



UN Peace Operations Review: Taking stock, leveraging opportunities and charting the way forward

Conference on the 2015 UN Peace & Security Reviews

Monday 11 April 2016, 09:30 – 17:30

Trusteeship Council Chamber

*This conference is organized by the Permanent Missions of the Republic of Korea, Ethiopia, Norway to the United Nations and the International Peace Institute,
in partnership with the Office of the President of the General Assembly*



Concept Note

This past year marked the seventieth anniversary of the United Nations (UN) and the completion of three major reviews of UN peace operations¹, of the peacebuilding architecture², and of the implementation review of Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000) on women, peace and security³. These interrelated but separate processes were all inspired by the same sense of urgency and need to strengthen the coherence of the UN system on issues of peace and security and beyond, at a time when Member States are also considering how best to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. As the UN Secretary-General put it: “The various reviews and initiatives recognize that we cannot continue to address problems in separate or unrelated silos; we need to find the linkages among the reviews and in our work together” and “ensure that UN and its partners are fit for purpose”.⁴

The High-Level Independent Panel on UN Peace Operations (HIPPO) released its report in June 2015 and, in September 2015, the Secretary-General released his own report, “The Future of UN Peace Operations: implementation of the recommendations of the High-level Independent Panel on Peace Operations”, outlining his agenda and “priorities and key actions” to move the panel’s recommendations forward by the end of 2016. The UN General Assembly since adopted a resolution taking note with appreciation of the Secretary-General’s initiative to strengthen the UN system and started considering recommendations from the HIPPO and the SG report within its various committees, including the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations “C34” and the Fifth Committee. Meanwhile, the Security Council was briefed by the Secretary-General on 20 November 2015 on his action plan for taking forward the recommendations found in the HIPPO report, and took note of the recommendations of the two reports in a Presidential Statement (PRST).⁵

In parallel, the advisory group on Resolution 1325 also released its report, “Preventing Conflict, Transforming Justice, Securing the Peace: A Global Study on the Implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325” in October 2015, and the Secretary-General released his report on women, peace, and security, followed by the Security Council’s adoption of Resolution 2242 in October 2015. The Advisory Group of Experts on the Review of the Peacebuilding Architecture released its report “The Challenge of Sustaining Peace” in June 2015, which was itself the subject of a Security Council open debate on 23 February 2016 while the intergovernmental negotiations co-facilitated by Angola and Australia was under way which is expected to result in a joint Security Council-General Assembly resolution in April 2016.

The present conference builds on a series of seminars organized by the Government of the Republic of Korea with the International Peace Institute in support of the implementation of the recommendations from the HIPPO and SG reports, notably in New York in July 2015 and Seoul in October 2015.⁶ It seeks to take stock of the status of implementation of the recommendations put forward by HIPPO to date, keeping in mind that this year marks the final year for the current Secretary-General’s term. Member States are invited to reflect on the present proceedings of the relevant UN mechanisms, including the C34, and identify areas for further intensive efforts to be made in the remainder of the year 2016. It seeks to explore potential opportunities ahead that the Membership may take advantage of, such as the May High-Level Thematic Debate of the UN General Assembly on peace and security⁷ and the September Leaders’ Summit on Peacekeeping. Finally, it aims to build and sustain the political momentum to champion the strengthening of peace operations during and beyond 2016.

¹ A/70/95 – S/2015/446 & the subsequent Report of the Secretary-General A/70/357 – S/2015/682

² A/69/968 – S/2015/490

³ S/2015/716 and the subsequent Security Council Resolution 2242 (2015)

⁴ <http://www.ipinst.org/2015/10/the-future-of-global-governance-a-commitment-to-action#8>

⁵ S/PRST/2015/22, available at http://www.futurepeaceops.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/s.prst_2015.22.pdf

⁶ See http://www.ipinst.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/IPI_E-RPT-Future_of_Peace_Ops.pdf. This conference also concludes a series of informal preparatory regional consultations with representatives from Member States, regional and sub-regional organizations, as well as civil society organizations and experts. A research paper prepared by the International Peace Institute (IPI), together with the Norwegian Institute of International Affairs (NUPI) and Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation (DHF), will also be made available to the participants as background material.

⁷ In November 2015, the President of the GA announced that he would organize a high-level thematic debate of the UN GA will examine how to strengthen the role and coherence of the UN’s architecture in the field of peace and security.

