

(+/- 1,000 words – 10 minutes)

Opening Remarks by
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6th ARF PEACEKEEPING EXPERTS' MEETING
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It gives me great pleasure to open this very timely meeting at this truly impressive training centre. It sends a clear signal regarding China's strong leadership and growing engagement in peacekeeping which I very much welcome.

The theme you have chosen for your discussions "Enhancing Pragmatic Cooperation: Improving Peacekeeping Training with Joint Efforts" is particularly welcome. This theme reflects the essence of the peacekeeping partnership - cooperation, pragmatism and commitment to working together in the interest of peace.

For nearly 20 years General Assembly resolution 49/37 has served as the foundation for peacekeeping training. This resolution sets out basic division of labor which makes training of peacekeeping personnel "essentially the responsibility of Member States" while the United Nations is to "establish basic guidelines and performance standards and provide descriptive materials."

Peacekeeping has evolved and become more complex. The number and variety of tasks peacekeepers are called on to perform has multiplied. In January this year the Security Council adopted the first general resolution on peacekeeping in more than a decade. Security Council Resolution 2086 on multidisciplinary peacekeeping catalogues many -- but not all -- tasks that the international community has come to expect of men and women serving under the UN flag. In my remarks later in this meeting I will touch upon some of the challenges that we currently face in fulfilling our mandates.

Training has come to exemplify the peacekeeping partnership. As multidisciplinary peacekeeping has evolved, training of peacekeepers has also become more varied and complex. To meet this challenge, a joined-up approach to training is necessary. While Member States and the UN - particularly DPKO - have distinct roles to play, peacekeeping training is increasingly a *shared* responsibility. Neither individual Member States nor the UN Secretariat alone have all the knowledge and training capacity needed to fully meet these challenges.

DPKO has developed training standards and materials that to help Member States prepare their military and police personnel for service in UN peacekeeping. These products are, themselves, the fruit of our joint efforts. During your meeting, you will be sharing experience in training for Military Observers, Staff Officers and Infantry Units. The

DPKO materials that support such training have been developed through extensive consultation and concerted effort and partnership. Our Integrated Training Service, working with our Office of Military Affairs and Police Division, has brought together trainers from TCCs and PCCs to develop these products. Similar joint efforts between DPKO, TCCs and PCCs have produced specialized training materials in areas such as protection of civilians -- including modules for the operational level and mission-specific tactical level modules.

In the past two years our Integrated Training Service has organized nine global and eight regional workshops – several of them in the Asia and Pacific region – to develop and disseminate new training standards.¹

Looking to the future, DPKO is currently developing new materials on Civil-Military Cooperation (CIMIC) in peacekeeping and has embarked on a major updating of the cornerstone of pre-deployment training -- the Core Pre-Deployment Training Materials (CPTM). In 2012 DPKO issued a new Infantry Battalion Manual (UNIBAM) accompanied by mission-specific pre-deployment training material. As we continue to better define the capabilities required of peacekeeping components to implement our mandates, training will have to keep pace.

I cannot emphasize enough the importance of pre-deployment training that reflects *common approaches and training standards*. Such training enhances interoperability and integration of effort, and the safety of our personnel. Once military and police personnel have deployed in missions, the conditions are not favourable for in-mission training to develop the necessary individual and collective attitudes to cope with complex mandated tasks. While 80 per cent of military peacekeeping personnel in surveyed for our recent global training needs assessment indicated that they had received pre-deployment training, it is unclear how much of that training reflected current standards or how extensive it was. Thirty percent of our police personnel indicated that they had received no pre-deployment training--and there are clearly major differences in the training our personnel receive. Only 30 per cent of the military observers deployed in Syria last year had received pre-deployment training; in Mali only 30 percent of AFISMA troops rehattd to MINUSMA this year had benefitted from pre-deployment training.

I raise these points not as a criticism, but as evidence that we all need to do better in preparing our personnel for deployment. If we fail to provide the necessary training, interoperability and mandate delivery will be hindered. The capability-driven approach to peacekeeping is also *performance*-driven approach in which training plays a crucial role.

Many TCCs and PCCs have important experience in peacekeeping and significant training capacity. We need to work with you to strengthen our collaboration for the benefit of our personnel and the people in the countries where we deploy.

¹ Training-of-trainers courses in [Bangladesh, Indonesia, Malaysia and Philippines](#); [recognition of national courses in Australia, China, India and the Republic of Korea](#); [participation in the Association of the Asia-Pacific Peace Operations Training Centers \(AAPTTC\) annual meeting, Mongolia](#).

In just a few days, the annual meeting of the International Association of Peacekeeping Training Centers (IAPTC) will meet in Bangladesh. Like this ARF Experts Meeting, the IAPTC conference theme will also emphasize collaboration at the regional level to make the best use of regional capacities for peacekeeping training. The investment of the Member States and the UN in peacekeeping training has produced important progress and a network of training institutions. Many have special expertise, valuable facilities and courses that can benefit the whole peacekeeping community. In order to make the most of this valuable network, in the coming weeks DPKO will launch [with the generous support of the Nordic countries,] a major project to examine the state of the current global peacekeeping training architecture and ways that it could be improved. We will be reaching out to you to seek your views and suggestions and look forward to engaging you in this joint effort.