



United Nations

Report of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations

**2020 substantive session
(New York, 17 February–12 March 2020)**

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Note

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Chapter I

Introduction

1. By its resolution [73/293](#), the General Assembly took note of the report of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations ([A/73/19](#)), decided that the Committee, in accordance with its mandate, should continue its efforts for a comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects, review the implementation of its previous proposals and consider any new proposals, so as to enhance the capacity of the United Nations to fulfil its responsibilities in that field, and requested the Committee to submit a report on its work to the Assembly at its seventy-fourth session.

Chapter II

Organizational matters

A. Opening and duration of the session

2. The Committee held its substantive session of 2020 at Headquarters from 17 February to 12 March 2020. It held four plenary meetings.

3. The session was opened by the Under-Secretary-General for Operational Support. At the 262nd (opening) meeting, on 17 February, the President of the General Assembly addressed the Committee. A statement was also made by the Under-Secretary-General for Peace Operations.

4. The Department of Peace Operations, the Department of Operational Support and the Department of Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance provided support to the Committee on substantive issues, while the Disarmament and Peace Affairs Branch of the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management served as the technical secretariat of the Committee.

B. Election of officers

5. At its 262nd meeting, the Committee elected the following officers by acclamation:

Chair:

Samson Sunday Iteboje (Nigeria)

Vice-Chairs:

Alejandro Guillermo Verdier (Argentina)

Richard Arbeiter (Canada)

Namazu Hiroyuki (Japan)

Mariusz Lewicki (Poland)

Rapporteur:

Abdullah Ibrahim Abdelhamid Alsayed Attelb (Egypt)

C. Agenda

6. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted the provisional agenda ([A/AC.121/2020/L.1](#)), which read:

1. Opening of the session.
 2. Election of officers.
 3. Adoption of the agenda.
 4. Organization of work.
 5. General debate.
 6. In-session briefings.
 7. Consideration of the draft report by the Working Group of the Whole.
 8. Other matters.
 9. Adoption of the report to the General Assembly at its seventy-fourth session.
7. The Committee also approved its draft programme of work ([A/AC.121/2020/L.2](#)).

D. Organization of work

8. Also at the same meeting, the Committee decided to establish a working group of the whole, to be chaired by Richard Arbeiter (Canada), to consider the substance of the mandate entrusted to the Committee by the General Assembly.

9. The composition of the Committee at its substantive session of 2020 is contained in the annex to the present report. The list of documents for the session is contained in [A/AC.121/2020/INF/2](#) and the list of participants in [A/AC.121/2020/INF/4](#).

E. Proceedings of the Committee

10. At its 262nd to 264th meetings, on 17 and 18 February, the Committee held a general debate on a comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects. Statements were made by the representatives of Morocco (on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement), Indonesia (on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations), the European Union (also on behalf of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Montenegro, North Macedonia, the Republic of Moldova, Serbia and Turkey), Australia (also on behalf of Canada and New Zealand), Peru, India, Switzerland, Ireland, Brazil, Thailand, Argentina, the United States of America, Egypt, South Africa, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Indonesia, Bangladesh, Uruguay, Iraq, Chile, Ethiopia, Norway, Ukraine, Guatemala, Nepal, Cuba, Viet Nam, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Mali, Jamaica, Japan, El Salvador, Mexico, the Republic of Korea, Senegal, the Philippines, Italy, China, Côte d'Ivoire, France, Ecuador, Bhutan, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Turkey, Nigeria, Kenya, the Sudan, the Russian Federation, Lebanon, Djibouti, Rwanda and Israel.

11. A statement was also made by the observer for the International Organization of la Francophonie.

12. On 19 February, the Working Group of the Whole heard briefings by the Under-Secretary-General for Peace Operations, the Under-Secretary-General for Operational Support and the Director of the Administrative Law Division of the Office of Human Resources, on behalf of the Under-Secretary-General for Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance, who also engaged in an interactive dialogue with delegations. The Working Group also heard a briefing by and engaged in an interactive dialogue with the Director of the Central and Southern Africa Division of the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, on behalf of the Assistant Secretary-General for Rule of Law and Security Institutions.

13. The Working Group of the Whole and its two sub-working groups met from 21 February to 12 March and concluded their work on draft recommendations.

Chapter III

Consideration of the draft report of the Working Group

14. At its 265th meeting, on 12 March, the Committee considered the recommendations of the Working Group of the Whole and decided to include them in the present report (see paras. 16–165) for consideration by the General Assembly.

Chapter IV

Adoption of the report to the General Assembly at its seventy-fourth session

15. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted its draft report to the General Assembly as introduced and orally revised by the Rapporteur of the Committee.

Chapter V

Proposals, recommendations and conclusions of the Special Committee

A. Introduction

16. The Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations, in making its recommendations, reaffirms the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations.

17. The Special Committee pays tribute to the men and women who have served and continue to serve in peacekeeping operations for their high level of professionalism, dedication and courage. Particular tribute is due to those who have given their lives for the maintenance of peace and security.

18. The Special Committee emphasizes the importance of 29 May, the International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers, as providing an occasion to pay tribute on an annual basis at the Memorial to the Fallen (also known as the “United Nations Peacekeepers Memorial”) to all the men and women who have served and continue to serve in United Nations peacekeeping operations for their high level of professionalism, dedication and courage, and to honour the memory of those who have lost their lives in serving the cause of peace. In this regard, the Special Committee recommends the establishment, through voluntary contributions, of a memorial wall at the United Nations Peacekeepers Memorial at Headquarters and requests that due consideration be given to the modalities involved, including the recording of the names of those who have made the supreme sacrifice.

19. The Special Committee reaffirms that the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security rests with the United Nations, in accordance with the Charter, and affirms that United Nations peacekeeping is one of the key instruments available to the United Nations in discharging that responsibility. The Special Committee, as the only United Nations forum mandated to comprehensively review the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects, including measures aimed at enhancing the capacity of the Organization to conduct United Nations peacekeeping operations, is uniquely able to make a significant contribution in the area of issues and policy relating to United Nations peacekeeping operations. It encourages other United Nations bodies, funds and programmes to avail themselves of the Special Committee’s particular perspective on United Nations peacekeeping operations. Thus, the Special Committee, as a subsidiary body of the General Assembly, recalls that its recommendations and conclusions reflect, first and foremost, its unique peacekeeping expertise.

20. Noting the continued efforts of United Nations peacekeeping in various parts of the world, which requires the participation of Member States in various activities, the Special Committee considers it essential for the United Nations to be able to maintain international peace and security effectively. This calls for, among other things, improved capacity to assess conflict situations, effective planning and management of United Nations peacekeeping operations and quick and effective responses to any Security Council mandate.

21. The Special Committee stresses the importance of consistently applying the principles and standards it has set forth for the establishment and conduct of United Nations peacekeeping operations and emphasizes the need to continue to consider those principles, as well as definitions of peacekeeping, in a systematic fashion. New proposals or conditions concerning United Nations peacekeeping operations should be the subject of thorough consideration in the Special Committee.

22. The Special Committee, acknowledging the primary responsibility of the Security Council for the direction and control of United Nations peacekeeping operations, requests the Secretariat to provide, at the start of its substantive session, an informal briefing, especially with regard to operational field issues, including the Secretariat's assessment of developments in ongoing United Nations peacekeeping operations.

23. The Special Committee recalls that United Nations peacekeeping is conducted in accordance with the relevant chapters of the Charter. In this regard, nothing in the present report circumscribes the primary responsibility of the Security Council for maintaining or restoring international peace and security.

24. The Special Committee recalls its previous reports and reaffirms that each of their recommendations remain valid unless they are superseded by recommendations contained in the present report.

B. Guiding principles, definitions and implementation of mandates

25. The Special Committee stresses that peacekeeping operations should strictly observe the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations. It emphasizes that respect for the principles of the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of States and non-intervention in matters that are essentially within the national jurisdiction of any State is crucial to common efforts, including peacekeeping operations, to promote international peace and security.

26. The Special Committee believes that respect for the basic principles of peacekeeping, such as the consent of the parties, impartiality and the non-use of force except in self-defence and in the defence of a mandate authorized by the Security Council, is essential to its success.

27. The Special Committee is of the view that peacekeeping operations should not be used as a substitute for addressing the root causes of conflict. Those causes should be addressed in a coherent, well-planned, coordinated and comprehensive manner, using political, social and developmental instruments. Consideration should be given to the ways in which those efforts can continue without interruption after the departure of a peacekeeping operation so as to ensure a smooth transition to lasting peace and security and development.

28. The Special Committee continues to stress the importance of providing peacekeeping operations with clearly defined mandates, objectives and command structures, adequate resources based on a realistic assessment of the situation and secure financing in support of efforts to achieve peaceful solutions to conflicts. It also stresses the need to ensure, in the formulation and implementation of mandates, adequate resources and congruity among mandates, resources and realizable objectives. The Special Committee emphasizes that, when changes are made in an existing mandate, commensurate changes should be made in the resources available to a peacekeeping operation for carrying out its new mandate. Changes in the mandate of an ongoing mission should be based on a thorough and timely reassessment by the Security Council, in consultation with troop-contributing countries through the mechanisms prescribed in Council resolution [1353 \(2001\)](#) and the note by the President of the Council of 14 January 2002 ([S/2002/56](#)).

29. The Special Committee stresses that the Security Council has the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security, pursuant to Article 24 of the Charter.

30. The Special Committee stresses the need to ensure the unity of command of United Nations peacekeeping operations. It recalls that the overall political direction

and control of United Nations peacekeeping operations are within the purview of the Security Council.

C. Conduct of peacekeepers and peacekeeping operations

General context

31. The Special Committee stresses that misconduct by United Nations peacekeeping personnel is unacceptable, and emphasizes that the proper discipline and conduct of United Nations peacekeeping personnel, in accordance with official United Nations rules and regulations, is crucial in maintaining operational effectiveness, and that the reputational damage caused by the misconduct of peacekeepers has a direct bearing on the credibility and effectiveness of the mission and on the security and well-being of the populations it is mandated to protect. The Special Committee acknowledges the work of all United Nations personnel throughout the United Nations system, including peacekeepers, who serve the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, and stresses that the actions of a few should not be allowed to tarnish the achievements of all.

