



United Nations

Report of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations

**2026 substantive session
(New York, 16 February–13 March 2026)**

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Note

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of letters combined with figures. Mention of such a symbol indicates a reference to a United Nations document.

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Chapter I

Introduction

1. By its resolution [79/296](#), the General Assembly decided that the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations, in accordance with its mandate, should continue its efforts for a comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects.

Chapter II

Organizational matters

A. Opening and duration of the session

2. The Committee held its substantive session of 2026 at Headquarters from 16 February to 13 March 2026. It held four plenary meetings (284th to 287th).

B. Attendance

3. Attendance at the session is reflected in the list of participants ([A/AC.121/2026/INF/4](#)).

C. Election of officers

4. At its 284th meeting, the Committee decided to postpone the election of a Chair until the new Permanent Representative of Nigeria assumed duty in New York.

5. At the same meeting, the Committee elected the following officers by acclamation:

Vice-Chairs:

Francisco Tropepi (Argentina)
Michael Gort (Canada)
Takayuki Iriya (Japan)
Michał Miarka (Poland)

Rapporteur:

Mohamed Soliman (Egypt)

D. Agenda and organization of work

6. At its 284th meeting, the Committee adopted its provisional agenda ([A/AC.121/2026/L.1](#)), draft programme of work ([A/AC.121/2026/L.2](#)) and working methods in relation to its annual report ([A/AC.121/2026/L.4](#)).

7. At the same meeting, the Committee established a working group of the whole, to be chaired by Michael Gort (Canada), to consider the substance of the Committee's mandate.

E. Documentation

8. The documentation for the session is contained in document [A/AC.121/2026/INF/2](#).

F. Proceedings of the Committee

9. At its 284th to 286th meetings, on 18 and 19 February, the Committee held a general debate. The record of speakers is available at <https://igov.un.org/a/c34/2026/5/meetings>.

10. On 19 February, the Working Group of the Whole heard briefings by senior Secretariat officials.

11. The Working Group and its two sub-working groups met from 20 February to 13 March to consider the draft recommendations of the Committee.

Chapter III

Consideration of the draft proposals and recommendations of the Working Group of the Whole

12. At the 287th meeting, the Committee considered the recommendations of the Working Group of the Whole and decided to include them in the present report (see paras. 14–124), for consideration by the General Assembly.

Chapter IV

Adoption of the report to the General Assembly at its eightieth session

13. At the 287th meeting, the Rapporteur introduced the draft report ([A/AC.121/2026/L.3](#)), which the Committee adopted.

Chapter V

Proposals and recommendations of the Special Committee

A. Introduction

14. The Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations, in making its recommendations, reaffirms the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations.

15. The Special Committee pays tribute to the men and women who have served and continue to serve in peacekeeping operations for their high level of professionalism, dedication and courage. Particular tribute is due to those who have given their lives for the maintenance of peace and security.

16. The Special Committee emphasizes the importance of 29 May, the International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers, as providing an occasion to pay tribute on an annual basis at the Memorial to the Fallen (also known as the “United Nations Peacekeepers Memorial”) to all the men and women who have served and continue to serve in United Nations peacekeeping operations for their high level of professionalism, dedication and courage, and to honour the memory of those who have lost their lives in serving the cause of peace. In this regard, the Special Committee recommends the establishment, through voluntary contributions, of a memorial wall at the United Nations Peacekeepers Memorial at Headquarters and requests that due consideration be given to the modalities involved, including the recording of the names of those who have made the supreme sacrifice.

17. The Special Committee reaffirms that the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security rests with the United Nations, in accordance with the Charter, and affirms that United Nations peacekeeping is one of the key instruments available to the United Nations in discharging that responsibility. The Special Committee, as the only United Nations forum mandated to comprehensively review the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects, including measures aimed at enhancing the capacity of the Organization to conduct United Nations peacekeeping operations, is uniquely able to make a significant contribution in the area of issues and policy relating to United Nations peacekeeping operations. It encourages other United Nations bodies, funds and programmes to avail themselves of the Special Committee’s particular perspective on United Nations peacekeeping operations. Thus, the Special Committee, as a subsidiary body of the General Assembly, recalls that its recommendations and conclusions reflect, first and foremost, its unique peacekeeping expertise.

18. Noting the continued efforts of United Nations peacekeeping in various parts of the world, which requires the participation of Member States in various activities, the Special Committee considers it essential for the United Nations to be able to maintain international peace and security effectively. This calls for, among other things, improved capacity to assess conflict situations, effective planning and management of United Nations peacekeeping operations and quick and effective responses to any Security Council mandate.

19. The Special Committee stresses the importance of consistently applying the principles and standards it has set forth for the establishment and conduct of United Nations peacekeeping operations and emphasizes the need to continue to consider those principles, as well as definitions of peacekeeping, in a systematic fashion. New proposals or conditions concerning United Nations peacekeeping operations should be the subject of thorough consideration in the Special Committee.

20. The Special Committee, acknowledging the primary responsibility of the Security Council for the direction and control of United Nations peacekeeping operations, requests the Secretariat to provide, at the start of its substantive session, an informal briefing, especially with regard to operational field issues, including the Secretariat's assessment of developments in ongoing United Nations peacekeeping operations.

21. The Special Committee recalls that United Nations peacekeeping is conducted in accordance with the relevant chapters of the Charter. In this regard, nothing in the present report circumscribes the primary responsibility of the Security Council for maintaining or restoring international peace and security.

22. The Special Committee recalls its previous reports and reaffirms that each of their recommendations remain valid unless they are superseded by recommendations contained in the present report.