Agenda

09:30-10:15 Opening Session

H.E. Mr. Oh Joon, *Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations, President of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)*

Dr. Youssef Mahmoud, *Senior Advisor, International Peace Institute, and member of the High Level Independent Panel on Peace Operations (HIPPO) and the High Level Advisory Group to the Global Study on 1325*

H.E. Mr. Ban Ki-Moon, *United Nations Secretary-General*

H.E. Mr. Mogens Lykketoft, *President of the United Nations General Assembly*

10:15-11:45 **Session 1: Taking stock of implementation of the recommendations from the High-Level Independent Panel on UN Peace Operations (HIPPO) to date**

Which themes from the High-Level Independent Panel on UN Peace Operations (HIPPO) and 2016 “priorities and key actions” of the Secretary-General’s “The Future of UN Peace Operations” Report have drawn the most attention from Member States, the General Assembly and Security Council bodies (notably the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations “C34” and Security Council Working Group on Peacekeeping) to date? What issues have garnered less attention and why? What recommendations have been taken up by the UN Secretariat and Member States to date and have been/are being implemented?

Chair: **H.E. Mr. Tekeda Alemu**, *Permanent Representative of Ethiopia to the United Nations*

Speakers: **H.E. Mr. Matthew Rycroft**, *Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom to the United Nations*

H.E. Mr. Michael Grant, *Chair of the Working Group of the Special Committee of Peacekeeping Operations (C34), Deputy Permanent Representative of Canada to the United Nations*

Ms. Renata Dwan, *Executive Office of the Secretary-General, United Nations*

Ms. Louise Allen, *NGO Working Group on Women, Peace and Security*

12:00-13:30 Lunch Break

13:30-15:00 Session 2: Leveraging opportunities for substantive implementation: proposals for adequate, relevant, and effective resourcing of UN peace operations, building on potential synergies with the other two major reviews

What are the key themes across and linkages between the three Reviews? How can UN Member States and the UN Secretariat best influence the synergies with the other two major peace and security reviews towards implementation of concrete proposals? How can the UN shift from reaction to prevention and enhance its capacity to address the regional dimensions of instability? How can UN Member States leverage the converging themes of the three reviews to promote inclusive early prevention? How to enhance the level of predictable and sustainable financial support to UN engagement in preventing conflict, keeping and sustaining peace? What is the role of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) in relation to peace operations? How to ensure the inclusion of women and youth in all aspects of conflict prevention, peacebuilding and peace operations?

Chair: **H.E. Mr. Dian Triansyah Djani**, *Permanent Representative of Indonesia to the United Nations (TBC)*

Speakers: **H.E. Mr. Macharia Kamau**, *Chair of the United Nations Peacebuilding Commission (PBC), Permanent Representative of Kenya to the United Nations*

Mr. Yoo Dae-jong, *Director General of United Nations Bureau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea*

Mr. Jeffrey Feltman, *Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, United Nations (TBC)*

Ms. Sanam Anderlini, *Director of the International Civil Society Action Network*

15:00-15:15 Coffee Break

15:15-16:45 Session 3: The way forward for strengthening peace operations in 2016 and beyond

How to build and sustain the political moment to champion the process of adapting UN peace operations to meet current and future challenges? How can the common message of the three reviews of focusing on conflict prevention be streamlined? How to best capitalize on the 10 & 11 May 2016 High-Level Thematic Debate of the UN General Assembly on peace and security and the September 2016 High-Level Week? What is next after the procedural resolution of the General Assembly and the work of the GA Committees on the recommendations from the HIPPO and the SG reports? What role can the Security Council and Security Council Working Group on Peacekeeping play? Is the September Leaders' Summit on Peacekeeping an opportunity to further mobilize engagement and how? What should Member States focus their efforts on between now and the end of 2016, and what priorities should the next Secretary-General focus on during her/his first eighteen months in office to make peace operations better fit for purpose?

Chair: **H.E. Mr. Geir O. Pedersen**, *Permanent Representative of Norway to the United Nations*

Speakers: **H.E. Mr. Fodé Seck**, *Chair of the Security Council Working Group on Peacekeeping Operations, Permanent representative of Senegal to the United Nations*

H.E. Ms. Martha Ama Akyaa Pobee, *Permanent Representative of Ghana to the United Nations*

Mr. Dmitry Titov, *Assistant Secretary General for Peacekeeping, United Nations*

Mr. Ian Martin, *Executive Director of the Security Council Report and former member of the High-Level Independent Panel on Peace Operations*

16:45-17:30 Wrap-up Session and Closing Remarks

Mr. Yoo Dae-jong, *Director General of United Nations Bureau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea*

Mr. Tomas Anker Christensen, *Chef de Cabinet, Office of the President of the General Assembly, 70th session*

Ms. Ameerah Haq, *Former Under-Secretary-General and Vice-Chair of the High-Level Independent Panel on Peace Operations*