32. The Special Committee strongly condemns sexual exploitation and abuse by United Nations personnel throughout the system, as well as by non-United Nations forces serving under a mandate of the Security Council. The Special Committee affirms its commitment to the Secretary-General's zero-tolerance policy on sexual exploitation and abuse and in this regard, takes note of the Secretary-General's victim-centred approach and the voluntary compact on preventing and addressing sexual exploitation and abuse. Besides prevention, the United Nations and Member States should ensure that adequate response mechanisms are in place, which include victim assistance, investigations and, where relevant, disciplinary measures and/or criminal prosecution. The Special Committee stresses the importance of holding accountable those responsible for sexual exploitation and abuse, in a timely and appropriate manner, and that prevention and accountability are critical for the United Nations and its Member States. In this regard, the Special Committee emphasizes the primary responsibility of troop-contributing countries to investigate allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse by their personnel and the sole responsibility of troop- and police-contributing countries to hold them accountable, including through prosecution, where appropriate, for acts of sexual exploitation and abuse.

33. The Special Committee reaffirms the Charter and acknowledges the importance of clarifying, among other things, international human rights law, international humanitarian law and international refugee law, and the basic principles that govern peacekeeping operations, to enable peacekeepers to understand how the implementation of the mandated tasks intersects with these fields of law and to act accordingly. Moreover, the Special Committee reiterates that the human rights due diligence policy on United Nations support to non-United Nations security forces continues to be an important tool in adapting the support given to host states and other non-United Nations security forces.

34. The Special Committee notes the importance of the environment strategy for field missions including through the use of mission-wide environmental action plans as a tool for planning, budgeting and accountability and to support environmentally responsible practices in operations, including those related to mandate delivery in line with existing regulations.

Reference to relevant United Nations policies and guidelines

35. The Secretariat has provided a list of the relevant United Nations policies and guidelines regarding the conduct of peacekeepers and peacekeeping operations to the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations, as follows:

(a) Policy on accountability for conduct and discipline in field missions (2015);

(b) Human rights due diligence policy on United Nations support to non-United Nations security forces (2013);

(c) Standard operating procedures on the implementation of amendments on conduct and discipline in the model memorandum of understanding between the United Nations and troop-contributing countries (2011);

(d) Environmental policy for United Nations field missions (2009);

(e) Secretary-General's bulletin on special measures for protection from sexual exploitation and abuse ([ST/SGB/2003/13](#), 2003);

(f) Secretary-General's bulletin on Regulations Governing the Status, Basic Rights and Duties of Officials other than Secretariat Officials, and Experts on Mission ([ST/SGB/2002/9](#), 2002);

(g) Secretary-General's Bulletin on observance by United Nations forces of international humanitarian law ([ST/SGB/1999/13](#), 1999).

Proposals, recommendations and conclusions

36. The Special Committee urges the Secretariat to ensure that all categories of United Nations personnel are held to the same standard of conduct so as to preserve the credibility, impartiality and integrity of the United Nations. The Special Committee requests the Secretariat to ensure that all data related to the conduct and discipline of military and police personnel, including regarding any remedial actions taken, are incorporated into deployment decisions, including force generation. The Special Committee further requests the Secretariat to ensure that civilian personnel who have committed sexual exploitation and abuse are ineligible for future deployment.

37. While recognizing distinct roles and responsibilities, the Special Committee calls upon the Secretariat and Member States to continue their efforts towards advancing a zero-tolerance policy regarding sexual exploitation and abuse, including through preventive measures, investigating and holding perpetrators accountable in a timely and appropriate manner, addressing paternity claims, in line with national legislations, and providing support to victims, in line with existing procedures.

38. The Special Committee calls upon Member States deploying non-United Nations forces authorized under a Security Council mandate to take appropriate steps to investigate allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse and to hold perpetrators accountable in a timely and appropriate manner. In this regard, the Committee further highlights the importance of providing support to victims and also encourages the relevant authorities of non-United Nations personnel serving under a mandate of the Security Council to provide adequate assistance and support to victims of sexual exploitation and abuse committed by their personnel.

39. The Special Committee urges the Secretariat to ensure that Member States receive all information related to allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse, in a timely fashion, so as to enable investigations to be conducted, in line with best practices and existing procedures.

40. The Special Committee reiterates that the responsibility for creating and maintaining a work environment that prevents all forms of misconduct must be part of individual performance objectives for all civilian staff, with a specific focus on senior leadership. The Special Committee requests the Secretary-General to include, in his next report, information on forms of misconduct other than sexual exploitation and abuse, as listed on the United Nations conduct and discipline website, in United Nations peacekeeping operations, including identified trends, risk factors and risk mitigation measures.

41. The Special Committee recommends that the Secretariat ensure that mandatory, effective, monitored and targeted training on sexual exploitation and abuse, is implemented. The Special Committee also reminds troop- and police-contributing countries to submit certification to the Secretary-General confirming that contingents have received predeployment training on sexual exploitation and abuse based on United Nations training materials. In addition, the Special Committee encourages missions to conduct regular in-field training, on-site evaluations and awareness-raising seminars, supplementary to the mandatory predeployment training on sexual exploitation and abuse, for troops, police and civilians deployed to United Nations missions.

42. The Special Committee notes the efforts of the Secretariat to implement the human rights due diligence policy on United Nations support to non-United Nations security forces, including through: conducting risk assessments, adopting mission-specific standard operating procedures and the establishment of mission-level mechanisms. Furthermore, it requests the Secretary-General to provide an update on the implementation of the human rights due diligence policy, including identified challenges, prior to its next substantive session.

43. The Special Committee reiterates the shared commitment of Member States to sound environmental practices and to employ environmentally responsible solutions for all operations and mandate delivery through, inter alia, the deployment of units trained in environmental awareness to fulfil their role in good environmental stewardship and the provision of capacity and expertise in environmental management. The Special Committee further encourages greater efforts, including through the use of renewable resources, in order to achieve more efficient use of energy and water, reduce waste production, where applicable, and improve the health, safety and security of local communities and United Nations personnel.

44. The Special Committee underlines that the knowledge of cultural and religious particularities and the protection of cultural monuments by a United Nations mission, in its area of deployment and where so mandated by the Security Council, is an important factor for the successful implementation of that mandate. In this regard, the Special Committee encourages the Secretariat to continue efforts aiming at raising the awareness of United Nations personnel regarding cultural and religious customs of the local population and thus avoid incidents that could affect local population confidence towards a United Nations mission.

45. The Special Committee, acknowledging that military actors are often afforded policing functions in peacekeeping operations, calls for clear coordination and delineation between the distinct military and policing functions, which must be recognized in operational planning, in the execution of mission tasks and in the development of guidance instruments. Furthermore, the Special Committee stresses the need to ensure a unified policing approach in United Nations field operations and calls for the Secretariat to set out a clear process and timeline for the swift completion of the detailed police-related manuals and associated training.

46. The Special Committee requests the Secretariat to ensure that the introduction and use of new technologies in peacekeeping operations are field-focused, reliable,

cost-effective and driven by the practical needs of end users on the ground. The Special Committee takes note of the ongoing work of the Secretariat in the implementation of a strategy to better integrate the use of technologies for the purposes of increasing safety and security, improving situational awareness, enhancing field support and facilitating substantive mandate implementation, and requests that the Secretariat continue to keep Member States informed. The Special Committee recalls that the introduction and use of new technologies should be implemented with transparency and in consultation with Member States, as appropriate. In this regard, the Special Committee also recalls the Organization's commitment to privacy, confidentiality, transparency and respect for State sovereignty.

D. Partnerships

General context

47. The Special Committee recognizes the growing importance of partnerships and cooperation between the United Nations and regional, subregional and relevant international organizations and arrangements, inter alia, in planning and conducting peacekeeping and in strengthening coherence between their political strategies. The Special Committee underscores that effective partnerships can enhance collaboration, bring about synergies, increase efficiency and enable United Nations peacekeeping to draw on a range of partners' strengths and capacities, leveraging their comparative advantages. The Special Committee therefore expresses its full support for the efforts of the United Nations in building a truly global partnership for peacekeeping.

48. The Special Committee commends the crucial role of the African Union and African subregional organizations and arrangements in efforts to prevent, mediate and settle conflicts on the African continent, and their contribution to peacekeeping efforts in the region, particularly in dangerous environments where unconventional threats exist. The Special Committee notes with appreciation the close cooperation on peace and security between the United Nations and the African Union and further expresses its support for the efforts of the two organizations to develop a more systematic and strategic partnership adapted to the complex security challenges facing the continent, in particular for conflict prevention and capacity-building. The Special Committee welcomes the progress made by the African Union on the revised framework for compliance and accountability with respect to international humanitarian and human rights law, welcomes the adoption of policies for its peace support operations on conduct and discipline and on prevention and response to sexual exploitation and abuse. The Special Committee welcomes the ongoing operationalization of the African Standby Force and its enablers. The Special Committee, recognizing that cooperation with regional and subregional organizations in matters relating to the maintenance of international peace and security and consistent with Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations can improve collective security, acknowledges the development of peace support operations mandated or authorized by the African Union. The Special Committee acknowledges the sustained commitment and efforts of the African Union and its member States towards self-financing the African Union peace support operations in Africa, while recognizing that regional organizations have the responsibility to secure financial resources for their organizations in a transparent manner. The Special Committee encourages all stakeholders to redouble efforts to explore practical steps that can be taken, and the conditions necessary, to establish the mechanism through which African Union-led peace support operations authorized by the Security Council and under the authority of the Security Council under Chapter VIII of the Charter could be partly financed through United Nations assessed contributions, on a case-by-case basis, in compliance with relevant agreed standards

and mechanisms to ensure strategic and financial oversight and accountability, and taking into account the work undertaken by the Secretariat and the African Union Commission in this regard.

49. The Special Committee notes with appreciation the strategic partnership between the United Nations and the European Union on peacekeeping and welcomes the cooperation and initiatives of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations on peacekeeping. The Special Committee underlines the importance of strengthening partnerships between the United Nations and other organizations and arrangements with respect to peacekeeping, including the Collective Security Treaty Organization, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, and the League of Arab States.