B. Guiding principles, definitions and implementation of mandates

23. The Special Committee stresses that peacekeeping operations should strictly observe the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations. It emphasizes that respect for the principles of the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of States and non-intervention in matters that are essentially within the national jurisdiction of any State is crucial to common efforts, including peacekeeping operations, to promote international peace and security.

24. The Special Committee believes that respect for the basic principles of peacekeeping, such as the consent of the parties, impartiality and the non-use of force except in self-defence and in the defence of a mandate authorized by the Security Council, is essential to its success.

25. The Special Committee is of the view that peacekeeping operations should not be used as a substitute for addressing the root causes of conflict. Those causes should be addressed in a coherent, well-planned, coordinated and comprehensive manner, using political, social and developmental instruments. Consideration should be given to the ways in which those efforts can continue without interruption after the departure of a peacekeeping operation so as to ensure a smooth transition to lasting peace and security and development.

26. The Special Committee continues to stress the importance of providing peacekeeping operations with clearly defined mandates, objectives and command structures, adequate resources based on a realistic assessment of the situation and secure financing in support of efforts to achieve peaceful solutions to conflicts. It also stresses the need to ensure, in the formulation and implementation of mandates, adequate resources and congruity among mandates, resources and realizable objectives. The Special Committee emphasizes that, when changes are made in an existing mandate, commensurate changes should be made in the resources available to a peacekeeping operation for carrying out its new mandate. Changes in the mandate of an ongoing mission should be based on a thorough and timely reassessment by the Security Council, in consultation with troop-contributing countries through the mechanisms prescribed in Council resolution [1353 \(2001\)](#) and the note by the President of the Council of 14 January 2002 ([S/2002/56](#)).

27. The Special Committee stresses that the Security Council has the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security, pursuant to Article 24 of the Charter.

28. The Special Committee stresses the need to ensure the unity of command of United Nations peacekeeping operations. It recalls that the overall political direction and control of United Nations peacekeeping operations are within the purview of the Security Council.

C. General context

29. The Special Committee notes that intersessional discussions were held in 2025 and that it agreed to consolidate the general context sections of its annual report into a single section to precede the eight thematic chapters. The Special Committee also agreed to continue the renegotiation of the general context on a triennial basis, based on the last agreed language, in line with the decision contained in the report of the Special Committee on its substantive session of 2024 (A/78/19).

30. The Special Committee reaffirms that the general context paragraphs relating to the conduct of peacekeepers and peacekeeping operations, partnerships, peacebuilding and sustaining peace, performance and accountability, politics, protection, safety and security, and women, peace and security of the report of the Special Committee on its substantive session of 2021 (A/75/19) remain valid, as they have not been superseded by any of its subsequent reports.

D. Conduct of peacekeepers and peacekeeping operations

Proposals and recommendations

31. The Special Committee reiterates that all support provided by the United Nations to non-United Nations security forces is to be delivered in strict compliance with the human rights due diligence policy on United Nations support to non-United Nations security forces. In this regard, the Committee requests the United Nations to strengthen risk mitigation and accountability measures when providing support to non-United Nations security forces. The Committee further requests the Secretariat to continue to ensure the effective implementation of the policy, including during mission transitions, and to provide updates on the implementation of the policy and on actions taken to address any identified gaps in the processes before the next substantive session.

32. The Special Committee requests the Secretariat to brief it on the steps that will be taken to continue enhancing reporting mechanisms on sexual exploitation and abuse that are clear, simplified and accessible.

33. The Special Committee stresses the importance of timely investigations into sexual exploitation and abuse and requests the Secretariat to continue to enhance capacity-building for United Nations investigators to strengthen their ability to conduct efficient investigations. The Special Committee emphasizes the importance of ensuring that investigations conducted by troop- and police-contributing countries into allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse are robust, transparent and conducted in a timely manner. The Committee calls upon Member States to continue to provide updates to the United Nations, including through the Secretary General's reporting mechanisms, on the status and outcomes of such investigations, including actions taken to hold perpetrators accountable and remedial measures implemented.

34. The Special Committee expresses its commitment to upholding the highest standards of conduct and discipline among all United Nations personnel, including in addressing sexual exploitation and abuse, also including support to victims of sexual exploitation and abuse. The Special Committee underscores the importance of due diligence and timely information-sharing in relation to notifying concerned Member

States, in order to preserve evidence, ensure accuracy in the establishment of facts and promote effective follow-up.

35. The Committee calls for prompt and decisive action where there is credible evidence of widespread or systemic sexual exploitation and abuse, including through the utilization of existing financial disincentive mechanisms, such as suspending payments to any individual member of a contingent or formed police unit or terminating civilian contracts, when a substantiated allegation of sexual exploitation and abuse has been established.

36. The Special Committee recalls the importance of all personnel maintaining the highest standards of conduct and discipline in United Nations peacekeeping, emphasizes that mission drawdowns may lead to increased reporting of allegations of misconduct and further emphasizes that efficient investigative timelines and meaningfully addressing misconduct, including sexual exploitation and abuse, should be pursued and prioritized. The Special Committee requests the Secretariat to continue implementing mechanisms for prevention, accountability, victim support and transitional assistance within the conduct and discipline framework in these contexts and to report to the Special Committee on concrete measures taken in this regard.

37. The Committee recalls that conduct and discipline issues are an essential component of predeployment and in-mission training, mandatory for all peacekeeping personnel, and emphasizes the need for training to reinforce the zero-tolerance policy.

