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FACT SHEET: U.S. Government Support to UN Peacekeeping in 2016

This week, the Secretary of Defense co-hosted a UN Peacekeeping Defense Ministerial in London with our close partners, culminating a year-long effort to implement commitments made at the 2015 Leaders' Summit on Peacekeeping. Secretary of Defense Ashton Carter joined other Defense Ministers and senior military officials from more than 75 countries to help strengthen the forces available to the UN and advance key operational reforms in peacekeeping operations. In 2015, President Barack Obama co-hosted the Leaders' Summit on Peace Operations to address critical gaps in peacekeeping missions, resulting in more than 50,000 new troop and police pledges to UN missions. The 2015 Summit generated momentum to reform peacekeeping and create mechanisms to ensure accountability, further reinforced by this week's Ministerial.

The UN Peacekeeping Defense Ministerial recognizes the increasing challenges faced by peacekeepers in the modern operating environment and the need for peacekeepers to continue to improve their preparation for and performance in today's operations. UN peacekeeping must be strengthened and modernized to meet the challenges posed by crises of increasing number and complexity. The heads of Defense Ministries and Departments represented here this week are committed to seeing these UN missions succeed.

The United States recognizes the critical importance of UN peacekeeping in promoting peace and security globally. Our contributions reflect this—from our assessed contributions, which at more than $2 billion make the United States the largest financial contributor to UN peacekeeping, to the additional support we provided this year, as pledged at the Summit. Beyond our direct contributions to the UN, the United States is also the largest contributor to peacekeeping capacity-building efforts.

Our international partners also see the importance of UN peacekeeping for sharing the costs and burdens of conflict prevention and mitigation. At this week's Ministerial, we built upon the commitments made last year. Today, more than 25 countries announced significant new military and police contributions to UN peacekeeping. These commitments will help to ensure the UN has the capability to meet current and future peacekeeping challenges successfully.

***Building partner capacity***

The United States is the largest contributor to military and police capacity-building efforts in support of international peacekeeping, contributing more than $1 billion since 2005. In fiscal year 2016 alone, the United States is contributing more than $160 million through programs such as the U.S. Global Peace Operations Initiative (GPOI), the African Peacekeeping Rapid

Response Partnership (APRRP), and the International Police Peacekeeping Operations Support (IPPOS) program to support partner deployments of well-trained and equipped uniformed peacekeepers. These programs focus on building partner country capacity to train, equip, deploy, and sustain military and police personnel, emphasizing effective leadership, peacekeeping competencies, and gender integration.

***Expanding U.S. contributions***

At the 2015 Leaders' Summit, President Obama pledged new contributions to UN peacekeeping. Since then, the Department of Defense (DoD) and our interagency partners have worked to deliver upon this pledge:

- **Staff Officers**: DoD maintains special expertise that can enhance the effectiveness of UN peace operations. DoD continues to work to double the number of staff officers in UN missions, in close consultation with the UN. Just this year, we approved an additional 34 skilled military officers across five UN missions. We are working with the UN to find placements for additional staff officers.
- **Logistics Support**: Last year, the United States and the UN signed a logistics agreement enabling the United States to help the UN respond more effectively to crises. Utilizing our new logistics support framework, the United States has provided support to the UN on two occasions, allowing the UN to purchase quickly from DoD parachutes that were used to airdrop more than 27 metric tons of urgently needed food aid into otherwise inaccessible parts of Syria.
- **Technology Support**: The United States has successfully worked with UN experts to identify cost-effective technology solutions to critical operational challenges, including expeditionary basing capabilities, interoperable communication systems and a geo-spatial information sharing system that improves UN situational awareness and assists in decision making. We are now working with the UN and select Troop Contributing Countries (TCCs) on technologies to reduce the environmental and logistical footprint of peacekeeping missions.
- **Engineering Support:** The U.S. Government has established policies and procedures to provide engineering support to the UN and stands ready to provide such support should it be requested.
- **In-Mission Training and Mentoring**: The U.S. Government continues to work with the UN and our Member State partners to identify opportunities for additional in-mission training and mentoring.
- **Prepositioned Non-Lethal Support/Defense Equipment**: Since the Summit, the U.S. Government has invested more than $12 million to procure peacekeeping equipment that we are prepositioning in U.S.-operated logistics facilities to help support the deployment of African peacekeepers.

