

CHAIR'S NOTE NEW YORK, 27 JUNE 2024

The fourth United Nations Chiefs of Police Summit (UNCOPS), held at United Nations Headquarters in New York, brought together Ministers, Deputy Ministers, Chiefs of Police and Gendarmerie and other high-level officials from 127 Member States, as well as representatives of partner organizations, who overwhelmingly recognized the fundamental contributions of United Nations Police to maintaining international peace and security in the face of ever-growing challenges.

In the spirit of the Secretary-General's New Agenda for Peace and the Action for Peacekeeping (A4P) and A4P+ initiative, participants acknowledged an increased role for United Nations Police in supporting Member States' efforts to address evolving threats and conflicts that have grown more complex and multidimensional. These threats include rising levels of violence in densely populated settings (such as urban areas, protection of civilians sites and camps for the internally displaced); the continued expansion of transnational organized crime and violent extremism; greater risks from artificial intelligence, hate speech, misinformation and disinformation, climate change and cyber insecurity; and increased demands for comprehensive national institutional capacity-building and police reform that require unique and specific policing responses.

Against this backdrop, participants voiced their support for equipping the United Nations Police with the necessary capacities and capabilities, including by increasing their nominations of women police officers and sharing with the United Nations their national expertise in addressing mis- and disinformation, enhancing cybersecurity and advancing digital literacy.

The first session on "Novel approaches to peace operations and potential domains of conflict" explored the interlinkages between climate, peace and security and the fundamental importance of the rule of law for multilateral cooperation and dialogue. Participants emphasized the need for local ownership of policing efforts and the empowerment of local stakeholders to reinforce trust between justice and security institutions and the communities they serve and to address emerging challenges, including mis- and disinformation. They noted that as part of their daily work, police interact directly with communities, so they are well-positioned to counter mis- and disinformation while strengthening situational awareness. Participants recognized the necessity of well-trained personnel with the right skillsets and access to the technology their work requires to ensure the safety and security of uniformed personnel. Further, they appreciated the role of peacekeeping-intelligence in the protection of civilians and intelligence-led policing.

The second session on “Preventing conflict and violence and sustaining peace” considered how to fully leverage new technologies for policing, building on the digital transformation of peacekeeping in line with the Quintet of Change (UN 2.0) and recommitting to the reform of peacekeeping that expands on the progress achieved through A4P and A4P+. Participants highlighted the effects of urbanization and migration on peace and security. They acknowledged their police services’ potential contributions and support to United Nations Police for the New Agenda for Peace and its “new vision for the rule of law,” which emphasizes that human rights-compliant, gender-responsive and evidenced-based policing practices are the cornerstone of the rule of law and sustainable peace and development.

The third session on “Strengthening peace operations and peace enforcement” examined the responsible use of artificial intelligence and how to address the increasing risks posed by mis- and disinformation to the safety and security of peacekeepers and host populations and mandate implementation. Participants pledged renewed support for performance initiatives, including the Secretariat’s assistance for Member States’ pre-deployment readiness through enhanced training and certification processes. Participants agreed on the importance of further advancing the development and implementation of the Strategic Guidance Framework for International Policing, expanding training offerings through the United Nations Police Training Architecture Programme, and implementing more effective data collection, integration and use - including through social media analysis and strategic communications - to enhance situational awareness capabilities. They also noted the impact of climate change in several peace operation settings and welcomed the Secretariat’s environmental management efforts that focus on “doing no harm” and leaving a positive legacy in host communities.

Looking to the New Agenda for Peace, participants noted the need to strengthen networked multilateralism, recognizing that addressing the biggest challenges while improving United Nations Police performance is the joint responsibility of the Secretariat, Member States that host or otherwise support United Nations Police, regional, sub-regional and professional policing organizations, and United Nations Police personnel. They cited the establishment of the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on Policing as a positive development and encouraged its members to build on its initial success in promoting the work of the United Nations in policing and ensuring system-wide policy coherence. They further noted the importance of policing as a bridge during transitions from peacekeeping to peacebuilding and acknowledged the growth of requests for United Nations Police assistance in non-mission settings, particularly related to election security.

With this in mind, participants agreed on the need for well-prepared, equipped, technologically proficient and trained United Nations Police personnel, with mandates that are realistic and appropriately resourced. They recommitted to support United Nations policing by

leveraging innovation, a “UN 2.0” characterized by new skills and ways of thinking, and the unifying and mutually reinforcing power of national and United Nations policing. Participants appreciated the diversity of policing topics covered at the Member State-organized side events before the Summit’s plenary session and encouraged the Secretariat to continue and expand this practice.

The Secretariat welcomed Member States’ pledges of support for United Nations policing through their political commitments to advance policing priorities, both in their capitals and in multilateral fora; financial support to address contingencies and specialized and emerging requirements not covered through regular budgeting; and commitments of police personnel, including Individual Police Officers, Specialized Police Teams and Formed Police Units, equipment, training and technology. The Secretariat thanked the United Arab Emirates for its sponsorship of the event and encouraged Member States to consider coming forward to support the next UNCOPS, which would take place in 2026.

Looking to the Summit of the Future, participants were called on to enhance cooperation on critical challenges and address gaps in global governance, reaffirm existing commitments (including to the Sustainable Development Goals and the United Nations Charter) and move towards a reinvigorated, more networked multilateral system that is better positioned to positively impact the lives of all.