38. The Special Committee continues to recommend that the Secretariat ensure that mandatory, effective, monitored and targeted training on sexual exploitation and abuse is implemented, emphasizing that training, awareness-raising and risk assessment are fundamental to the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse. In pursuit of this aim, the Special Committee requests the Secretariat to ensure that only contingents that have completed the mandatory submission of relevant certification to the Secretary-General, confirming that all troop and police personnel have undergone relevant training and vetting and that no personnel who have been convicted of or are under investigation or prosecution for any criminal offence of a sexual nature, or any violation of international human rights law or international humanitarian law, are deployed. The Special Committee encourages the Secretariat and all troop- and police-contributing countries to share best practices on how continuous training can prevent sexual exploitation and abuse. The Special Committee further stresses that training and awareness campaigns should be designed to discourage victim-blaming and strengthen accountability. In addition, the Special Committee encourages missions to conduct regular in-field training, on-site evaluations and awareness-raising seminars, supplementary to the mandatory predeployment training on sexual exploitation and abuse, for troops, police, corrections personnel and civilians deployed to United Nations missions. Furthermore, the Special Committee observes that sexual exploitation and abuse can be committed even through digital or virtual platforms and recommends that awareness and instruction programmes for all stakeholders be made available by the Secretariat to continue to strengthen system-wide prevention mechanisms within the existing resources, and discourage and prevent such activities.

39. The Special Committee highlights the importance of United Nations courses on local culture, norms and ethics and encourages continued efforts, within existing resources, to ensure that such courses are results-oriented and of high quality and sufficient duration. Courses should, where appropriate, be delivered by a member of the local community and aim to improve understanding of local norms, cultural practices and appropriate and inappropriate behaviours to support the effective conduct of peacekeeping missions.

40. The Special Committee requests the Secretariat to ensure that all missions find efficiencies and improve accountability, including through enhanced monitoring and management of fuel consumption. The Special Committee further notes that initiatives, which may support operational continuity and efficiency, including the use of solar energy projects in missions, can potentially improve force protection by potentially reducing logistical dependencies linked to fuel transportation, subject to operational requirements and cost efficiency and effectiveness.

E. Partnerships

Proposals and recommendations

41. The Special Committee encourages a comprehensive approach to peacekeeping, recognizing that United Nations peacekeeping missions rarely operate alone and are most effective when leveraging the comparative advantages of the United Nations. The Special Committee calls for more coherent, structured and predictable coordination between peacekeeping operations and regional and subregional organizations, as appropriate. The Special Committee encourages that such arrangements necessitate joint planning, updated regularly, and designed to ensure continuity of engagement throughout the mission life cycle, including during transitions, while preserving the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations.

42. The Special Committee encourages the Secretariat to foster engagements with regional, subregional and relevant international organizations to strengthen partnerships, with an emphasis on regional and subregional dynamics, exchange of best practices on policy and guidelines and lessons learned, coherent planning and operational complementarity at the field level, enhancing of training programmes and strengthening of capacity-building initiatives, so as to ensure mutual understanding of the opportunities and challenges for collaboration in peace operations. Furthermore, the Special Committee requests the Secretariat to submit suggestions on how to foster such engagements before the next substantive session.

43. The Committee notes that Member States, on a voluntary basis, may coordinate peacekeeping-related training offers and requests through the light coordination mechanism online system, which should not duplicate correlated functions of existing offices in the Secretariat or regional networks, if any, and encourages those Member States to make use of this system, and also encourages its dissemination and the facilitation of Member States' reactions to offers and requests and expedition of their responses.

44. The Special Committee recognizes the importance of Member State-supported multilateral training initiatives, such as the Triangular Partnership Programme, to enhance the capacity and readiness of troop- and police- contributing countries and United Nations peacekeeping operations. The Special Committee notes the continued extrabudgetary-funded expansion of the Triangular Partnership Programme, and takes note of its advancement, including by tailoring its training to respond to threats and challenges in the field and providing courses at advanced level. The Special Committee requests the Secretariat to provide a briefing on Triangular Partnership Programme developments and encourages continued close engagement with peacekeeping missions and consultations with Member States in order to ensure that activities are aligned with mission-level requirements, to strengthen partnerships with Member States and regional organizations, and to continuously identify evolving training and capability gaps, as well as required skills for partnered peacekeeping deployments, while leveraging the multiplier effect of training-of-trainers initiatives to broaden reach and sustainability of capacity-building efforts. In this regard, the

Special Committee also encourages Member States to continue voluntarily providing extrabudgetary funding, trainers, experts, equipment and other in-kind support to key peacekeeping enabling areas.

45. The Special Committee encourages close and proactive collaboration between the United Nations and national, regional and international peacekeeping training networks, initiatives and institutions to facilitate improved training outcomes and opportunities, including for women peacekeepers. The Special Committee encourages Member States to seek United Nations accreditation for relevant training courses and reiterates its request to the Secretariat to expedite the process of providing such accreditation. The Committee requests that the Secretariat report on the feasibility of establishing a fully online accreditation process for courses offered by peace operations training centres, of which the physical and pedagogical structures have already been assessed within existing resources.

United Nations-African Union cooperation Proposals and recommendations

46. The Special Committee notes the need to continue to enhance and align United Nations and African Union efforts to support the national initiatives to address the security challenges of the continent, including through comprehensive solutions that respond to the causes of conflicts in Africa, where mandated. The Committee underscores the importance of the primacy of politics and the need for coherent political strategies for African Union-led peace support operations authorized by the Security Council, in addition to strengthening the capacities of preventive diplomacy, conflict management and mediation in the context of African Union-United Nations cooperation, and enhancing collaboration and coordination between the African Union and United Nations special representatives and envoys deployed in various parts of Africa. The Committee affirms that lasting peace is not achieved nor sustained by military and technical engagements alone, but through political solutions. In this regard, the Special Committee notes the Revised African Union Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development Policy as a framework to support African countries emerging from conflict and those in transition.