50. The Special Committee reaffirms the importance of partnerships in capacity-building, training and the sharing of best practices, recognizes that cooperation can take different forms, including, but not limited to, triangular partnerships and co-deployments, and underlines the importance of continuing to explore other innovative approaches. While recalling that the training of uniformed personnel for deployment to peacekeeping operations is a Member State responsibility, the Special Committee notes that as a partner for Member States, the Secretariat is responsible for providing basic guidelines on United Nations performance standards and training materials in order to facilitate training, and for validating that training is being delivered to these standards. The Special Committee acknowledges the development by the United Nations of the light coordination mechanism as a convening platform intended to facilitate partnerships between troop-contributing countries and training and capacity-building providers.

Reference to relevant United Nations policies and guidelines

51. The Secretariat has provided a list of the relevant United Nations policies and guidelines regarding partnerships to the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations, as follows:

- (a) United Nations Procurement Manual (2019);
- (b) Joint declaration on cooperation for African Union peace support operations (2018);
- (c) Guidelines on mandated programmatic activities funded through peacekeeping assessed budgets (2017);
- (d) Joint United Nations-African Union Framework for Enhanced Partnership in Peace and Security (2017);
- (e) Manual on Policies and Procedures Concerning the Reimbursement and Control of Contingent-Owned Equipment of Troop/Police Contributors Participating in Peacekeeping Missions (2017);
- (f) United Nations Peacekeeping Missions Military Engineer Unit Manual (2015);
- (g) Human rights due diligence policy on United Nations support to non-United Nations security forces (2013).

Proposals, recommendations and conclusions

52. The Special Committee encourages the Secretariat to continue engagements with regional and subregional and relevant international organizations to strengthen partnerships, with an emphasis on coherent planning and operational

complementarity at the field level, so as to ensure mutual understanding of the opportunities and challenges for collaboration in peace operations.

53. The Special Committee encourages increased partnership among the United Nations peacekeeping missions, the United Nations country teams, other relevant United Nations agencies in the field and other relevant actors, in all phases of peacekeeping operations, including through joint platforms such as the Global Focal Point concept and the Transitions Joint Team.

54. The Special Committee requests the Secretariat to further utilize innovative approaches such as smart pledging and co-deployments, as well as triangular partnerships for the capacity-building of troop- and police-contributing countries, and invites Member States to consider participating in triangular partnerships, including the triangular partnerships project. The Special Committee requests the Secretariat and troop- and police-contributing countries to capture best practices and operational lessons learned from these innovative approaches.

55. The Special Committee again stresses that all Member States must pay their assessed contributions in full, on time and without conditions. It reaffirms the obligation of Member States under Article 17 of the Charter to bear the expenses of the Organization as apportioned by the General Assembly, bearing in mind the special responsibilities of the permanent members of the Security Council for the maintenance of peace and security, as indicated in General Assembly resolution [1874 \(S-IV\)](#) of 27 June 1963.

56. The Special Committee recommends the full implementation of the Joint United Nations-African Union Framework for Enhanced Partnership in Peace and Security to ensure deepening a systematic and strategic partnership between the two organizations with a view to strengthening and implementing policies, procedures and capacities in order to advance political solutions to conflict in Africa and improve peacekeeping on the continent, including with respect to the areas of activity set out in the joint declaration of the Secretary-General and the Chairperson of the African Union Commission of 6 December 2018. The Special Committee requests that the briefing from the Secretariat prior to its next substantive session on United Nations-African Union cooperation include an update on the structure and capacity of the United Nations Office to the African Union to meet the demands of the United Nations-African Union partnership.

57. The Special Committee requests that efforts should continue to enhance the predictability, sustainability and flexibility of financing for African Union-led peace support operations authorized by the Security Council, and under the authority of the Security Council consistent with Chapter VIII of the Charter.

58. The Special Committee reiterates the importance of ensuring the timely reimbursement of troop- and police-contributing countries for their peacekeeping contributions. In this regard, the Special Committee urges the Secretariat to ensure the rapid processing and payment of reimbursements, mindful of the adverse effects of such delays on the capacities of troop- and police-contributing countries to sustain their participation.

59. The Special Committee encourages greater collaboration between the United Nations and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations in peace operations, including through the implementation of the Plan of Action to Implement the Joint Declaration on Comprehensive Partnership between the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and the United Nations, in the areas of, among others, training, capacity-building, the sharing of best practices and increasing women's participation in peacekeeping.

60. The Special Committee urges the Secretariat to ensure training standards, assessment criteria, including in-mission assessments, and relevant policies are aligned. The Special Committee encourages Member States to explore practical funding mechanisms to meet the increasing peacekeeping training requirements and requests the Secretariat to address any identified shortfalls in mission-specific peacekeeping training.
61. The Special Committee encourages the Secretariat to maintain engagement with national and regional peacekeeping centres so as to facilitate training.
62. The Special Committee encourages the Secretariat to work with regional organizations and relevant troop- and police-contributing countries to capture best practices and operational lessons learned from regionally led peace support operations mandated by the Security Council, in order to identify areas of complementarity and comparative advantage, to inform future deployments and facilitate smart pledges and co-deployments.
63. The Special Committee calls upon the Secretariat to build on the existing light coordination mechanism structure to encourage increased information-sharing and direct coordination between capacity builders and recipients to eliminate redundancy and focus efforts, and to facilitate partnerships. The Special Committee further encourages the inclusion of police needs in this mechanism.
64. The Special Committee requests the Secretariat to ensure that troop- and police-contributing countries are consulted and provided in a transparent manner with factual information to ensure a timely, efficient and effective transfer of essential roles and responsibilities when responding to changes in the mandate and in terms of the corresponding memorandum of understanding.
65. The Special Committee reiterates its request to the Secretariat to develop a policy on long-term rotation plans and innovative multinational rotation concepts, in consultation with Member States. In this regard, the Special Committee encourages the Secretariat to further facilitate the above-mentioned rotations.
66. The Special Committee requests the Secretariat to ensure fair representation of troop- and police-contributing countries at all professional levels, including staff and senior positions, at the United Nations Headquarters and in the field.
67. The Special Committee notes that, in situations where a peacekeeping operation operates in parallel with other forces, inter alia, counter-terrorism forces and training missions, the respective role of each presence should be clearly delineated, and the role of the United Nations clearly communicated to the host State, local population and other stakeholders.

E. Peacebuilding and sustaining peace

General context

68. The Special Committee recognizes the contribution of peacekeeping operations to a comprehensive strategy for peacebuilding and sustaining peace, and notes with appreciation the contributions that peacekeepers and peacekeeping missions make to peacebuilding. The Special Committee recognizes the importance at all stages of conflict of a comprehensive, coherent and integrated approach to peacekeeping and peacebuilding in support of national efforts to achieve sustainable peace and development, and notes that peacekeeping operations, where mandated, also carry out peacebuilding activities. The Special Committee highlights the importance of coordination between peacekeeping operations and other actors involved in peacebuilding efforts, such as United Nations country teams, relevant United Nations

entities, regional and subregional organizations, and international and regional financial institutions, in order to lay the foundations for the consolidation of peace beyond the lifetime of a peacekeeping operation.

69. The Special Committee reaffirms the importance of national ownership and leadership in peacebuilding, whereby the responsibility for sustaining peace is broadly shared by the Government and all other national stakeholders, and underlines the importance, in this regard, of inclusivity in order to ensure that the needs of all segments of society are taken into account. In this regard, the Special Committee underscores the need for the full, effective and meaningful participation of women and youth in peacebuilding as an important factor in the sustainability of efforts to build and sustain peace.

70. Recalling General Assembly resolutions [60/180](#) and [70/262](#) and Security Council resolutions [1645 \(2005\)](#) and [2282 \(2016\)](#) and other relevant resolutions on peacebuilding and sustaining peace, the Special Committee looks forward to the outcome of the 2020 review of the peacebuilding architecture, noting the ongoing reform and restructuring aimed at enhancing the performance of the United Nations peace and security pillar. The Special Committee emphasizes the importance of coordination and coherence between peacekeeping, peacebuilding and sustaining peace efforts across all three pillars of the United Nations system, within the respective mandates, at all stages of conflict and, in particular, during preparations for transition and drawdown of peacekeeping missions, as well as of thorough planning and early coordination preceding any transition process with the host country and relevant partners, so as to ensure a smooth transition to lasting peace and sustainable development while ensuring the most efficient and effective allocation of roles, responsibilities and resources. The Special Committee emphasizes the role of the Peacebuilding Commission as an intergovernmental advisory body to provide specific, strategic and targeted recommendations, at the request of the Security Council, on issues relating to peacebuilding and sustaining peace in the formation, review, drawdown and transition of peacekeeping operations. The Special Committee highlights in this regard that United Nations efforts should be underpinned by a joint analysis of the root causes of conflict and risks.

71. The Special Committee emphasizes that security sector reform, disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, and community violence reduction programmes are crucial aspects of peacekeeping operations, where mandated and notes that the establishment of an effective, professional and accountable security sector is a crucial element for laying the foundation for durable peace and development. Noting the increase of the policing and rule of law dimensions in missions, the Special Committee recognizes the important role that former police units and individual police officers play, and the increased use of specialized police teams, in peacekeeping operations. The Special Committee also highlights the importance of peacekeeping operation support to capacity-building of host State rule of law institutions, including police, prosecution, court and correctional institutions.

Reference to relevant United Nations policies and guidelines

72. The Secretariat has provided a list of the relevant United Nations policies and guidelines regarding peacebuilding and sustaining peace to the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations, as follows:

- (a) Guidelines for specialized police teams on assignment with United Nations peace operations (2019);
- (b) Guide for senior leadership on field entity closure (2018);
- (c) Guidelines on quick-impact projects (2017);

- (d) Guidelines on mandated programmatic activities funded through peacekeeping assessed budgets (2017);
- (e) Manual on police monitoring, mentoring and advising in peace operations (2017);
- (f) Policy on justice support in United Nations peace operations (2016);
- (g) Guidelines on police capacity-building and development (2015);
- (h) Policy on prison support in United Nations peace operations (2015);
- (i) Standard operating procedures for Government-provided corrections personnel on assignment with United Nations peacekeeping operations and special political missions (2014);
- (j) Policy on reinsertion programmes (2014);
- (k) Policy on integrated assessment and planning (2013);
- (l) Policy on the functions and organization of the United Nations Justice and Corrections Standing Capacity (2013);
- (m) Policy on United Nations transitions in the context of mission drawdown or withdrawal (2013);
- (n) Prison Incident Management Handbook (2013);
- (o) Policy on defence sector reform (2011);
- (p) Policy on human rights in United Nations peace operations and political missions (2011).

