions,

Referring to the Action for Peacekeeping Declaration of Shared Commitments on UN Peacekeeping Operations, which examines the relationship between peacekeeping, host Member States, and the protection of civilians, supporting international efforts made by peacekeepers to protect civilians,
Taking note with satisfaction of the importance of General Assembly Resolution 61/256 (2007) on the creation of the Department of Field Support (DFS) and its commitment in structuring the DPKO and highlighting its efficiency to improve and advise peacekeeping operations alongside the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations (C34),

Recognizing the importance of mediation and international collaboration as recalled in Security Council resolution 2378 (2017) and Security Council resolution 1327 (2000), and the emphasis for collaboration between peacekeeping personnel and local authorities with the aim of increasing the quality and reliability of information,

Realizing the paramount role and previous history of Troop/Police Contributing Countries (T/PCCs) in providing troops and police to the DPKO since the first international peacekeeping operation deployed in 1948,

Recalling General Assembly Resolution 49/37 (1994) and its emphasis of uniformity and standard procedure as a fundamental aspect of peacekeeping operations for the purpose of planning, management and effective coordination,

Deeply aware of the expanding role of private military security within peacekeeping operations in regards to protecting mission personnel, and also recalling the UN Department of Safety and Security (DSS) to appeal for increased transparency, caution and oversight through the Policy Proposal for Responsible Private Military Security Industry (PMSC),

Reaffirming Security Council resolution 2272 (2016) in holding peacekeepers accountable for sexual exploitation and abuse,

1. Encourages the invocation of Article 31 of the UN Charter when examining the necessity of revising mandates of peacekeeping operation;

2. Reaffirms the commitment to strong partnerships between all Member States in protecting peacekeeping personnel;

3. Calls upon the Member States of the Security Council to request the Peacebuilding Commission to increase communication for in-depth knowledge of field operations between willing Member States and peacebuilding stakeholders through shared means of communication, such as:

   a. Voluntarily sharing non-sensitive information regarding the safeguarding of peacekeeping personnel including but not limited to:

      i. Current conflicts;

      ii. Health concerns;

      iii. Cultural and societal information;

      iv. Geographical and territorial obstacles;

      v. Logistical information;

   b. Extending collaboration with relevant peacebuilding stakeholders including but not limited to:

      i. T/PCCs;

      ii. Host Member States;

      iii. Civil Society Organizations and Non-Governmental Organizations;

      iv. Private Security Military Companies (PSMCs);

4. Encourages the expansion of the UNSCD in order to inform citizens of upcoming peacekeeping operations to take place in the mission recipient country and in pursuit of this goal will deploy personnel expert in:

   a. The host country local languages;

   b. Informing the population on the mandate of the upcoming peacekeeping operations;
c. Creating realistic public perception of the missions;

d. Promoting educational and cultural approaches, with the goal of ensuring that peacekeepers do not cause cultural tensions through their presence or actions;

5. **Encourages** more comprehensive training by the Integrate Training Service both before and through the duration of deployment to build stronger relationships between peacekeepers, local authorities, civilians, non-governmental organizations, and civil-society organizations with the goal of fostering secure environments for peacekeepers focusing on:

   a. Cultural proficiency training regarding cultural norms and practices of host countries;

   b. Expansion of mandates to provide for cultural experts and volunteers to be integrated into the process of debriefing peacekeeping troops; with specific emphasis to improving intercultural communication between peacekeepers and local communities;

6. **Encourages** the implementation of modern-day specialized offensive countermeasures, such as fire and movement tactics, capable of neutralizing hostile threats when peacekeepers are under assault, and meet the necessary requirements for the Essentials Criteria of the Use of Force in UNSMS Security Policy Manual, Chapter 4, Section H, Clause 9, for the purposes of minimizing the window of engagement present, and thereby lowering the possibilities of casualties suffered by peacekeeping with special focus on:

   a. Use of force for self-defense and defense of mandate:

      i. Mitigation of asymmetrical threats;

      ii. Preventative self-defense;

      iii. Deterrent force measures;

      iv. Mission specific statistics;

      v. Mission goals;

      vi. Relaying of mandate changes;

   b. Use of force for the defense of civilians in peacekeeping areas:

      i. Quick response to civilian threats;

      ii. De-escalation tactics;

      iii. Direction of force;

      iv. Protection of displaced persons;

7. **Establishes** the right of peacekeepers to use appropriate force in accordance with Human Rights standards for preventative self-defense and preventative defense of civilians to operate within current peacekeeping mandates, including but not limited to Security Council resolution 2436 (2018), following a three-check process, involving:

   a. Authorization of the host Member State of the peacekeeping mission;

   b. Authorization of the DPKO;

   c. Authorization of TCCs or PCCs;

8. **Encourages** Member States that are T/PCCs to emphasize the detection of mental illness following the return of their own troops to their respective home countries when those troops have exhibited symptoms of psychological distress, with particular mind to Member States exclusive right to medical confidentiality;

9. **Requests** the C34 to provide detailed reports on the status of collaboration between active UN peacekeeping missions and peacebuilding stakeholders to be annexed in the Secretary-General Annual Report, including but not limited to:
a. Cross-mission liaison, monitoring and facilitation at the local level;

b. Confidence-building, conflict management and reconciliation through outreach to women and youth groups and associations in local communities;

c. Collaborative and distinctive work in provisions of humanitarian assistance in conflict zones as exemplified in the DPKO/DFS Quick Impact Projects to enhance effectiveness of humanitarian assistance and awareness of personnel regarding risks and unexpected casualties;

10. **Authorizes** the expansion of the scope of the Horizon-Scanning Briefing process through the involvement of UN Secretariat agencies, as to streamline information on peacekeeping missions through the information integration of the:

   a. UNOCC;

   b. OCHA;

11. **Defines** International Strategic Agreements on Joint Peacekeeping Personnel Deployment as necessary multilateral agreements between host Member States and T/PCCs;

12. **Emphasizes** the need for increased collaboration within Member States through the creation of international strategic agreements on joint peacekeeping personnel deployment between involved T/PCCs and their host Member States with advice and consent of the UNSCD as to:

   a. Improve the standards of the *Security Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel* through comprehensive educational training courses organized by both involved T/PCCs and supervised by the DPKO;

   b. Facilitate the coordination among T/PCCs whose troops will be deployed in the same peacekeeping operation as to foster increased mission efficiency and standardization in order to eliminate potentially dangerous and confusing miscommunication;

13. **Calls upon** the DPKO to foster expanded transparency among current and future contracted Private Military and Security Companies (PMSCs) in order to maintain uniformity and standard procedures through peacekeeping operations by:

   a. Eliminating the limit of pre-contract screening and comprehensively expanding said process to include ownership, past history as well as already established individual screening;

   b. Expanding the self-reporting process of PSMSs to include voluntary visits to the Office of the Under-Secretary of Peacekeeping Operations as to increase accountability of the said companies;

   c. Abiding by the guidelines set by the DSS to utilize PSMSs only as a “last resort” whereas the utilization of forces given by T/PCCs is prioritized;

14. **Encourages** the full use of Security Council resolution 2272 (2016) to end the culture of impunity regarding acts of sexual violence towards civilians carried out by peacekeepers, including unbiased responses to allegations in all peacekeeping missions with the goal of:

   a. Reducing instances of retaliatory violence from local communities;

   b. Ensuring that all peacekeeping personnel in locales are upholding the peacekeeping Code of Conduct;

15. **Decides** to remain seized of the matter.