47. The Special Committee underscores that, in order to meet the peace and security challenges on the African continent, the United Nations may leverage the strategic value of empowering regional arrangements operating under Chapter VIII of the Charter, including the African Union. The Special Committee reaffirms in this regard the importance of advancing the continued implementation of Security Council resolution [2719 \(2023\)](#) and continuing to explore options for its application in ongoing conflicts and crises, on a case-by-case basis. The Special Committee welcomes the continued progress made in the implementation of the joint road map between the United Nations and the African Union on the operationalization of resolution [2719 \(2023\)](#) and further encourages continued demonstration of efforts in this regard.

48. The Special Committee encourages the Secretariat to continue to work with the African Union, African subregional organizations and relevant troop- and police-contributing countries to capture best practices and operational lessons learned from African Union-led peace support operations authorized by the Security Council in order to identify areas of complementarity and comparative advantage. In this regard, the Special Committee commends the Knowledge and Expertise Exchange Programme and requests a briefing on its implementation before the Committee's next substantive session.

49. The Special Committee welcomes the nineteenth annual joint consultative meeting between the members of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union

and the Security Council of the United Nations, held in Addis Ababa on 17 October 2025, notes the eighth annual consultative meeting of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union and the United Nations Peacebuilding Commission, convened in Addis Ababa on 17 November 2025, and also notes the ninth United Nations-African Union annual conference gathering the leadership of the two organizations, held in New York from 8 to 12 November 2025, during which mutual support between United Nations and African Union peace support operations was discussed.

F. Peacebuilding and sustaining peace

Proposals and recommendations

50. The Special Committee recalls the outcome of the 2025 review of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture, further acknowledges in this regard the relevant recommendations that were made and notes that Member States, with the support of the Secretariat, can make use of the relevant components of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture, in accordance with their respective mandates.

51. The Special Committee reiterates the call for the full implementation of relevant resolutions on financing for peacebuilding.

52. The Special Committee encourages continued efforts to strengthen national capacity in peacekeeping contexts, in line with national priorities, in order to build and sustain peace, through a coherent approach among relevant United Nations entities, host States, international financial institutions and other relevant stakeholders.

53. The Special Committee notes that Member States, upon their request, can utilize peacebuilding architecture tools on the basis of the principles of national leadership and ownership.

54. The Special Committee reiterates its call upon the Secretariat to strengthen coordination and coherence within the United Nations system, including United Nations country teams, to continue to enhance its support to countries preparing for or undergoing transitions from peacekeeping missions, in accordance with their national priorities and in support of their national peacebuilding and sustaining peace efforts.

55. The Special Committee underscores the need to further strengthen collaboration between the Department of Peace Operations and the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs through a joint strategic vision that promotes greater efficiency and coherence across both departments. The Committee calls for continued strengthening of joint strategic planning, information analysis and timely coordination, including more systematic data-sharing and coordinated lessons learned. To further strengthen coherence and complementarity between peace and security efforts and the wider United Nations system, the Committee also calls upon the Secretariat to brief Member States on how ongoing reforms of the United Nations can advance system-wide coordination in this regard, including in field settings through closer synergies between peacekeeping operations and United Nations country teams.

56. The Special Committee encourages continued use of data on how peacekeeping operations, in implementing their mandates, contribute towards long-term peacebuilding objectives in host countries.

57. The Special Committee notes the important role that peacekeeping missions – with their combined uniformed and civilian capacities – can play, where and as mandated, taking into account context-specific needs, in supporting national

authorities to restore, strengthen and reform rule of law and security institutions emerging from conflict, as well as disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, and requests the Secretariat to provide, before the next substantive session, a briefing on the continued support in this regard.

58. The Special Committee recognizes the importance of the doctrinal foundation for United Nations policing launched in 2014 and requests the Secretariat to review the doctrinal foundation in broad consultation with Member States and other relevant stakeholders. The Special Committee further requests a briefing by the Secretariat prior to its next session focused on activities to review the doctrinal foundation for United Nations policing.

59. The Special Committee recognizes that security sector reform is an important enabler of stabilization, protection of civilians, restoration and extension of State authority, and successful mission transitions. The Special Committee reaffirms the importance of security sector reform in peacebuilding and sustaining peace and encourages, as appropriate, the integration of security sector reform considerations into peacekeeping. The Special Committee further encourages Member States and the Secretary-General to continue to strengthen a comprehensive, integrated and coherent United Nations approach to security sector reform, including through coordination with United Nations country teams and national authorities in the context of mission transitions. The Committee invites the Secretariat to provide, before its next session, a briefing on security sector reform in peacekeeping.

60. The Special Committee thanks the Secretariat for its briefing on the use and operations of the standing capacities and other relevant mechanisms of the United Nations, as well as of their coordination, and recognizes the increasing demand for specialized expertise in transition settings, as well as the ability of the standing capacities to serve on a demand-driven basis as a bridge to a reconfigured United Nations presence. The Special Committee further encourages United Nations peacekeeping operations to consider the utilization of the standing capacities and their expertise, including during transitions.

61. The Special Committee reaffirms the primary responsibility of national Governments and authorities in identifying, driving and directing priorities, strategies and activities for peacebuilding and sustaining peace, recognizes that mediation, consultation, dialogue, conflict prevention, peacebuilding and resolution efforts are more successful when the needs of societies are taken into account and further emphasizes the importance of partnerships with relevant stakeholders, including regional and subregional organizations, international financial institutions, civil society organizations, local peacebuilding stakeholders and, where relevant, the private sector, in supporting national peacebuilding priorities.