Proposals, recommendations and conclusions

73. The Special Committee encourages the Secretariat to plan for and elaborate transition strategies well before the drawdown of a peacekeeping mandate and calls for early engagement with the United Nations country team and host State authorities on the gradual handover of responsibilities to national authorities, including by conducting regular joint assessments of progress in developing the relevant capacities and capabilities of host State institutions.

74. The Special Committee calls upon peacekeeping missions, United Nations country teams and all relevant peacebuilding stakeholders to ensure that their activities are aligned with priorities and strategies identified by national governments and authorities. In this regard, the Special Committee calls upon the Secretariat to ensure that peacekeeping operations, where and as mandated, assist national actors in addressing the root causes of conflict, which may include supporting national actors to develop their capacities to deliver basic services, create economic opportunities for their populations and implement necessary rule of law and governance reforms.

75. The Special Committee encourages the consideration of a rule of law perspective in mission mandates, as appropriate, and encourages Member States to support the assessment, restoration and enhancement, where applicable, of representative, responsive and accountable host State rule of law and security institutions and capacities, from the very beginning of a United Nations peacekeeping operation and during the whole conflict cycle. The Special Committee calls upon the Secretariat to support such efforts by drawing on its specialized expertise in the rule of law and security institutions area, including its rapidly deployable standing capacities in police, justice, corrections, security sector reform, disarmament, demobilization and reintegration and mine action, as well as the Global Focal Point for the Rule of Law. The Special Committee further encourages the Secretariat, in

cooperation with Member States, to implement the relevant guidelines related to supporting host nation policing expertise, including by ensuring broad participation of police-contributing countries in the deployment of specialized police teams.

76. The Special Committee, while recognizing that it is host States which lead efforts to ensure that the needs and participation of all segments of society, in particular women and young people, are taken into account in building and sustaining peace, encourages the Secretariat, peacekeeping missions and United Nations country teams to support national authorities in their efforts, including by developing mechanisms to promote the inclusion and engagement of all segments of the population in the implementation of peacekeeping mandates through consultative processes.

77. The Special Committee recognizes the importance of adequate, predictable and sustained financing for peacebuilding and sustaining peace activities of United Nations peacekeeping operations, including during mission transitions and drawdowns, including through voluntary contributions to the Peacebuilding Fund, and further encourages efforts to mobilize public resources, spur private investment and explore innovative financing mechanisms, as well as South-South and triangular cooperation for peacebuilding.

78. The Special Committee underlines the critical contribution that programmatic activities can make to the implementation of peacekeeping mandates and that all such activities must be directly linked to mandates, and requests the Secretariat to provide a briefing on programmatic activities, including the mechanism of planning, implementation and monitoring, information on existing implementing partners, and the evaluation of the impact of those activities on the mandate implementation.

79. The Special Committee encourages relevant peacekeeping operations to continue the implementation of quick-impact projects and notes their critical role in building confidence between a mission and the local population and in improving the environment for the effective implementation of the mission's mandates and the establishment of peace processes.

80. The Special Committee requests the Secretariat to incorporate, in its analyses submitted to the Security Council, the progress in and quality of delivering on the political and operational aspects of a mission's mandate in a coherent manner; the risks and challenges faced by national and local authorities in building and sustaining peace; and the mission's role in support of national ownership of the political processes.

81. The Special Committee calls upon the Secretariat to strengthen coordination and coherence between host governments, United Nations peacekeeping operations, United Nations country teams, donor countries, relevant regional and subregional organizations and other relevant actors, including international financial institutions, in order to improve the planning and delivery of peacebuilding support in line with the host State's identified priorities and needs. In this regard, the Special Committee recommends that peacekeeping missions, in coordination with host governments, should pursue early engagement with all relevant actors on transition planning, including with respect to ensuring that the mission and all other United Nations actors have a sound understanding of the host State's long-term development plans and needs, including with respect to economic stability. The Special Committee also encourages the Secretariat to place more emphasis on supporting host State activities aimed at preventing the further outbreak, escalation, continuation and recurrence of conflict.

82. The Special Committee calls upon the Peacebuilding Commission to ensure that its strategic advice to the Security Council, General Assembly and Economic and

Social Council promotes a coherent, coordinated, integrated and strategic approach to peacebuilding and sustaining peace, including in peacekeeping and transition settings. In particular, noting the Security Council's expressed intent in a presidential statement dated 21 December 2017 (S/PRST/2017/27) to regularly request, deliberate and draw upon the advice of the Peacebuilding Commission, the Special Committee encourages the Commission, in formulating its advice to the Security Council, to mainstream feedback coming from host States and the field in terms of implementation challenges with respect to peacebuilding and transition processes in the mandate renewal and future planning cycles.

83. The Special Committee encourages the Peacebuilding Commission to fully utilize its role to convene United Nations bodies, Member States, national authorities and all other relevant stakeholders to ensure an integrated, strategic, coherent and coordinated approach to peacebuilding and sustaining peace. In this regard, the Special Committee encourages the Peacebuilding Commission to continue strengthening engagement with relevant regional and subregional organizations, in particular the African Union and its post-conflict reconstruction and development policy and centre, once established, as well as the international financial institutions.

F. Performance and accountability

General context

84. The Special Committee underlines the importance of the Secretariat and Member States continuing to work to improve the performance of peacekeeping operations. In this regard, the Special Committee recognizes that the effective implementation of mission mandates is the responsibility of all stakeholders and is contingent upon several critical factors, including well-defined, realistic and achievable mandates, political will, leadership, performance and accountability at all levels, adequate resources, policy, planning and operational guidelines, and training.

85. The Special Committee acknowledges the ongoing development and roll-out of the Comprehensive Performance Assessment System, to ensure assessment of the whole-of-mission performance against delivery of the mandate. In this regard, the Special Committee underscores that performance evaluation systems should assess and hold accountable all stakeholders at all levels, and such systems should include:

(a) Performance of the Secretariat in guiding and supporting missions in order to enable the delivery of mission mandates, including but not limited to providing effective field support, working with Member States to generate necessary capabilities, providing all necessary strategic, political, operational and management advice, and backstopping peacekeeping operations;

(b) Performance of mission leadership in planning and directing peacekeeping operations;

(c) Performance of the mission as a whole in achieving the mandate;

(d) Performance of uniformed and civilian components.

86. The Special Committee commends the role played and commitment shown by troop- and police-contributing countries in implementing mandates. The Special Committee notes that performance in peacekeeping can face a number of challenges, such as those outlined below:

(a) Ensuring the primacy of politics in the resolution of conflict and the supporting role of peacekeeping operations therein;

(b) Clear, focused, sequenced, prioritized and achievable mandates by the Security Council, matched by appropriate resources;

(c) Caveats which have a detrimental impact on mandate implementation and performance;

(d) A lack of mission-specific training, equipment shortfalls, inadequate command and control of military enabling assets, especially during emergency situations;

(e) Insufficiently integrated planning at all levels, delays in the conclusion of memorandums of understanding and lack of abidance with statements of unit requirements;

(f) The importance of regular updating of training materials and standards, taking into account current operational requirements, to support effective predeployment training, the importance of ensuring peacekeeping training materials and manuals are made available in the six official languages of the United Nations, and the importance of comprehensive assessment and advisory visits and predeployment visits in line with operational readiness guidelines for selecting capabilities for deployment;

(g) A lack of transparent assessment for performance gaps of all actors to ensure timely corrective measures;

(h) Ensuring adequate financial and human resources for the effective and efficient discharge of their mandated tasks, including equipment and other assets.

Reference to relevant United Nations policies and guidelines

87. The Secretariat has provided a list of the relevant United Nations policies and guidelines regarding performance and accountability to the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations, as follows:

- (a) United Nations Infantry Battalion Manual (2020);
- (b) Policy on guidance development (2020);
- (c) United Nations Manual on Ammunition Management (2020);
- (d) Policy on joint operations centres (2019);
- (e) Guidelines on joint operations centres (2019);
- (f) Authority, command and control in United Nations peacekeeping operations (2019);
- (g) Guidelines on the award of risk premium (formed units) (2019);
- (h) Guidelines on aviation safety assurance (2019);
- (i) Guidelines on combined military and police coordination mechanisms in peace operations (2019);
- (j) Guidelines on the Peacekeeping Capability Readiness System (2019);
- (k) Guidelines on the rapid deployment level of the Peacekeeping Capability Readiness System (2019);
- (l) Guidelines on special investigations (2019);
- (m) Guidelines on specialized police teams on assignment with United Nations peace operations (2019);

- (n) Standard operating procedures on the assessment for mission service of individual police officers (2019);
- (o) Policy on weapons and ammunition management (2019);
- (p) Aviation Manual (2018);
- (q) Guidelines on operational readiness preparation for troop-contributing countries in peacekeeping missions (2018);
- (r) Secretary-General's bulletin on the delegation of authority in the administration of the Staff Regulations and Rules and the Financial Regulations and Rules ([ST/SGB/2019/2](#)) (2018);
- (s) Standard operating procedure on contract performance reporting (2018);
- (t) Secretary-General's bulletin on the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations ([ST/SGB/2013/4](#) and [ST/SGB/2013/4/Amend.1](#), and [ST/SGB/2015/4](#) and [ST/SGB/2015/4/Amend.1](#)) (2018);
- (u) Guidelines on the use of force by military components in United Nations peacekeeping operations (2017);
- (v) Manual on Policies and Procedures Concerning the Reimbursement and Control of Contingent-Owned Equipment of Troop/Police Contributors Participating in Peacekeeping Missions (2017);
- (w) Policy on aviation safety (2016);
- (x) Policy on planning and review of peacekeeping operations (2016);
- (y) Policy on records management (2016);
- (z) Standard operating procedure on boards of inquiry (2016);
- (aa) Policy on formed police units in United Nations peacekeeping operations (2016);
- (bb) Guidelines on police administration in United Nations peacekeeping operations and special political missions (2016);
- (cc) Policy on operational readiness assurance and performance improvement (2016);
- (dd) Guidelines on police command in United Nations peacekeeping operations and special political missions (2016);
- (ee) Guidelines for the field verification and control of contingent-owned equipment and management of memorandum of understanding (2015);
- (ff) Guidelines on police operations in United Nations peacekeeping operations and special political missions (2015);
- (gg) Policy on national support element (2015);
- (hh) Policy on knowledge-sharing (2015);
- (ii) United Nations Peacekeeping Missions Military Engineer Unit Manual (2015);
- (jj) Movement Control Manual (2014);
- (kk) Policy on internal evaluations and inspections of United Nations police (2014);
- (ll) Guidelines on the mission concept (2014);

- (mm) United Nations Force Headquarters Handbook (2014);
- (nn) Manual on Surface Transport Management in the Field (2014);
- (oo) Policy on the functions and organization of the Standing Police Capacity (2013);
- (pp) Policy on Headquarters self-evaluation (2013);
- (qq) Policy on mission evaluation (2013);
- (rr) Policy on military capability study (2013);
- (ss) Policy on integrated assessment and planning (2013);
- (tt) Policy on human rights screening of United Nations personnel (2012);
- (uu) Policy on contract management (2012);
- (vv) Standard operating procedure on the assessment of individual police officers for service in United Nations peacekeeping operations and special political missions (2012);
- (ww) Policy on the Training of all United Nations Peacekeeping Personnel (2010);
- (xx) Policy on civil-military coordination in United Nations integrated peacekeeping missions (2010);
- (yy) Policy on support to military and police predeployment training for United Nations peacekeeping operations (2009).

