

UN Peacekeeping Ministerial 2025
Berlin, 13/14 May 2025

Chair's Summary

The UN Peacekeeping Ministerial 2025 was held in Berlin on 13/14 May 2025. Delegations from 134 UN member states, 51 of which were represented at the ministerial level, the UN Secretariat as well as representatives of 10 regional organizations and observers discussed the future of peacekeeping. 74 UN member states presented pledges to fill capability gaps and help adapt UN peacekeeping to emerging challenges and new realities. Civil society, academia and think tanks united in the *Global Alliance for Peace Operations*, as well as youth delegates provided valuable input to the conference.

Germany, as host of the Berlin Ministerial, draws the following conclusions:

1. Recommitment to UN Peacekeeping

Echoing the Pact for the Future, participants noted the successful track record of UN peacekeeping and reaffirmed their commitment to further strengthening it. They underlined that UN peacekeeping remains a unique instrument for preventing, managing and limiting armed conflict, combining broad experience, legitimacy, and cost-effectiveness, while allowing for effective multilateral burden-sharing. A number of participants underlined the continued relevance of the basic principles of UN peacekeeping. Participants paid tribute to the UN peacekeepers and the sacrifices they have made for peace. They stressed the need for responsive, adaptable and adequately mandated and resourced missions in support of political processes. Participants also underlined the importance of providing strong, united political support to peacekeeping.

2. The Future of Peacekeeping

Participants called on the UN Security Council to agree on realistic, prioritized and demand-driven mandates, while maintaining the UN's normative framework and standards. Participants underscored the importance of the UN being ready to plan and deploy new missions tailored to the contexts in which they operate. They noted the independent study "The Future of Peacekeeping, New Models, and Related Capabilities" as a useful resource for understanding that peacekeeping can be more flexible and creative according to the needs on the ground. They expressed their respective expectations towards the Secretary-General's review on the future of all forms of peace operations, as requested in the Pact for the Future. They welcomed efforts to strengthen the efficiency in peace operations, including through the use of technology.

Through dedicated pledges and announcements, the Berlin Ministerial contributed to maintaining a high level of peacekeeping preparedness and adaptiveness, in a genuine effort of international burden-sharing. In light of the current UN liquidity crisis, participants emphasized the importance of timely and full payment of assessed contributions for UN peacekeeping. They stressed that prioritization of mandates, measures to strengthen efficiencies and integration and greater flexibility in UN rules and regulations will be needed to allow missions to adapt to future needs, while enabling their day-to-day tasks.

3. Peacekeeping Reform and Partnerships

Participants reaffirmed that UN Peacekeeping is a global partnership that addresses root causes of conflict and supports long-term stability. They further stressed the need for reinforcing peacekeeping reform. The need for the UN Secretariat to strengthen its planning capacity, as well as for more effective integrated planning between UNHQ and the field, was highlighted. Discussants noted the importance of training, capacity-building and partnership initiatives, such as the UN Triangular Partnership Programme and the Light Coordination Mechanism.

4. Sustaining Peace

Many participants stressed that sustained support by the Security Council remains indispensable to the success of UN Peacekeeping missions. They also underlined the need for greater political support by the wider international community. Noting that peacekeeping efforts are most impactful when aligned with the UN's broader preventive and peacebuilding activities, including in the Peacebuilding Commission, participants stressed the need to systematically leverage all instruments across the peace continuum in an integrated, coherent and sustainable way, while avoiding duplications.

5. Cooperation with Regional Organizations

Noting that UN peacekeeping maintains important comparative advantages in international crisis management, participants reiterated the significance of enhanced collaboration between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations, in particular the African Union. Referring to UN Security Council Resolution 2719 (2023) as a crucial step towards putting AU peace support operations on a more sustainable financial footing, participants highlighted the need to operationalize this landmark resolution.

6. Responsive and Accountable Missions for Effective Protection of Civilians

Underlining the life-saving work of UN Peacekeeping to countless civilians and the importance of protection of civilians mandates, participants called on missions to become more responsive and accountable to host communities by investing in inclusive community outreach, as well as paying particular attention to the needs of and promoting the full, equal, safe and meaningful participation of women, youth and marginalized groups in peace processes.

Participants noted with concern the prevalence of conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV) in UN peacekeeping mission contexts and underlined the importance of CRSV mandates.

Stressing that the vast majority of UN mission personnel serve with pride, dignity and respect for human rights and the people they assist, participants also emphasized the importance of strengthening the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA). Noting that SEA undermines UN peacekeeping's legitimacy and credibility, they reaffirmed their commitment to the UN's 'zero tolerance' policy and underlined the need for accountability and a victim-centred approach.

7. Women in Peacekeeping

Participants underlined the importance of creating enabling environments for the full, equal, safe and meaningful participation of women in peacekeeping, as we mark the 25th anniversary

of UN Security Council resolution 1325 (2000). It was underlined that all considerations on the future of peacekeeping should integrate Women, Peace and Security aspects. The beneficial role of networks, national barrier assessments and the need for sensitized leadership were emphasized.

8. Technology for Enhanced Safety & Security, Increased Effectiveness and Information Integrity

Participants stressed the importance of ensuring the safety, security, as well as mental and physical health of UN peacekeepers, and called for systematic political support to this objective. To promote the safety and security of mission personnel and strengthen mission effectiveness, participants explored the potential of technology such as artificial intelligence, unmanned aerial systems and telemedicine.

Participants underlined the significance of information integrity in mission contexts and emphasized the potential technologies and well-trained staff provide in countering mis- and disinformation. They also called for a greater focus on strategic communications.

9. Operational Resilience and Environmental Management

Participants underlined the importance of strengthening operational resilience and of continuing to improve environmental management in peace operations. They emphasized that transitioning to renewable energy systems not only helps to reduce the UN's environmental footprint and cost, but also enhances safety and security of peacekeepers and strengthens mission effectiveness by lowering logistical dependencies. They also noted that climate change exacerbates conflicts and hinders mandate implementation.