G. Performance and accountability

Proposals and recommendations

62. The Special Committee requests the Secretariat to continue to strengthen mission-level planning and to continue to make adjustments to mission structures necessary to enable integrated planning and coordination, within existing resources, in order to ensure clearer objectives, better alignment of resources, and improved performance and risk management. The Special Committee requests the Secretariat, within existing resources, to convene a joint Secretariat-Member States working group, inviting all Member States, to review current practice, identify gaps and craft a unified process for developing integrated mission plans. The Special Committee

requests the Secretariat to brief Member States on progress made in implementing these measures, including timelines for implementation, within six months.

63. The Special Committee stresses the need for the Secretariat to enhance transparency with, and accountability to, Member States. In this context, the Special Committee underscores the importance of monitoring mandate implementation through clear key performance indicators and other relevant metrics, while acknowledging that quantitative data alone cannot fully reflect progress or regression. It therefore stresses the need to incorporate qualitative assessments that capture the effectiveness of operations and reflect the reality on the ground. In this context, the Special Committee notes the use by the Secretariat of the Comprehensive Planning and Performance Assessment System and the need for relevant capacity in missions and recommends that troop- and police-contributing countries provide appropriately trained personnel to ensure effective collection and analysis of meaningful data. The Special Committee requests the Secretariat to regularly assess progress against mandated tasks, using the Comprehensive Planning and Performance Assessment System to better illustrate strategic trends and challenges, including through coloured visualizations and inclusion of the same in reports of the Secretary-General. The Special Committee requests the Secretariat to provide a briefing prior to its next substantive session.

64. The Special Committee underscores the importance of ensuring the high-quality and timely development of peacekeeping doctrine and policy to strengthen performance and accountability. In this regard, the Special Committee encourages the Secretariat to adopt a more sustainable approach to doctrine development, within existing resources, by drawing on Member State expertise, while ensuring that the United Nations maintains oversight, accountability and quality assurance. The Special Committee requests the Secretary-General to develop a streamlined mechanism for Member State contributions, and transparent review and endorsement processes, ensuring consistent checks and balances, and requests a briefing on progress prior to its next session.

65. The Special Committee notes that the Action for Peacekeeping Plus progress reports serve as a tool to assess progress across the seven Action for Peacekeeping Plus priority areas to enable senior leadership and to inform decision-making in the field and at Headquarters. The Committee further encourages the Secretariat to regularly review the monitoring indicators to fully understand and measure the progress of mandate implementation and effectively respond to needs of the host State. The Committee requests the Secretariat to consult Member States on the thematic issues against which it monitors progress. The Special Committee requests the Secretariat to continue to measure and report on performance through the analysis of qualitative and quantitative data.

66. The Special Committee emphasizes the continued relevance of core peacekeeping functions, as mandated, and encourages peacekeeping operations to preserve these functions as they become more tailored and adaptable.

67. The Special Committee emphasizes that any adjustments to mission configurations by the Secretariat should be guided by conditions on the ground, realistic threat assessments and the primacy of mandated responsibilities, so as to avoid creating operational gaps that could undermine mission performance, the protection of civilians and the safety and security of peacekeepers. In this context, the Special Committee stresses the importance of timely, transparent and due consultations with troop- and police-contributing countries throughout contingency planning processes, including the identification and implementation of appropriate mitigation measures, particularly where such measures may have implications for mandate delivery, force protection and the safety and security of peacekeepers.

68. The Special Committee emphasizes that the absence of robust accountability mechanisms for poor performance undermines trust in missions and allows critical issues to go unaddressed. The Committee stresses the importance of ensuring repercussions for underperformance, which includes, but is not limited to, unauthorized withdrawal or relocation of personnel from the mission, for example, by maintaining records that affect future deployments, particularly for senior leadership roles. The Committee further underlines the need for clear and measurable performance metrics and recommends that predeployment reviews be strengthened by Member States to ensure that leadership candidates possess the necessary skills and relevant field experience.

69. The Special Committee reaffirms General Assembly resolution [67/261](#) and requests the Secretariat to increase effectiveness and accountability in the force generation process, taking into account mission-specific requirements.

70. The Special Committee underscores the essential role of high-quality predeployment and in-mission training, provided by Member States and the Secretariat, as appropriate, in preparing peacekeepers for complex mission environments. The Committee emphasizes the importance of ensuring that Secretariat guidance remains responsive to changing mission environments through the systematic integration of cross-departmental lessons learned and relevant technological developments. It further stresses the need for updated, context specific training materials, including their integration into training-of-trainers approaches, to promote consistent implementation of mandates across all peacekeeping functions. The Special Committee also underscores the importance of continuing support for language courses for deployed personnel, as appropriate and where mandated, and encourages the Secretariat to explore the use of technology to support translation in order to enhance the ability to communicate effectively internally and with local populations, as appropriate and within existing mandates and resourcing. The Committee requests the Secretariat to provide, before its next substantive session, a briefing on progress made to improve the quality, currency and standardization of training guidance, including an update on outstanding translation needs in this regard.

71. The Special Committee requests the Secretariat to ensure that a unified digital vision and architecture and tangible deliverables with clear deadlines in peacekeeping operations are provided. The Special Committee further requests an update on the progress in this field before the next substantive session, including the development of a standardized methodology and process improvements. The Special Committee further notes disparities in basic information technology skills among personnel and emphasizes the importance of targeted training on core digital tools. The Special Committee underscores the need to improve digital literacy across missions to enhance efficiency. In this regard, the Special Committee encourages the Secretariat and all relevant stakeholders to explore options to increase digital literacy in all areas and at all levels of peacekeeping operations, including through predeployment and in-mission training efforts. The Special Committee requests the Secretariat to provide an update on the implementation of the Strategy for the Digital Transformation of United Nations Peacekeeping before its next substantive session.