Proposals, recommendations and conclusions

88. The Special Committee requests the Secretariat to continue to develop an integrated performance policy framework, with due consideration with relevant bodies and in accordance with its established practices and procedures, for mandate implementation based on clear standards for all relevant civilian and uniformed personnel working in and supporting peacekeeping operations in the Secretariat and missions. The framework should include comprehensive and objective methodologies, based on clear and well-defined benchmarks, in order to measure and monitor peacekeeping performance and to ensure the collection of centralized performance data to be used to improve the planning and evaluation of peacekeeping missions. In addition, the framework should comprise measures to ensure accountability and incentivize performance, including, but not limited to, the recognition of outstanding performance, capacity-building, remedial action, administrative measures for United Nations civilian personnel and other appropriate measures related to all aspects of deployment. The Special Committee expresses concern at the lack of progress in the development of this framework since its previous report.

89. The Special Committee urges the Secretariat to assess instances of underperformance of all uniformed, civilian and Secretariat personnel supporting peacekeeping operations. Such assessments should take into account political and operational aspects, including but not limited to: well-defined, realistic and achievable mandates, political will, leadership, performance and accountability at all levels, adequate resources, policy, planning, operational guidelines, caveats which have a detrimental impact on mandate implementation and performance, and training. The Special Committee welcomes the development of an accountability framework for uniformed, civilian and Secretariat personnel.

90. The Special Committee encourages the Secretariat, in collaboration with mission leadership, to continue the roll-out and refinement of the Comprehensive Performance Assessment System across all peacekeeping operations, ensuring that all relevant quantitative and qualitative objective data related to the effectiveness of each peacekeeping operation are collected and used to improve the planning and evaluation of mission performance in delivering mandated objectives, and that it clearly reflects the performance of civilian substantive components against mandated task performance indicators. The Special Committee further encourages the Secretariat to use those data to improve timely and transparent analysis, reporting and recommendations to relevant Member States.

91. The Special Committee calls upon the Secretariat and missions to improve the evaluation of mission civilian support component contributions to mandate implementation. In this regard, the Special Committee requests the missions to incorporate feedback from their respective uniformed components on the performance of mission support into such evaluations.

92. The Special Committee stresses the importance of avoiding all caveats which have a detrimental impact on mandate implementation and performance, and further requests all Member States to redouble all efforts to identify and clearly communicate any caveats or change in the status of caveats. The Special Committee urges the Secretariat to finalize, without delay, a clear, comprehensive and transparent procedure on caveats, in consultation with Member States. The Special Committee suggests that the Secretariat notes caveats which have a detrimental impact on mandate implementation and performance when selecting contingents.

93. The Special Committee requests the Secretariat to institutionalize integrated planning in multidimensional peacekeeping operations, including by ensuring the implementation of a generic integrated mission planning cell structure, representing key mandate implementation personnel at the mission and sector levels, and incorporating military, police and civilian planners in order to conduct integrated planning, assessment and decision-making regarding United Nations peacekeeping operations. The Special Committee requests the Secretariat to report on the development and implementation of this approach before its next substantive session.

94. The Special Committee notes the role of the Peacekeeping Capability Readiness System as an entry point in the selection, assessment and deployment of troops and police peacekeeping contingents, and underlines the importance of appropriate predeployment training and predeployment visits to ensure that the United Nations training requirements necessary for operational readiness are met. The Special Committee reiterates its calls upon the Secretariat to be transparent in selecting contingents to meet the specific needs and gaps of the United Nations, as identified in the periodic uniformed capability requirements papers, from the Peacekeeping Capability Readiness System when available. The Special Committee further stresses the need to address shortfalls in the standing force requirement for police personnel in peacekeeping operations, especially for police officers with specialized expertise, in line with the criteria and standards specified by the strategic guidance framework for international policing. The Special Committee requests the Secretariat to provide a briefing on this issue prior to its next substantive session.

95. The Special Committee urges the Secretariat to ensure that the equipment required in statements of unit requirements is appropriate to the situation on the ground, in order to avoid any potential impact on performance, and further urges the Secretariat and troop- and police-contributing countries to conclude memorandums of understanding in a timely manner, prior to deployment wherever possible.

96. The Special Committee underlines that where the Secretariat makes changes to a unit and contingent's deployment, the reasons for that change should be

communicated promptly and transparently to the troop- and/or police-contributing country concerned.

97. The Special Committee, while underlining that responsibility for training and equipping contingents to required United Nations standards rests with Member States, recommends that relevant troop- and police-contributing countries make use of different training mechanisms, co-deployments and other smart pledging to access all necessary training support. The Special Committee requests the Secretariat to elaborate, in consultation with Member States, a standardized mechanism to deal with commitments of mobile training teams and their legal status considerations when deployed in peacekeeping missions, recognizing the importance of effective mobile training teams.

98. The Special Committee recommends that the Secretariat ensure updated training guidelines and materials with mission-specific requirements, including for police, taking into account current operational requirements, to support effective predeployment training, and stresses the importance of ensuring peacekeeping training materials and manuals are made available in the six official languages of the United Nations.

99. The Special Committee encourages the Secretariat to further improve the speed of mission start-up and the efficient and timely deployment of all categories of personnel, logistics and equipment, including equipment commensurate to the threat environment, especially with respect to medical facilities.

100. The Special Committee recommends that the Secretariat, in accordance with General Assembly resolution [67/261](#), notify the permanent missions of troop- and police-contributing countries, in writing, in an expeditious manner, of cases of absent or non-functional equipment, as specified in the relevant memorandum of understanding, and include a description of absent or non-functional equipment and its associated contingent, in order for troop- and police-contributing countries to undertake corrective measures to fulfil their obligations in this regard.

101. The Special Committee recommends that the Secretary-General establish a framework on strategic communication in peacekeeping, and that the Secretariat report to the Special Committee on progress in improving strategic communication in peacekeeping missions, before its next substantial session.

G. Politics

General context

102. The Special Committee reaffirms the primacy of politics in the prevention, mediation and resolution of conflicts, and the supporting role that peacekeeping operations should play in the pursuit of sustainable political solutions, as well as the need for a stronger and more inclusive peacekeeping partnership. The Special Committee welcomes the efforts undertaken by the Secretary-General to mobilize all stakeholders in support of more effective United Nations peacekeeping, including through his Action for Peacekeeping initiative, recalls the follow-up initiatives to Action for Peacekeeping and emphasizes the importance of taking into account the views and recommendations of Member States, including those expressed during the high-level meeting on Action for Peacekeeping held in September 2018, in advancing this initiative. The Special Committee recognizes the importance of peacekeeping operations being anchored in, and guided by, a political strategy throughout their duration. The Special Committee underlines that, in accordance with their mandates, peacekeeping missions should have realistic goals and objectives and a clear exit strategy, where applicable.

103. The Special Committee stresses that peacekeeping operations are essentially political tools that should be designed and deployed as part of a broader strategy in support of viable political processes and solutions on the ground. The Special Committee reaffirms the important role the United Nations and other relevant stakeholders can play in supporting host States in the pursuit of lasting political solutions, in line with the basic principles of peacekeeping and the principle of sovereignty as contained in the guiding principles of the present report. The Special Committee also recognizes that lasting progress in strengthening security, national reconciliation, the rule of law, human rights, sustainable development, restoring critical infrastructure, revitalizing the economy and creating jobs, restarting basic services and building national capacity needs to occur in parallel. The Special Committee recognizes the meaningful role that women and young people play in the pursuit of lasting political solutions.

104. The Special Committee takes note of the ongoing efforts made by the Secretariat to support system-wide improvements in analysis and planning, including through the conduct of strategic reviews and assessments, and underlines the importance of informing the Committee of their outcomes. The Special Committee stresses that these efforts should provide increased clarity of political objectives for mission mandates, in an effort to support political processes, transition and drawdown strategies and peacebuilding efforts. In this regard, the Special Committee underlines the importance of the Secretary-General's commitment to report to the Security Council on the basis of comprehensive analysis, with frank and realistic recommendations.

105. The Special Committee reiterates that sustained triangular consultations based on existing formal and informal facilitating mechanisms and on inclusive thematic debates on the issues of peacekeeping among the Security Council, the Secretariat and troop- and police-contributing countries are essential to a shared understanding of appropriate responses and their implications for the mandate and conduct of an operation.

Reference to relevant United Nations policies and guidelines

106. The Secretariat has provided a list of the relevant United Nations policies and guidelines regarding politics to the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations, as follows:

- (a) Standard operating procedure on integrated reporting from peacekeeping operations to United Nations Headquarters (2019);
- (b) Joint Mission Analysis Centre Field Handbook (2018);
- (c) Guidelines on Joint Mission Analysis Centres (2015);
- (d) Policy on Joint Mission Analysis Centres (2015);
- (e) Guidelines on Joint Operations Centres (2014);
- (f) Policy on Joint Operations Centres (2014);
- (g) Status-of-forces agreements/status-of-mission agreements (examples can be found in the *United Nations Treaty Series*).