- **Civil-Military Command Exercises**: To develop crisis response skills in missions, DoD, through the U.S. Army Peacekeeping and Stability Operations Institute, is sharing its processes for specialized senior-leader executive table-top exercises and conflict simulations with UN staff. We stand ready to provide further training and exercises, if requested.
- **Pre-Deployment Training for Police in Peacekeeping**: The U.S. Government is on track to fulfill our $2 million commitment to deliver pre-deployment training to enhance the operational effectiveness of African police peacekeepers facing violent extremist threats in the Sahel and the Horn of Africa.
- **Counter Improvised Explosive Device (C-IED) Training and Assessment**: The U.S. Government is dedicated to strengthening the counter-improvised explosive device (C-IED) capabilities of TCCs to address this growing threat to peacekeepers. Toward this end, we have committed more than $2 million specifically to support enhanced training for forces deploying to the UN peacekeeping mission in Mali (MINUSMA) and the African Union-led mission in Somalia (AMISOM).

At the London Ministerial, the DoD leadership announced that the U.S. Government is also working to provide new support in five areas:

- **Enhanced Leader Development Program.** The United States offers to support and reinforce the UN's development and preparation of senior mission leaders for UN peace operations. We will offer to expand our efforts to develop initiatives and programs to train, develop, and exercise leaders in peace operations more effectively. These efforts will reinforce international UN-affiliated initiatives such as the UN Challenges Forum and the International Association of Peacekeeping Training Centers Conference.
- **Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA) Conduct and Discipline Support.** The United States offers to support the training of National Investigative Officers (NIOs) and reinforce training on SEA and conduct and discipline issues. We will also support strengthening partner nations' training for those who provide peacekeeping forces.
- **Synchronize Global Capacity Building.** The United States will help to facilitate the definition and better synchronization of U.S. and other nations' capacity-building support for critical peacekeeping capability gaps, such as C-IED operations and medical evacuation. We will seek to define requirements more effectively in coordination with the specific UN mission, tailor U.S. capacity-building efforts to high-priority needs, and de-conflict our assistance activities with other capacity-building nations. Our efforts will focus on core narrowly scoped issues that will have a critical impact on a specific UN mission.
- **Support Rapid Deployment With Subject Matter Experts**. The United States offers to use our unique capabilities and expertise to support the development of programs, procedures, and skills to deploy units rapidly to peace operations. We will establish a training and mentorship program that supports planning, preparing, and exercising rapid deployment procedures from the operational to tactical level. This support is offered in two

parts. First, we can assist the UN to help to build the institutional systems necessary to plan and exercise deploying formations into an immature environment. Second, for partner countries who seek our assistance, we offer to support efforts to develop rapidly deployable capacity. This offer of support will include an enduring commitment to build the systems, training, and exercises necessary to form a dependable force for UN rapid deployments.

- **Advanced Environmental Technology Pilot**. The United States offers to partner with the UN to employ advanced technologies to improve the overall efficiency of energy, water, and waste management in peacekeeping operations. This effort will serve to minimize the environmental impact on the host nation, reduce the cost and logistics associated with resupply, and provide design templates and experimental tools to assess the impact of new practices and technologies in future peacekeeping basing. The United States will work with the UN to deliver training and demonstrate equipment that enhances mission operational efficiency, resiliency, and effectiveness.

***Driving reform***

At this week's Ministerial, we further emphasized the need to improve peacekeeping leadership, enhance accountability procedures for UN uniformed and civilian peacekeepers, and set conditions for better performance. Peacekeeping leaders and contingents must be held accountable for their performance, equipment, and conduct, as the continued presence of underperforming units in missions is unacceptable and tarnishes the image and credibility of UN peacekeeping missions as a whole.

Leaders must be selected based on merit, be adequately trained, and be empowered to succeed. We seek to give leaders the authorities necessary to utilize their resources effectively, particularly in crisis situations. We also support the UN's efforts to improve assessment and accountability to ensure we have the best possible peacekeepers in our missions. Effective implementation of these assessment and accountability systems is essential to meeting the demands of contemporary peace operations. Through our many capacity-building programs, the United States stands ready to work with TCCs to help remediate any issues identified by the UN's assessments.

At this Ministerial, we additionally recognized the indispensable role of women in UN peacekeeping and in conflict resolution as a whole. The United States knows that gender diversity at all levels is a critical element of operational effectiveness, and we support efforts to increase gender diversity in peace operations.