72. The Special Committee takes note of hospital assessments conducted in peacekeeping missions and notes efforts to accredit medical facilities, and the use of performance dashboards, electronic reporting of clinical adverse events and risk management systems, as well as to implement telemedicine solutions in selected missions. The Special Committee underscores that using these tools may enhance patient safety and medical readiness, encourages the Secretariat to continue evaluating their impact and potential on medical outcomes and evacuation decisions and requests a briefing on their progress prior to the next substantive session.

73. The Special Committee welcomes the adoption of General Assembly resolution [77/297](#) on the establishment of a memorial wall to honour fallen United Nations peacekeepers. The Special Committee notes the options paper prepared by the Secretariat, and the request for direction from the Committee as to the body selected to undertake the decision-making process. The Committee welcomes the establishment of a working group by interested Member States to guide the process forward and work with the Secretariat to provide recommendations to the Special Committee regarding the establishment and maintenance of the memorial wall. The Special Committee encourages participation in the working group and voluntary financial contributions from Member States for the establishment of the memorial wall.

H. Politics

Proposals and recommendations

74. The Special Committee reiterates the importance of the primacy of politics in peacekeeping, emphasizing that peacekeeping missions are not a substitute for political solutions, but should support them. The Special Committee encourages Member States and the United Nations to increase coherence among international and regional organizations, where relevant, and underlines the need for host States, with the assistance of the United Nations, to progress political solutions through national dialogue and initiatives at all levels and engage earlier on the challenges to mandate implementation.

75. The Special Committee reaffirms the primacy of politics in the prevention, mediation and resolution of conflicts and the supporting role that peacekeeping operations should play in the pursuit of sustainable political solutions. The Special Committee welcomes the efforts undertaken by peacekeeping missions, in coordination with host States and relevant United Nations entities, to be actively engaged in the promotion of efforts to mitigate and resolve intercommunal tensions. In this regard, the Special Committee requests the Secretary-General to provide further guidance on how peacekeeping operations can strengthen these efforts, in close cooperation with host States.

76. The Committee emphasizes the key role of United Nations peacekeeping as a critical tool for maintenance of international peace and security. In this regard, the Special Committee notes the political legitimacy of the United Nations and encourages Member States to take into account that its global convening power, its variety of relevant entities and long history of peacekeeping missions give it several significant advantages, specifically, its ability to generate, deploy, sustain, support, fund, evaluate and assess its peacekeeping missions. The Special Committee reaffirms the continued relevance and unique value of United Nations peacekeeping and emphasizes that United Nations peacekeeping should continue to be actively considered, where appropriate, as a central multilateral instrument for the maintenance of international peace and security.

77. The Special Committee reaffirms the critical role of peacekeeping operations in support of peaceful solutions to conflicts, in full respect of national sovereignty and while promoting national ownership of peace efforts. The Special Committee welcomes in this regard tasks of peacekeeping operations, where mandated, to support peaceful solutions to conflicts and to promote conditions conducive to political processes at all levels in coordination with host States, to prevent further escalation, facilitate dialogue and foster conditions conducive to sustainable peace.

78. The Special Committee looks forward to the Secretary-General's review on the future of all forms of United Nations peace operations, including peacekeeping operations, and underscores the importance of a strategic and action-oriented review that reflects lessons learned from previous and ongoing reform processes. The Special Committee emphasizes that the review should identify ways in which the United Nations toolbox can be adapted to meet evolving needs and enable more agile and tailored responses to existing, emerging and future challenges. The Special Committee expresses its expectation that the relevant recommendations of the Special Committee will be duly taken into account in the conduct of the review. The Special Committee further requests to be briefed on the outcome of the review, including any recommendations for the consideration of Member States.

79. The Special Committee underlines the value of having mandates that are clear, prioritized and focused and requests the Secretariat, when presenting mandate recommendations to the Security Council, to identify: (a) tasks in order of priority, tailored to the situation on ground and linked to the mission's comparative advantage, (b) assumptions on prioritization and (c) the minimum enabling capabilities required to deliver those tasks safely, with a view to enhancing effective mandate delivery.

80. The Special Committee acknowledges that current liquidity constraints and contingency-driven reductions in United Nations peacekeeping personnel, presence and equipment impact the implementation of peacekeeping mandates, the protection of civilians, the safety and security of peacekeepers and operational effectiveness. The Special Committee requests a briefing from the Secretariat on the impacts of these contingency measures and any reforms on the implementation of mandates, before its next session, and encourages the Secretariat to include relevant feedback in relevant reports of the Secretary-General. The Committee further advises the Secretariat to continue to prioritize the safety and security of peacekeepers.

81. The Special Committee reiterates the importance of timely, regular and substantive triangular consultations among the Security Council, the Secretariat and troop- and police-contributing countries, particularly in advance of mandate renewals, mission reconfigurations, drawdowns and transitions, so that operational realities and risk assessments are duly considered in decision-making.

82. The Special Committee reaffirms that the Fifth Committee is the appropriate Main Committee of the General Assembly entrusted with responsibilities for administrative and budgetary matters. The Special Committee recalls General Assembly resolutions [79/318](#) and [80/242](#), notes the ongoing UN80 Initiative and, while recognizing the central role of Member States in the reform process, welcomes the efforts of the Secretary-General to strengthen the United Nations through structural and programmatic realignment to address duplication, reduce overlap, enhance transparency, strengthen mandate delivery and make the Organization, including its peace and security pillar, more efficient, effective, impactful and fit for purpose for the people it serves. The Special Committee further notes the efforts to promote a culture of efficiency.

83. The Special Committee recommends that transition and drawdown decisions continue to consider relevant political contexts, conflict dynamics and mission-specific mandates, as peacekeeping operations have an important deterrent effect and a stabilizing role.