Proposals, recommendations and conclusions

107. The Special Committee requests that the pursuit of sustainable political solutions guide the design and deployment of United Nations peacekeeping operations. Furthermore, missions should be actively involved in preventing and mediating conflicts, creating an enabling environment and supporting political

processes at all levels. That involvement should be firmly anchored in a political strategy, developed in close consultation with all relevant stakeholders on the basis of a comprehensive analysis of the situation, root causes and dynamics of conflict, including at the regional level. The political strategy should be rooted in a whole-of-United Nations approach and provide clarity about how each element in the mission mandate underpins sustainable political solutions.

108. The Special Committee calls upon all relevant stakeholders to redouble their efforts in translating their relevant commitments expressed in the context of the Action for Peacekeeping initiative into positions and practice, including in all relevant United Nations bodies in their consideration of peacekeeping, as well as at the field level, and to meet periodically in relevant format to review progress. In this regard, the Special Committee requests the Secretariat to brief Member States on the development of a set of broad strategic indicators for the eight themes of Action for Peacekeeping against which progress and impact will be measured.

109. The Special Committee calls upon the Secretariat and mission leadership to continue to improve integrated, strategic and operational planning and analysis of mission contexts, priorities, capacities and needs. The Special Committee emphasizes the need for greater transparency and calls upon the Secretariat to update the Committee on these efforts. The Special Committee requests the Secretariat to strengthen measures to share the findings of strategic reviews, assessments and special investigations of peacekeeping operations with Member States. The Special Committee further recommends that the Secretariat redouble efforts to institutionalize an integrated planning culture in all missions.

110. The Special Committee calls upon the Secretariat to provide sound, realistic and frank analysis, feedback and recommendations on the mandates of peacekeeping operations to the Security Council. This should include any impact of budgetary decisions by the Fifth Committee. More substantive discussions between the Security Council and field-based actors, including the United Nations country team, should form part of this dialogue.

111. The Special Committee encourages further interaction between all peacekeeping stakeholders with the missions on the ground to ensure better understanding and coordination, including through videoconferences, field visits and any other practical means.

112. The Special Committee calls upon the Secretariat to enhance strategic and operational coordination between United Nations missions and the relevant strategies and policies of national and other relevant regional and international actors, including the United Nations country teams, as mandated.

113. The Special Committee encourages the Secretariat to utilize the full range of mechanisms to engage with troop- and police-contributing countries. In this regard, the Special Committee recommends that the Secretariat further expand the range of mechanisms to take place throughout the mandate cycle, including prior to mandate renewals, so as to optimally utilize the knowledge and experience of troop- and police-contributing countries. The Special Committee stresses the importance of continuing informal discussions to evaluate, review and improve the efficiency, timeliness and effectiveness of the triangular consultation mechanisms.

114. The Special Committee encourages the Security Council to continue to engage in consultations with troop- and police-contributing countries, the Secretariat, as well as relevant regional and subregional organizations and actors engaged in support of the political process. The Special Committee further encourages the missions to closely engage with all relevant stakeholders in order to better understand the root

causes of conflict and possible political solutions, including with respect to exit strategies.

115. The Special Committee encourages greater alignment between the political objectives and peacekeeping operation mandates and their implementation strategies. The Special Committee recognizes the importance of peacekeeping operations having mandates that are clear, focused, sequenced, prioritized and achievable and are matched by adequate and appropriate financial and human resources. In this regard, the Special Committee encourages the Secretariat to finalize its proposal on parameters for the sequencing and prioritization of mandates, thereby supporting the development of clear and focused mandates with a focus on strategic objectives when peacekeeping operations are established or renewed.

H. Protection

General context

116. The Special Committee reaffirms, following the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of first protection of civilian mandate in United Nations peacekeeping operations, the continued importance of the protection of civilians as a key objective of relevant United Nations peacekeeping operations. The Special Committee recalls that the primary responsibility for the protection of civilians as well as for the protection and promotion of human rights rests with the host State, and emphasizes in this regard the importance of cooperation by United Nations peacekeeping operations, where mandated, with national authorities in support of their efforts. The Special Committee emphasizes the importance of respect for and observance by all States and other relevant actors of their obligations under the Charter of the United Nations and other international law, including international human rights law, international refugee law and international humanitarian law. The Special Committee takes note of the Kigali Principles on the Protection of Civilians as non-United Nations voluntary principles, as adopted by a number of countries during and after the International Conference on Protection of Civilians held in 2015.

117. The Special Committee emphasizes that the protection of civilians by United Nations peacekeeping operations, where and as mandated, is a whole-of-mission objective that requires a comprehensive and integrated approach among civilian, police and military components in coordination with national authorities, as well as local communities and relevant humanitarian organizations, as appropriate, in order to create and sustain a protective environment for civilians. The Special Committee notes that the protection of civilians may comprise, in accordance with the Charter, the basic principles of peacekeeping, and a mission's mandate, directives on the use of force and its rules of engagement, the use of force as a last resort when required to prevent and respond to threats of physical violence against civilians.

118. The Special Committee recognizes that the effective implementation of mission mandates, including protection of civilians mandates, is the responsibility of all in-mission stakeholders and is contingent upon several critical factors, including, but not limited to, well-defined, realistic and achievable mandates; political will, leadership and performance and accountability at all levels; adequate resources; mobility assets; well-trained, prepared and appropriately equipped military, police and civilian personnel; and capabilities to assess threats to civilians, policy, planning and operational guidelines and training. The Special Committee emphasizes that United Nations peacekeeping operations must be provided with adequate resources to fully and effectively implement protection of civilians mandates, including personnel who can enable expertise on protection efforts as well as human rights, sexual violence in conflict, gender perspectives and child protection, as mandated. The

Special Committee further takes note of efforts to improve the performance of all relevant civilian and uniformed components of peacekeeping operations, as it relates to implementing protection of civilian mandates, and recognizes the importance of accountability at all levels in this regard. The Special Committee reaffirms its previous considerations of peacekeeping-intelligence/information gathering and analysis, and takes note of the 2019 revision of the policy on the matter. The Special Committee reaffirms that peacekeeping-intelligence/information gathering and analysis is the non-clandestine acquisition, verification, processing, analysis and dissemination of information by a United Nations peacekeeping mission within a specific, directed cycle, and within its mandate and area of operation, must be performed in full compliance with the Charter for the safety and security of United Nations personnel and the protection of civilians tasks of the Security Council mandate.

119. The Special Committee reaffirms the importance of the implementation of the child protection mandate in United Nations peacekeeping, as well as the important role played by senior child protection advisers in all relevant peacekeeping missions, in full compliance with Security Council mandates, including in support of the host State efforts. The Special Committee further emphasizes the need to prioritize the prevention of and response to sexual and gender-based violence, including sexual violence in conflict, as an important component of protection of civilian mandates. The Special Committee emphasizes the need for peacekeeping missions, where and as mandated, to support host State efforts to strengthen justice and accountability and implement survivor-centred approaches for the prevention of and response to sexual violence in conflict.

Reference to relevant United Nations policies and guidelines

120. The Secretariat has provided a list of the relevant United Nations policies and guidelines regarding protection to the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations, as follows:

- (a) Policy on United Nations field missions: preventing and responding to conflict-related sexual violence (2020);
- (b) Policy on the Protection of Civilians in United Nations peacekeeping (2019);
- (c) Policy on child protection in United Nations peace operations (2017);
- (d) Guidelines on the role of United Nations police in protection of civilians (2017);
- (e) Protection of civilians: implementing guidelines for military components of United Nations peacekeeping missions (2015);
- (f) Human rights due diligence policy on United Nations support to non-United Nations security forces ([A/67/775-S/2013/110](#)) (2013);
- (g) Policy on human rights in United Nations peace operations and political missions (2011).

Proposals, recommendations and conclusions

121. The Special Committee encourages the troop- and police-contributing countries to take all the needed measures concerning the protection of civilians, in accordance with the Charter, international humanitarian law and human rights law, and in line with the basic principles of peacekeeping, taking into consideration the mandate and the relevant rules of engagement.

122. The Special Committee requests the Secretariat to provide a briefing, before its next substantive session, on the 2019 revision of the Department of Peace Operations policy on the protection of civilians in United Nations peacekeeping operations.

123. The Special Committee reiterates its expectations that both the Secretariat and all troop- and police-contributing countries ensure, respectively, that all civilian and uniformed personnel are fully trained prior to deployment, including through context-specific and scenario-based training, to required United Nations standards on their roles and responsibilities with respect to the protection of civilians, including the particular protection needs of children and women, and on prevention of and response to sexual violence in conflict. The Special Committee requests the Secretariat to provide a briefing, prior to its next substantive session, on gaps and opportunities to enhance training on the protection of civilians for both uniformed and civilian personnel, including senior mission leadership, and on steps taken to ensure that all personnel have been trained to the required standards prior to deployment.

124. The Special Committee recognizes the importance of integrated, coordinated and comprehensive whole-of-mission approaches to the protection of civilians. The Special Committee takes note of the development of the guidelines on special investigations into incidents regarding the protection of civilians by United Nations peacekeeping operations, and calls upon the Secretary-General to ensure that the findings of such investigations are shared with pertinent stakeholders, including members of the Security Council and relevant troop- and police-contributing countries, to ensure that issues identified in such investigations can be sufficiently addressed, including through accountability measures where appropriate, and requests the Secretary-General to provide a briefing on actions taken to address shortcomings during its next session.

125. The Special Committee urges the Secretariat to strengthen the systematic collection and use of data on threats to civilians and protection incidents and needs in United Nations peacekeeping operations. The Special Committee stresses that this should routinely include the collection of data that enables gender-sensitive threat analyses. The Special Committee requests the Secretariat to provide a briefing on progress made in this respect before its next substantive session.

126. The Special Committee requests the Secretary-General to provide a briefing, before its next session, on efforts by United Nations peacekeeping operations to mitigate the risk to civilians before, during and after any military or police operation, including by tracking, preventing, minimizing and addressing civilian harm resulting from the mission's operations, including those operations that are conducted jointly with or in support of non-United Nations security forces.

