

ADVANCING OUR COMMON SECURITY: UNITED NATIONS POLICING FOR A NEW ERA

The largest global platform for senior police leaders to engage on strengthening international security and to address cross-border threats through the unifying power of national and United Nations policing. UNCOPS is an illustration of inclusive multilateralism at work.

CONTEXT

Geopolitical tensions, the climate crisis, global mistrust and the dark side of technology, which Secretary-General António Guterres has called the “looming threats of the 21st century”, are affecting the well-being and livelihoods of communities worldwide and the planet itself. National and United Nations Police are on the frontlines of averting and addressing these transnational threats. As societies emerge from conflict, violence and instability, rule of law institutions, including the police – the first element of the justice chain – are essential to preventing the outbreak or relapse into conflict and paving the way for sustainable peace, stability and prosperity.

Comprising 8,000 authorized United Nations Police officers from 129 countries (since 1990), the United Nations Police support Member States to realize effective, representative, responsive and accountable police services that serve and protect the population, operating in line with the **Strategic Guidance Framework for International Policing (SGF)**, the United Nations system-wide doctrine. The United Nations Police contribute to the **Action for Peacekeeping (A4P) initiative and A4P+ priorities** by building and supporting or, where mandated, acting as a substitute or partial substitute for host-State police capacity to prevent and detect crime, protect life and property, and maintain public order and safety in adherence to the rule of law and international human rights law. Their work advances political solutions through community-oriented policing; enhances gender equality through gender-responsive policing; augments the safety and security of United Nations personnel through intelligence-led policing; and contributes to a lasting, positive impact through environmentally responsive policing. The United Nations Police thereby act as enablers of several **Sustainable Development Goals**.

RATIONALE

The year 2024 is critical for revitalizing inclusive and networked multilateralism to address the most complex global challenges. Multiple frameworks have generated new momentum for the United Nations Police, including the Secretary-General’s A4P initiative and A4P+ priorities and the New Agenda for Peace, as well as Security Council resolutions **2185 (2014)**, **2382 (2017)** and **2447 (2018)**, and guidance from the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations (C-34). This momentum is evidenced by the United Nations Police’s contributions to mission exits through strengthened host-State police services and other law enforcement institutions, including in Côte d’Ivoire, Liberia and Timor-Leste. In addition, the 2023 Peacekeeping Ministerial highlighted the evolving requirements of the United Nations Police in these changing contexts. UNCOPS provides a platform to consider ways to further strengthen these efforts.



“[United Nations Police] keep communities around the world safe [...]. [They] are the embodiment of multilateralism in action.”

António Guterres, Secretary-General
8 November 2021



AT A GLANCE

Main themes

A4P and A4P+: The contribution of the United Nations Police to more effective peacekeeping

New Agenda for Peace: The enabling role of the United Nations Police

Future of UN policing: Required United Nations Police capacities

Audience

Ministers with responsibility over domestic police and other law enforcement and/or the most senior police officials of 193 Member States and international experts.

Programme

Day 1: side events, bilateral meetings, and opening reception

Day 2: plenary discussions

OBJECTIVES

UNCOPS will provide an opportunity for senior police executives, key partners, and United Nations representatives to advance **A4P commitments**, and contribute to promoting the **New Agenda for Peace** through discussions on:

- Contributing to **collective coherence behind political strategies** through comprehensive police reforms.
- Protecting and **empowering civilians** through community-oriented policing to help renew our **social contract**.
- Accelerating the implementation of the **Women, Peace and Security Agenda** through gender-responsive policing, increased women’s political participation, decision-making and parity both nationally and within the United Nations Police.
- Enhancing **accountability to peacekeepers** by increasing their **safety and security** through intelligence-led policing and greater situational awareness.
- Sustaining peace by contributing to integrated rule of law assistance, in line with **Agenda 2030** and **Sustainable Development Goal 16**.
- Strengthening data-driven and tech-enabled **United Nations Police capabilities and mindsets** through a systematic performance regime that spans from pre- to post-deployments.
- **Improving partnerships** with host countries, regional and other organizations, to facilitate coherent international policing assistance.
- Strengthening **accountability of peacekeepers** through awareness raising on conduct and discipline, as well as the United Nations Police Environmental Management Framework.

OUTCOMES

Building on agreed outcomes of UNCOPS 2016, 2018 and 2022, the desired outcomes of UNCOPS 2024 include:

- A common vision and concrete commitments to further equipping the United Nations Police to effectively contribute to **A4P and A4P+ priorities**. Awareness of interlinkages between national and United Nations policing to increase global security.
- Collective appreciation of the **role of national and United Nations policing** in overcoming systemic challenges affecting peacekeeping.
- Joint understanding of the **needs of the United Nations Police**, including related to safety and security, and concrete Member State and Secretariat commitments to meet demands.
- A **common roadmap to realize the Secretary-General’s vision** of “a transformed United Nations police that is people-centred, modern, agile, mobile and flexible, specialized, rights-based and norm-driven”, and that is also innovative, **data-driven and tech-enabled**.

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KEY FIGURES



UNPOL deployed in

8 PEACEKEEPING¹ OPERATIONS

6 SPECIAL² POLITICAL MISSIONS

and other settings³



8,000⁴

Authorized UNPOL personnel



Approx.

\$316.6 million

spent on UNPOL personnel and equipment out of US\$6.38 billion UN peace operations budget (2022-23)



129

countries contributed police since 1990

1. MINURSO, MINUSCA, MINUSMA, MONUSCO, UNFICYP, UNISFA, UNMIK and UNMISS.
 2. BINUH, UNOCA, ONOWAS, UNSMIL, UNSOM and UNVMC.
 3. UNOAU.
 4. As of 30 April 2024.