84. The Special Committee emphasizes that peacekeeping operations should be deployed with viable transition plans. In this regard, the Special Committee takes note of the undertaking by the Secretariat to revise the 2013 United Nations transition policies and directives in the context of mission drawdown and withdrawal. The Special Committee requests that the revision of these policies be in consultation with

Member States and relevant United Nations entities and draw from the experience of troop- and police- contributing countries and host States, and that Member States be briefed on the revised policies as soon as they are issued. The Special Committee calls upon the Secretariat to ensure that peacekeeping operations engage at the earliest possible stage in planning transitions with host countries, the troop- and police-contributing countries, the United Nations country team and relevant national stakeholders, in order to carry out successful mission drawdowns and promote consolidation to minimize relapse into conflict. The Committee requests the Secretariat and missions to take measures to ensure that United Nations mission transition processes are planned and managed in a proactive, integrated and forward-looking manner, including through integrated transition support from Headquarters.

85. The Special Committee underscores that the effectiveness of United Nations peacekeeping operations depends, among other factors, on the existence of strong and genuine cooperation between the host State and the peacekeeping mission, in line with the status-of-forces agreement, with respect for the consent of the host Country and its sovereignty and territorial integrity. In this regard, the Special Committee stresses the need for consistent political engagement and practical cooperation between mission leadership and the host States and the resolution of outstanding issues through constructive and genuine dialogue. The Special Committee calls upon host States to take the necessary measures to facilitate the timely movement and deployment of United Nations personnel, equipment and assets, and to address administrative, regulatory and operational impediments. The Special Committee encourages the Secretariat and mission leadership to strengthen cooperation with host States, including through enhanced political and operational engagement, to ensure that United Nations peacekeeping operations implement their mandates effectively, including ensuring freedom of movement in accordance with the status-of-forces agreement.

86. The Special Committee recognizes the contribution of the Peacekeeping Capability Readiness System to enhancing force generation as a planning and transparency tool and calls for optimal utilization of national pledges, including standby military and police units (personnel and equipment), for United Nations peacekeeping purposes that are already registered in the System. Accordingly, while noting that force generation is driven primarily by the operational needs of missions in the field and that the responsibility for pledging contingents to comply with the required United Nations standards rests with Member States, the Special Committee urges the Secretariat to provide visibility and timely information to Member States on the process of utilizing the national pledges in the Peacekeeping Capability Readiness System.

I. Protection

Proposals and recommendations

87. The Special Committee underscores the importance of the work of humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel involved in humanitarian assistance in contexts where United Nations peacekeeping operations are taking place and reaffirms that such personnel must be respected and protected in accordance with international law, including international humanitarian law, where applicable. The Special Committee emphasizes that attacks against such personnel, including national and locally recruited personnel, may constitute a serious violation of international law.

88. The Special Committee reaffirms the protection of civilians, where mandated, as one of the core tasks of United Nations peacekeeping operations. The Special

Committee expresses concern at the rising number of civilian casualties, as well as peacekeeper fatalities, in peacekeeping contexts. The Special Committee commends the efforts of the United Nations, Member States and regional organizations aimed at mitigating risks to civilians and enhancing the effectiveness of protection efforts. In this regard, the Special Committee commends the efforts by Member States to strengthen dialogue and exchange of experiences, including at the regional level, in order to ensure the effective implementation of protection of civilians mandates.

89. The Special Committee notes the policy on the protection of civilians in United Nations peacekeeping (2023) and encourages its implementation, including through a comprehensive and integrated approach and accountability for the implementation of protection of civilians mandates by senior mission and Headquarters leadership. The Special Committee recognizes the primary responsibility of host States to protect civilians and calls upon the Secretariat and missions, where mandated, to actively support host States in fulfilling this responsibility. The Special Committee recognizes the importance of the protection of civilians in planning transitions and stresses the need to ensure that protection of civilians threats are addressed during transitions and drawdowns. The Special Committee requests the Secretariat to provide a briefing prior to its next substantive session on the implementation of the policy on the protection of civilians, including on the Secretariat's support to Member States on its integration in predeployment training.

90. The Special Committee emphasizes the need to integrate protection of civilians subject matter experts where protection of civilians is mandated into mission planning, including contingency planning and emergency drills, to ensure that protection of civilians considerations are embedded in operational decision making.

91. The Special Committee reaffirms that missions should continue to prioritize the protection of civilians, where mandated, including in the use of capabilities and resources allocated to them, and stresses the need for missions with protection of civilians mandates to ensure that protection of civilians threats are addressed during transitions and drawdowns.

92. The Special Committee requests the Secretariat to ensure the effective and operational implementation of the monitoring, analysis and reporting arrangements on conflict-related sexual violence in peacekeeping operations with relevant mandates, including missions undergoing transition processes, to ensure the systematic gathering of timely, accurate, reliable and objective information and strengthen their response mechanisms.

93. The Special Committee notes the efforts of the Department of Peace Operations to enhance the capacity of mission personnel in line with the United Nations policy on preventing and responding to conflict-related sexual violence, including through workshops and training activities, and collecting and sharing best practices. The Committee affirms the importance of ensuring that peacekeepers continue to receive comprehensive training in this regard, including on protecting victims' anonymity and timely investigations. The Committee further calls for the increased deployment of women translators to facilitate culturally sensitive and safe engagement with victims of sexual violence in conflict. The Committee stresses that, where appropriate, both the translator and the primary point of contact should be women, to create an environment conducive to disclosure and support.

94. The Special Committee recognizes the important role of women's protection advisers, where mandated. The Special Committee encourages the Secretariat to ensure that women's protection advisers receive the training necessary for their mandated tasks, including through the development of specific courses, and stresses the importance of enabling women's protection advisers to support mandate

implementation. The Special Committee requests the Secretariat to provide, prior to its next substantive session, an update on the deployment, functions and integration of women's protection advisers.