127. The Special Committee urges missions to take into account threat assessments of violence against civilians during operational planning and decision-making processes, including in the context of periods of surge, transition and/or mission drawdown, and to include this aspect in a briefing on the protection of civilians at its next substantive session.

128. The Special Committee recognizes that the implementation of protection of civilians mandates is dependent in part on the availability of sufficient resources and capabilities, particularly in the critical fields of mobility and appropriate air assets, among others. The Special Committee therefore encourages the Secretary-General to provide enhanced information-sharing and reporting on the specific resource and capability requirements for the implementation of the protection of civilians mandates by United Nations peacekeeping operations, with Security Council members and in the context of the Fifth Committee.

129. The Special Committee urges United Nations peacekeeping missions to strengthen the implementation of protection of civilians mandates by enhancing, in coordination with national authorities, safe and effective community engagement and confidence-building, and ensuring a good understanding of the protection needs and capacities of the communities, including through consultations with local civil society, strategic communications, quick-impact projects, and other available means, and strengthening analysis of local-level conflict dynamics and threats against civilians. The Special Committee requests the Secretariat to provide a briefing, prior to its next substantive session, on the impact of these efforts at the mission level.

130. The Special Committee urges the Secretariat to develop strategic communications in coordination with national authorities and other relevant key stakeholders on the mission's protection of civilians mandate and related operational capabilities and resources, with the aim of disseminating accurate information to manage the expectations of local populations.

131. The Special Committee calls for enhanced support from the Secretariat, on the request of host State and where and as mandated, to assist national authorities in investigating and prosecuting crimes against civilians, through specialized support to relevant national judicial institutions, including by the Team of Experts on the Rule of Law and Sexual Violence in Conflict.

132. The Special Committee requests a briefing, before its next substantive session, on the pilot projects of leveraging unarmed practices and capabilities of local communities to support the creation of a protective environment.

133. The Special Committee takes note of the release of the new United Nations policy on United Nations field missions preventing and responding to conflict-related sexual violence, and emphasizes the need for the further development of mission-wide and coordinated protection strategies for addressing sexual violence in conflict. The Special Committee views the listing of parties to conflict responsible for patterns of rape or other forms of sexual violence in conflict, in the Secretary-General's annual report on conflict-related sexual violence, as essential to decreasing the number of sexual violence in conflict-related incidents and urges the Secretariat, where mandated, to ensure close coordination between mission leadership and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict. The Special Committee views strengthening the ability of women's protection advisers and other mission components to deliver on their mandate for addressing sexual violence in conflict as crucial. In line with these aims, the Special Committee requests an update on key initiatives related to addressing sexual violence in conflict prior to its next substantive session.

134. The Special Committee, building on existing United Nations policies and tools, recommends that peacekeeping missions, where and as mandated, should be adequately resourced to fully and effectively implement child protection mandates, including through the speedy deployment of senior child protection advisers and teams, as well as the comprehensive operationalization of the child protection mandate across all civilian and uniformed mission components.

135. The Special Committee urges the Secretariat to undertake close consultations with Member States, drawing on their views and legitimate concerns, including during the implementation of the policy on matters relating to peacekeeping-intelligence/information gathering and analysis, and in developing and reviewing relevant operational guidance documents.

I. Safety and security

General context

136. The Special Committee condemns in the strongest terms the killing of United Nations peacekeeping personnel and all acts of violence against such personnel. The Special Committee also stresses that the primary responsibility for the safety and security of United Nations personnel and assets rests with the host State. The Special Committee emphasizes the need to take all appropriate measures to bring to justice perpetrators of criminal acts, attacks, abductions and hostage-taking of United Nations personnel. In this regard, the Special Committee reiterates the importance of cooperation and dialogues between the United Nations and host State authorities, to support the resolution of such incidents when they occur. The Special Committee acknowledges that the conviction, in 2020, for the murder of United Nations peacekeepers represents an important milestone in defeating impunity. The Special Committee condemns violations of status-of-forces agreements by any party, which can present grave risks to the safety and security of peacekeepers and affirms that the entry of personnel or equipment into the country and freedom of movement within the mandate should not be hindered.

137. The Special Committee notes with concern that United Nations peacekeepers deployed in deteriorating and complex political and security environments face asymmetrical and complex threats, and have increasingly become a target for hostile actors. The Special Committee also notes with concern that a significant number of casualties in peacekeeping operations are related to attacks on mobile and static positions. Recalling that the basic principles of peacekeeping continue to serve a fundamental role in United Nations peacekeeping, the Special Committee takes note of the publication of the independent report entitled “Improving security of United Nations peacekeepers”. It is of critical importance that the Secretariat work closely in consultation with Member States in a transparent manner on the implementation of the action plan to improve the security of peacekeepers, within its authority, in line with the report of the Committee, and with due consideration by the relevant bodies to strengthening the capability of the United Nations system. The Special Committee also acknowledges that caveats which have a detrimental impact on the implementation of mandates and operational effectiveness, and shortfalls in performance of all stakeholders, increase the risks to the safety and security of peacekeepers, in particular in hostile environments. The Special Committee welcomes ongoing efforts by Member States and the Secretariat to focus on integrated planning of operations, an agile and threat-sensitive mission footprint and embedding a culture of accountability. These measures will support missions in achieving their objectives and enhance the safety of United Nations personnel.

138. The Special Committee acknowledges that casualty and medical evacuation and the provision of medical and hospital coverage at all levels are fundamental to the safety and security of United Nations peacekeepers. In this regard, the Special Committee stresses the urgent requirement for improving medical support, with the goal of reducing casualties and deaths of peacekeepers in peacekeeping missions. The Special Committee emphasizes the responsibility of the United Nations and Member States to ensure adequate medical facilities and qualified medical personnel with the required language skills are in place in accordance with United Nations medical standards, tailored to the operational environment. In this regard, the Special Committee welcomes the efforts of the Secretariat to improve peacekeepers’ medical capabilities through medical training, including the buddy first aid course and the field medical assistant course. The Special Committee stresses the importance of comprehensive contingency planning and exercises, focusing on lessons learned and best practices, and emphasizes the need for the Secretariat to share relevant elements

of the emergency plans with troop- and police-contributing countries. The Special Committee also recognizes all Secretariat efforts to help ensure that adequate casualty evacuation procedures are established in all missions. The Special Committee notes with concern that a significant number of peacekeeping casualties are caused by occupational safety and health hazards. In some cases, incidents may have a negative effect on operations. The Special Committee stresses the need for the Secretariat to improve workplace safety and health issues.

139. The Special Committee underscores the importance of ensuring that peacekeeping missions evolve their capabilities and systems to remain agile and effective. In this regard, the Special Committee welcomes the cooperation between the Secretariat and Member States to strengthen safety and security capabilities and the commitments made by Member States to contribute capable personnel. The Special Committee underlines the importance of providing adequate predeployment training (including basic military training and mission-specific skills) and in-theatre training and briefings, as well as providing peacekeeping personnel with adequate equipment appropriate for deployment, including medical, self-defence and related equipment, in accordance with United Nations standards and in a timely manner, in order to prevent casualties and ensure safety and security. The Special Committee stresses the respective roles and responsibilities of the Secretariat and troop- and police-contributing countries in this regard. The Special Committee reaffirms its previous considerations of peacekeeping-intelligence/information gathering and analysis, and takes note of the 2019 revision of the policy on the matter. The Special Committee reaffirms that peacekeeping-intelligence/information gathering and analysis is the non-clandestine acquisition, verification, processing, analysis and dissemination of information by a United Nations peacekeeping mission within a specific, directed cycle, and within its mandate and area of operation, must be performed in full compliance with the Charter of the United Nations for the safety and security of United Nations personnel and protection of civilians tasks of the Security Council mandate.

Reference to relevant United Nations policies and guidelines

140. The Secretariat has provided a list of the relevant United Nations policies and guidelines regarding safety and security to the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations, as follows:

- (a) Policy on Casualty Evacuation (2020);
- (b) Policy on peacekeeping-intelligence (2019);
- (c) Policy on gender-responsive United Nations peacekeeping operations (2018);
- (d) Policy on casualty evacuation in the field (2018);
- (e) United Nations Improvised Explosive Device Disposal Standards (2018);
- (f) United Nations Peacekeeping Missions Military Explosive Ordnance Disposal Unit Manual (2017);
- (g) Standard operating procedures on Headquarters crisis response in support of peacekeeping operations (2017);
- (h) Policy on strategic communications and public information (2017);
- (i) Guidelines on improvised explosive device threat mitigation in mission settings (2016);
- (j) Policy on the organizational resilience management system (2014);

- (k) Policy on virtual private networks (2013);
- (l) Policy on enterprise risk management and internal control (2011);
- (m) Policy on information and communications technology (ICT) physical and environmental security (2011);
- (n) Policy on ICT risk assessment (2011);
- (o) Policy on ICT security incident management (2011);
- (p) Policy on monitoring and surveillance technology in field missions (2010);
- (q) Revised gender guidelines for mine action programmes (2010).

Proposals, recommendations and conclusions

141. The Special Committee calls upon the Secretariat to conduct assessments of unit operational readiness in advance of deployment and emphasizes that any units failing such assessments should not be deployed unless or until they meet the required standards.

142. The Special Committee requests that the Secretariat instruct all peacekeeping missions to systematically document violations of status-of-forces agreements, and mission leadership should use this information to monitor and resolve risks to the safety and security of peacekeepers, as necessary. In this regard, the Special Committee calls on the Secretariat to establish a single database for the collection of data on status-of-forces violations across all peacekeeping operations, relating to safety and security, so as to strengthen the capacity of the United Nations to deal with them and ensure reporting is routinely provided to all relevant stakeholders.

143. The Special Committee calls upon the Secretariat to ensure that mortal remains of peacekeepers are repatriated at the earliest time possible through the fastest air routes. The Special Committee urges the Secretariat to settle outstanding death and disability claims as soon as possible.

144. The Special Committee urges the Secretariat to undertake close consultations with Member States, drawing on their views and legitimate concerns, including during the implementation of the policy on matters relating to peacekeeping-intelligence/information gathering and analysis, and in developing and reviewing relevant operational guidance documents.

