

**Security Council**

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Letter dated 27 June 2019 from the Permanent Representative of Peru to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to inform you that, in my capacity as President of the Security Council for the month of July 2019, I will convene a debate on the issue of strengthening triangular cooperation, under the item “United Nations peacekeeping operations”, to be held on Wednesday, 10 July 2019 at 3 p.m.

In order to provide guidance on the debate, a concept note has been prepared (see annex). I would be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Gustavo **Meza-Cuadra**
Ambassador

Permanent Representative of Peru to the United Nations



Annex to the letter dated 27 June 2019 from the Permanent Representative of Peru to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Concept note for the Security Council debate on strengthening triangular cooperation, to be held on 10 July 2019 at 3 p.m.

I. Relevance

The Declaration of Shared Commitments on United Nations Peacekeeping Operations called for a collective commitment “to implement existing intergovernmental commitments on triangular cooperation between uniformed personnel contributing countries, the Security Council and Secretariat” and consideration of “options for further direct engagement between host governments and the Security Council”.

Improving cooperation between the Security Council, the Secretariat and troop- and police-contributing countries (TCCs/PCCs) – “triangular cooperation” – would be particularly valuable in promoting a better understanding between these actors and ensuring a close link between the policy setting and realities on the ground.

TCCs/PCCs have a strong role to play in providing reliable and relevant information on the realities of implementing and delivering peacekeeping missions to decision makers in New York. They often have an understanding of the social and political environments of a particular conflict, based on their experience from operations on the ground, particularly given the complex and insecure environments in which they are asked to operate.

In short, triangular cooperation is in the interest of all parties, as it has an impact on the credibility, prestige and efficiency of the peacekeeping operation and, by extension, on the validity of multilateralism. The participation of the TCCs/PCCs in the preparation of the mandates of peacekeeping operations can be a useful tool for obtaining more effective results on the ground.

II. Background

Triangular cooperation has been a matter of long discussion and debate over the past decades, as reflected in documents of the Security Council, reports prepared by groups of experts and other initiatives.

Among the documents of the Security Council that have made reference to this issue, it is important to mention resolution [1353 \(2001\)](#); the notes by the President contained in documents [S/2006/507](#), [S/2013/630](#) and [S/2017/507](#); the Presidential statement contained in document [S/PRST/2015/26](#); and the report on the Working Group on Peacekeeping Operations ([S/2017/1087](#)). All of them highlighted the positive impact of triangular dialogue on fulfilling peacekeeping operations’ mandates and the need to consolidate that cooperation.

Furthermore, the annual reports of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations devote sections to this issue, in which the relevance of regular assessments of peacekeeping operations’ adequacy is highlighted – that includes timely consultations with contributing countries and a fluid exchange of information between those countries, the Security Council and the Secretariat.

The High-Level Independent Panel on United Nations Peace Operations recommended in its report that “the Security Council should institutionalize a

framework to engage troop- and police-contributing countries and the Secretariat early in the mandate formulation process” (A/70/95-S/2015/446, para. 188).

Additionally, the Secretary-General’s report contained in document [A/70/357-S/2015/682](#) described the dialogue between the Security Council, the TCCs/PCCs and the Secretariat as “essential” and indicated that it should be initiated before the establishment or renewal of the mandate of a mission and then continue with regular exchanges.

In 2017, Pakistan and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland published a non-paper which included a series of important recommendations aimed at revitalizing triangular cooperation.

Most recently, the framework of the Action for Peacekeeping initiative reaffirmed the collective commitment “to implement existing intergovernmental commitments on triangular cooperation”.

III. Current state of play

Despite the frequent attention that this topic receives within the United Nations, and of the valuable proposals formulated by several Member States in this regard, there is still significant dissatisfaction among TCCs/PCCs on the role they play and their involvement. It is time to strengthen triangular cooperation and therefore improve efficiency in mandating peacekeeping operations.

Some TCCs and PCCs have called for more interaction with the Secretariat and the Security Council, to create a productive exchange of ideas and information, but cite inadequate preparation of the respective stakeholders, the irregularity of meetings and other such factors as reducing the value of the sessions. They would like to focus on operational issues and challenges faced on the ground rather than on thematic areas.

It is common practice for some member States of the Security Council to organize informal meetings with TCCs/PCCs in advance of the renewal of specific peacekeeping operations. However, the convening of such meetings is not regulated.

IV. Objectives

The debate, which will take place in the context of the Chiefs of Defence Conference to be held in New York on 10 and 11 July 2019, is conceived as a reflection and analysis exercise on how to improve triangular dialogue. It will collect proposals and suggestions for a best practices document in support of efficiency in peacekeeping operations.

Specifically, discussion around the following questions is encouraged:

- On the basis of the referred background, what would be the main recommendations to be implemented in order to meet the objectives of triangular dialogue?
- What concrete steps could be taken to systematize triangular consultations?
- How can the Working Group on Peacekeeping Operations contribute to this goal?
- What can we do to assure that the TCCs/PCCs meetings become a more appropriate venue for triangular cooperation? How can we inject a renewed

dynamism to them? How far in advance should these sessions be convened? What level of participation would be the most appropriate?

- How could the priorities articulated by contributing countries be incorporated in the discussions on the renewal of PKO mandates?
- What would be the ideal balance between official and informal meetings for increased efficiency of triangular cooperation?

V. Briefers

- Jean-Pierre Lacroix, Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations
- Dennis Gyllensporre, Force Commander of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali
- Alexandra Novosseloff, independent consultant and non-resident Senior Fellow at the Brian Urquhart Center for Peace Operations of the International Peace Institute in New York
- Representatives of contributors of military and police contingents (to be defined)

A summary will be prepared afterwards by the presidency.
