

Speech by H.E. Ms Karen Van Vlierberge,
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to the United Nations Security Council

Briefing
"United Nations peacekeeping operations: Police Commissioners"
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Mr President,

We would like to begin by thanking the five briefers who today have presented their respective perspectives on the role of the police in peacekeeping operations. Action for peacekeeping - A4P - remains our roadmap to ensure that our **efforts converge** in the coming years. Allow me to follow 5 "Ps" in my statement and my questions to the briefers: **P**revention - **P**erformance - **P**rotection - **P**artnerships and finally **P**eacebuilding.

Firstly:

An increased role has been granted to UN police expertise in the context of **prevention**. We welcome the fact that the police division is increasingly in demand, not only in Special Political Missions but also in certain cases outside the framework of missions. As underscored by the SG in his report, the police play an important early warning role: the police division can provide the Council with valuable information by analysing the status of police and other law enforcement institutions in a specific country and recommend responses to emerging problems.

Secondly:

The performance of missions goes hand in hand with responsibility and accountability. In this context, we are pleased that, under the new management paradigm promoted by the SG, Heads of police components in operations are now part of senior management teams and that they are responsible for the performance of their component.

→ In this context, I would like to ask Mr. Lacroix to share the lessons learned since the beginning of the implementation of C-PAS, particularly today on police components?

Thirdly:

Local police and community policing initiatives - among others - offer unparalleled opportunities for the **protection of civilians**. This is the case, for example, in South Sudan, where the UNMIS police component is successful in certain locations in working locally with the population, relying in particular on female personnel and unarmed patrols. In general, we believe that it would be appropriate to plan for increased support in terms of negotiated management of public areas (GNEP), including dialogue, respect for human rights, the use of moderate and proportional constraint, etc.... **Commissioner Gahonzire, thank you for your testimony on your experience within FISNUA, through the support to the Community Protection Committees".**

Fourthly:

Partnerships are at the heart of the work of police components in the field: they often work together and in close collaboration with those who are in charge of certain parts of

SSR or who carry out training for the national police. There are synergies on the ground with civilian missions deployed by the EU.

→ I have a question for Commissioner Abdounasir, who has experience with the partnership with the EU in both Mali and the DRC. Commissioner, can you provide more details on this partnership and its added value for the work of the United Nations?

Fifthly:

Finally, peacebuilding: while the police has a role to play across the peace continuum, supporting the transfer of law and order functions remains crucial during transition phases. Haiti is a recent example of this: it is important for this phase to continue to plan advisory support in terms of the police, when the host State deems this necessary. One of the future transition projects in the medium term could be in MONUSCO, and we look forward to discussing the results of the strategic review soon.

→ In this context, Commissioner Abdounasir, how do you see the role of the police component of MONUSCO evolving in the coming years? Do you see any areas or provinces in which an FPU presence could usefully replace a military presence?

Thank you.