145. The Special Committee, in the light of the complex and evolving challenges facing peacekeeping personnel in many missions, stresses the need for United Nations peacekeeping missions to provide accurate and timely information to United Nations Headquarters, and subsequently to the permanent missions of the Member States concerned, as well as other peacekeeping missions in the same region, on changes in risk exposure in relation to operational incidents and changes in modus operandi of threat forces, and encourages mutual information exchange on security threats. As a risk-mitigating measure, the Special Committee urges United Nations mission leadership to make full use of all applicable operational capabilities available, within the peacekeeping framework. In this regard, the Special Committee requests the Secretariat to examine ways to improve coordination and mission capabilities and encourages the missions to conduct timely reviews of mission footprints and needs.

146. The Special Committee urges the Secretariat to ensure adequate medical facilities to provide the essential 10-1-2 casualty response principle on a 24/7 basis, within the mission area and as close to the area of deployment of troop- and police-contributing countries as possible, before and during deployment, throughout the life of the mission. In this regard, the Special Committee recommends that the Secretariat carry out a mapping exercise of the status of existing medical cover, aeromedical

capabilities and medical capabilities within the missions and provide a briefing to the Committee, before its next substantive session, on the matter, with remedial measures to address any gaps in the mission. The Special Committee urges the Secretariat to establish clear and minimum standards and further develop clear indicators for evaluating and ensuring that these minimum medical standards in United Nations peacekeeping operations are met. This should include, inter alia, minimum standards for level I, level II and level III facilities, combat medics and aeromedical teams and the new capabilities updated accordingly in their respective memorandums of understanding and/or letters of agreement. The Special Committee takes note of the ongoing efforts to conduct casualty evacuation stress testing and requests the Secretariat to consult Member States in finalizing the casualty evacuation policy, aimed at addressing the training needs and capability requirements in missions. The Special Committee urges that force commanders be given direct tasking authority of military air assets for casualty evacuations and medical evacuations. The Special Committee requests the Secretariat to provide a briefing on these aspects before its next session.

147. The Special Committee urges the Secretariat to ensure that women peacekeepers have streamlined access to services and medication to quickly treat common diseases and conditions.

148. The Special Committee calls for enhanced measures to address peacekeeping casualties caused by occupational safety and health hazards. The Committee requests the Secretariat establish a consolidated occupational safety and health incident reporting system to collect information, record data and take remedial action. The Committee also requests the Secretariat, in consultation with troop- and police-contributing countries, to establish well-defined and practical occupational safety and health standards for peacekeeping operations. The Committee recommends increased information-sharing of occupational safety and health compliance data with all Member States on the initial roll-out of the improved occupational safety and health risk management system. The Special Committee requests the Secretariat to provide an update on efforts to address occupational safety hazards in United Nations peacekeeping operations.

149. The Special Committee acknowledges that troop- and police-contributing countries must ensure that their military and police are adequately trained for peacekeeping operations. Predeployment training should include, but is not limited to, countering improvised explosive devices, mitigating threats from improvised explosive devices, health, basic first aid, force protection, counter-abductions and counter-hostage-taking and gender-specific risk considerations in mission settings, with the support of the Secretariat.

150. The Special Committee calls upon all Member States to ensure that military and police personnel deploy with appropriate and properly fitting equipment for the threat environment, taking into consideration the physiological differences between and among women and men personnel.

151. The Special Committee notes with concern that improvised explosive devices remain a major threat to peacekeepers and that initiatives to mitigate improvised explosive device threats require continued support. Recognizing this very specific threat, the Special Committee encourages strong cooperation between the Secretariat and peacekeeping missions to strengthen the threat mitigation of improvised explosive devices and support United Nations peacekeeping missions to degrade improvised explosive device networks. The Special Committee calls upon the Secretariat to continue to implement the new improvised explosive device disposal standards and roll out a train the trainers programme to upskill troop-contributing countries currently deployed, as well as future contingents. Furthermore, to assist in

the development of a counter-improvised explosive device strategy, the Special Committee requests the Secretariat to include troop- and police-contributing countries and requests the Secretariat to provide an update on the progress in the development of the strategy before its next substantive session.

152. The Special Committee calls upon all Member States hosting peacekeeping operations to promptly investigate and effectively prosecute those responsible for attacks on United Nations personnel, and to keep the relevant troop- or police-contributing country informed of the progress of such investigations and prosecutions. To facilitate this, the Special Committee encourages the Secretariat, where mandated and requested, to provide appropriate technical assistance and capacity-building support to Member States. The Special Committee also encourages cooperation between the newly established working group on accountability for serious crimes against peacekeepers and Member States in order to drive progress on combating impunity. The Special Committee calls upon the Secretariat to develop communication strategies to address the issue of anti-United Nations propaganda, which encourages attacks against peacekeepers and United Nations personnel in the field. The Special Committee also requests the Secretariat to provide an update on this issue prior to its next substantive session. The Special Committee further requests the Secretariat to fully inform the Member States concerned of all investigations in peacekeeping field missions and stresses the need to improve the prompt dissemination of information, particularly whenever there is an incident in a peacekeeping mission that negatively affects operational effectiveness or results in serious injury to or the death of United Nations peacekeeping personnel. The Special Committee stresses the need to improve the prompt dissemination of information in these cases, including the findings of boards of inquiry, as well as on mitigating actions taken.

153. The Special Committee urges that adequate force protection measures be taken to improve the physical security infrastructure of camps, prior and throughout deployment, including for temporary and remote deployments. The Special Committee stresses that temporary operating bases should have a defined timeframe and protection plan for deployment by the appropriate mission leadership.

154. The Special Committee requests the Secretary General, in his next report to the Special Committee, to include an update on the progress on the implementations of these measures set out in the action plan to improve the security of peacekeepers.

J. Women, peace and security

General context

155. The Special Committee recognizes the significant contribution of women in peacekeeping operations, in the prevention and resolution of conflicts and in peacebuilding. The Special Committee stresses that ensuring the full, effective and meaningful participation of women in peace processes is vital to finding sustainable solutions to conflict and can change the dynamic around peace and security. The Special Committee underlines the importance of taking into account the distinct experiences of women and girls in conflict situations, and of promoting women's role at all stages of peace processes. This cross-cutting agenda focuses on the essential influence that women have in identifying solutions based on their experiences and situation, and on applying a gender lens to conflict prevention and response.

156. The Special Committee recognizes the significant contribution of women in peacekeeping operations and acknowledges that the presence of women peacekeepers contributes to greater credibility of missions, in the communities in which United Nations peacekeepers serve, and enables more effective mandate implementation. In

this regard, the Special Committee welcomes continuing efforts by all stakeholders to significantly increase the number of women in all categories of personnel and at all levels of United Nations peacekeeping operations at Headquarters and in field missions.

157. The Special Committee recognizes the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of resolution [1325 \(2000\)](#), which established the women, peace and security agenda, and underlines that the continuing implementation of the agenda, including into all stages of analysis, planning, implementation and reporting, is key to the operational effectiveness and success of peacekeeping missions and that sufficient resources and expertise must be allocated thereto.

158. Recognizing the challenges facing complex peacekeeping operations, the Special Committee emphasizes the importance of integrating gender issues into all relevant training modules, including those for senior managers, and in predeployment training. The Special Committee also underlines the importance of promoting specific training for women serving as military and police officers, as a means to create further opportunities to increase the meaningful participation of women in peacekeeping operations. The Special Committee takes note of the role of gender advisers in capacity-building and knowledge transfer for gender mainstreaming into peacekeeping missions.

Reference to relevant United Nations policies and guidelines

159. The Secretariat has provided the relevant United Nations policy regarding women, peace and security to the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations, as follows:

- Policy on gender-responsive United Nations peacekeeping operations (2018)

Proposals, recommendations and conclusions

160. The Special Committee requests that peacekeeping missions take fully into account gender mainstreaming as a cross-cutting issue in the implementation of their mandates. The Special Committee further requests that peacekeeping missions do everything they can within their competencies to ensure the full, effective and meaningful participation of women, at all stages of any peace process.

161. The Special Committee encourages the strengthening of efforts to enhance the meaningful and effective participation of women in United Nations peacekeeping operations, in all categories of personnel and at all levels. The Special Committee notes with concern the lack of women in senior leadership positions at Headquarters and in field missions. In this context, the Special Committee urges the Secretariat to address this imbalance in a transparent manner, on the basis of merit and on as wide a geographical distribution as possible, and to support the promotion of women to senior leadership positions in missions, and calls upon Member States to develop strategies and measures to increase the percentage of women deployed in relevant positions and to nominate more qualified women for leadership positions.

162. The Special Committee encourages the Secretariat to continue its efforts, along with Member States, to identify and address challenges to the increased deployment of women in peacekeeping so as to further motivate change. The Special Committee further requests the Secretariat to provide an update, prior to its next substantive session, on the trends and factors affecting women's participation in peacekeeping missions in order to enable effective and sustainable deployment of women peacekeepers.

163. Given the increase in the number of women peacekeepers and the objective to promote the inclusion of more women peacekeepers in the field, the Special

Committee recognizes the importance of creating an enabling environment and, in this regard, strongly urges the United Nations and, where appropriate, troop- and police-contributing countries to provide the necessary infrastructure and a conducive living and working environment for women peacekeepers and to ensure that adequate and appropriate facilities are available in mission areas.

164. The Special Committee calls for increased targeted training for women in uniformed components and stresses the need for a greater commitment of all Member States to supporting more women officers and troops to develop their professional skills, including through specialized courses and training activities. This is necessary to increase the number of women peacekeepers qualified to deploy as staff officers and experts in critical specialized positions.

165. The Special Committee strongly supports the deployment of gender advisers to United Nations peacekeeping operations, as well as in the Department of Peace Operations. The Special Committee urges the Secretariat to develop guidelines for gender advisers deployed to peacekeeping operations in order to standardize their tasks and goals, including training modules. The Special Committee calls upon the Department of Peace Operations to review and strengthen predeployment training on relevant women, police and security issues for troop and police contingents.

Annex

Composition of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations

The Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations currently consists of the following 154 members: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, North Macedonia, Norway, Pakistan, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

The following observers were represented: Botswana, United Arab Emirates, Holy See, African Union, European Union, International Criminal Court, International Organization of la Francophonie, Organization of Islamic Cooperation, Sovereign Order of Malta.

