

**Security Council**

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Letter dated 4 November 2014 from the Permanent Representative of Australia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to inform you that the Security Council is scheduled to hold a briefing on the theme “Peacekeeping operations: post-conflict peacebuilding” on Thursday, 20 November 2014. The focus of the briefing will be the role of policing in peacekeeping and post-conflict peacebuilding. A concept note, prepared to inform the discussion, is attached (see annex).

I would be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Gary Quinlan



Annex to the letter dated 4 November 2014 from the Permanent Representative of Australia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Security Council briefing on the theme “Peacekeeping operations: the role of policing in peacekeeping and post-conflict peacebuilding” (20 November 2014)

Concept note

As President of the Security Council for November, Australia will convene an inaugural briefing from the heads of police components of United Nations peacekeeping missions. Australia proposes that the Council adopt a resolution at the meeting on the role of policing in peacekeeping and post-conflict peacebuilding. This initiative — the first-ever Council briefing and resolution dedicated to policing issues — will be an opportunity to highlight the increasingly important role that police components play in peacekeeping operations and special political missions, in particular in post-conflict stabilization, peacebuilding, security sector reform, the protection of civilians and the rule of law, and to consider practical steps to enhance the effectiveness of United Nations work on policing issues. The meeting will be chaired by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Australia. It is envisaged that Council members will participate at the level of Permanent Representative.

Background

The past 20 years have seen unprecedented growth in police components in peacekeeping operations and special political missions. In 1994, there were 1,677 United Nations police personnel deployed in missions. In contrast, there are currently over 12,500 police personnel in 13 peacekeeping operations and four special political missions, accounting for around 15 per cent of all United Nations uniformed personnel.¹ The African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur alone has over 3,000 police personnel. Most recently, in its resolution 2149 (2014), the Security Council authorized the deployment of 1,800 police personnel to the new United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA), one of the largest police components of any United Nations peacekeeping operation. The Secretary-General, in his report on the Central African Republic of 3 March 2014, advised that police should eventually replace the bulk of the original MINUSCA military surge capacity (see [S/2014/142](#), para. 59).

Meanwhile, mandated policing tasks have grown increasingly complex. In the early missions, police were deployed primarily as observers. Contemporary mandates, in contrast, call for United Nations police components to provide operational policing support across the whole spectrum of policing duties and to assist host States and other partners in rebuilding and reforming their policing and other law enforcement institutions (see [A/66/615](#)). This has flowed from the recognition of the central role that host-State policing institutions can play in the restoration and maintenance of law and order, security and stability in post-conflict contexts, including in building trust between the Government and the population, with police officers often acting as the main interface between the Government and the community on security issues.

¹ As at 30 September 2014.

Carrying out these mandates effectively requires well-trained and well-qualified United Nations personnel — often both uniformed police and civilian policing experts — with specialized skill sets. It can require an appreciation of the political dimensions of reform as much as of the technical aspects. It also requires genuine coordination between relevant actors within the United Nations system — for example, to integrate reform of policing and law enforcement institutions with reform of the broader security sector and the rule of law. In addition, reconciling multiple policing backgrounds from different police-contributing countries requires comprehensive and strong United Nations guidance and doctrine.

In his 2011 report on the United Nations police, the Secretary-General noted the growing importance of the United Nations police as a central element in the achievement of sustainable peace and security (*ibid.*, para. 6). The Police Division of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations has made good progress in the development of a strategic guidance framework for international police peacekeeping. The Security Council has recognized the role of United Nations police components in its resolutions and presidential statements on peacekeeping (see resolutions 2167 (2014) and 2086 (2013)), security sector reform (see resolution 2151 (2014)) and the rule of law (see [S/PRST/2014/5](#)), but it has not to date considered in a dedicated, holistic manner the role that police components play in the restoration and maintenance of international peace and security. It is important that the Council do so, providing guidance and strategic direction to this critical and evolving arm of the United Nations peacekeeping and peacebuilding machinery.

Briefing from heads of police components

The briefing will provide an opportunity for the Security Council to hear directly from the heads of police components of select United Nations peacekeeping operations on their activities in the field, including the challenges they face in implementing their mandates.

It will be the first time that the Security Council has been briefed by the heads of police components, and Australia proposes that such a briefing become an annual feature of the Council's calendar. The format will directly mirror that of the annual briefing given by the heads of military components. The Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations and three police commissioners have been invited to make short presentations on the following topics:

- Overview and challenges facing United Nations police components: Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Hervé Ladsous
- Institution-building: Police Commissioner of the United Nations Mission in Liberia, Greg Hinds
- Guidance, training, skills and equipment: Police Commissioner of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan, Fred Yiga
- Protection of civilians and women, peace and security: Police Commissioner of MINUSCA, Luis Miguel Carrilho

Following these presentations, the floor will be opened to the members of the Security Council to make statements and pose questions. In order to promote the most interactive dialogue possible, Council members are encouraged to respond to the presentations they have heard, rather than rely entirely on pre-scripted statements. The

briefers will have the opportunity to respond. Council members may wish to consider addressing the following issues in their interventions:

- **Institution-building:** How can United Nations police components best support the development of responsive, representative, accountable, well-governed and effective host-nation policing and other law enforcement institutions? What are the challenges and best practices in this regard? What skill sets are most needed for this work? How can policing reform be better integrated into other efforts aimed at security sector and rule of law reform?
- **Protection of civilians:** How do United Nations police components contribute to the three tiers of the protection of civilians: protecting from violence; establishing a protective environment; and protecting through political process?² What are the respective comparative advantages of individual police officers, formed police units, specialized police teams and civilian policing experts in this regard?
- **Women and peace and security:** Given the unique contribution that women can make to conflict resolution and post-conflict peacebuilding, how can United Nations police components best facilitate the participation of women within communities in efforts to improve security? How can the Security Council and the United Nations promote an increase in the participation of women police officers in United Nations missions? What could be done to strengthen the role of police components in preventing and addressing sexual and gender-based violence?
- **Guidance, training, skills and equipment:** Do United Nations police components receive the right guidance and training to implement their mandates? How can the Security Council and the United Nations Secretariat encourage police-contributing countries to contribute well-trained and qualified police with the required skill sets and equipment?

Resolution

Australia proposes that the Security Council adopt a resolution during the briefing on the role of United Nations policing in peacekeeping and post-conflict peacebuilding, focusing on practical steps to improve the effectiveness of police components in United Nations peacekeeping operations and special political missions. The resolution will consider such issues as: policing-related mandates; the role of police components in building the capacities of host-State policing and other law enforcement institutions; the role of police components in the protection of civilians, in matters related to women and peace and security, and in respect of children and armed conflict; and issues of standards, guidance, skills, training and equipment.

² See the operational concept on the protection of civilians in United Nations peacekeeping operations of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Field Support, April 2010 (available on the peace operations intranet).