95. The Special Committee recognizes the continued efforts of peacekeeping missions to protect civilians, where and as mandated, and encourages missions to continue using their capabilities, knowledge and expertise to strengthen community engagement, building trust and collaborating with local communities in order to support the effective implementation of the protection of civilians. The Special Committee further encourages direct communication of mission personnel with the local communities, by making available, where possible and within existing resources, an appropriate number of language assistants and, where necessary, technical means of simultaneous translation to support the delivery of key messages and the collection of information to achieve protection mandates.

96. The Special Committee encourages peacekeeping missions to further develop and improve the understanding of all patterns and types of civilian harm through an evidence-driven approach, with the aim of informing the protection work of missions.

97. The Special Committee recognizes that the protection of civilians, where mandated, is an integrated, whole-of-mission effort requiring coordination with host States, as well as with other United Nations actors and local communities, as appropriate, to create and sustain a protective environment.

98. The Special Committee calls for enhanced support from the Secretariat, upon the request of the host State and where and as mandated, to assist national authorities in investigating and prosecuting crimes against civilians, through specialized support to relevant national judicial institutions, and requests that such specialized support be considered in the context of mission drawdowns and transitions, where mandated, including through relevant rule of law and justice and corrections expertise within the United Nations system.

99. The Special Committee calls upon the Secretariat and peacekeeping operations to comprehensively operationalize the child protection mandate across all mission components, where and as mandated. The Special Committee stresses that United Nations peacekeeping operations should be appropriately resourced to fully and effectively implement child protection mandates, including through the speedy deployment of senior child protection advisers and teams, as well as uniformed child protection focal points. The Special Committee requests troop- and police-contributing countries to provide dedicated predeployment child protection training, including that developed by the Department of Peace Operations, and requests the missions to provide context-specific in-mission training on child protection in support of child protection mandates. The Special Committee encourages integrated mission planning in this regard.

J. Safety and security

Proposals and recommendations

100. The Special Committee requests the Secretariat to strengthen reporting to Member States on the status of investigations and judicial proceedings in cases of attacks on peacekeepers, including on measures taken to bring perpetrators to justice and recommendations on how to address impunity, and to provide an update thereon prior to its next substantive session.

101. The Special Committee underscores that deliberate attacks against peacekeepers may constitute war crimes. The Special Committee encourages Member States to

utilize the accountability for crimes against peacekeepers database, recognizing that it is crucial for enhancing the safety and security of peacekeepers, including during transitions, and reinforcing the international community's commitment to the protection of United Nations personnel.

102. The Special Committee underscores the importance of enhanced force protection measures, including checkpoints, and fortified barriers, and calls for regular maintenance and timely upgrades to protect peacekeeping personnel in high-risk environments. It emphasizes that uniformed personnel should have properly fitted and tested personal protective equipment, including body armour and helmets. The Committee notes the need for factoring emergency shelters and armoured vehicles during mission planning for both civilian and military staff, when the security conditions dictate, to ensure protection and mobility. It highlights the value of tools, such as cameras and monitoring systems, at mission bases for improving situational awareness and base security.

103. The Special Committee urges the Secretariat to take the necessary measures to enable better preparedness for rapid response and evacuation of personnel and equipment in situations of rising security threats and requests the Secretariat to review the 2020 casualty evacuation policy, further develop the casualty evacuation procedures and support the effective implementation of the policy.

104. The Special Committee reiterates its call upon the Secretariat to ensure adequate medical facilities to provide a dependable casualty response on a 24/7 basis throughout the life of the mission, including through the application of the 10-1-2 casualty response principle. The Special Committee encourages the continued roll-out of exercises to stress-test and map processes and procedures in each mission to evacuate casualties from the field, including the assessment of existing medical facilities and aeromedical capabilities. The Special Committee requests the Secretariat to provide it with a briefing before its next substantive session on the results of these exercises, including remedial measures to address any gaps in missions' ability to respond to casualty evacuation requests in a timely manner. The Special Committee further urges the Secretariat to continue its work to establish and articulate to missions and troop- and police-contributing countries clear minimum medical standards and to develop indicators to evaluate and ensure that these standards are met in United Nations peacekeeping operations, including through force commander evaluations and in line with the integrated peacekeeping performance and accountability framework. This should include, inter alia, minimum standards for level I, level II and level III facilities, combat medics, forward surgical capabilities, aeromedical evacuation teams and related capabilities reflected in their respective memorandums of understanding and/or letters of agreement. Furthermore, the Special Committee notes the ongoing work of the Secretariat to explore the application of medical logistical drones as a tool to improve medical support in field settings and requests a briefing before its next substantive session on progress made in this regard. The Special Committee underscores that the use of drones would require the obtainment of necessary authorization and clearance from host States for unmanned aircraft system operations in a United Nations peacekeeping operation.

105. The Special Committee stresses the need to further strengthen the implementation of the Mental Health Strategy for United Nations Uniformed Personnel, including through a reinforced focus by Member States on staff training before, during and after deployment, encourages the implementation of the strategy by relevant actors, according to their respective roles and responsibilities, and requests the Secretariat to provide an update on the implementation of the strategy before its next substantive session. The Special Committee reiterates that mental health services are to be provided in line with existing policies and regulations, and

with regard to the respective roles and responsibilities of troop- and police-contributing countries.

106. The Special Committee recognizes the benefits of the use of new technologies, as applicable, in the provision of mental health services, as part of the Mental Health Strategy for United Nations Uniformed Personnel, and notes the launch of an application, using extrabudgetary funds and for voluntary use by peacekeepers, aimed at supporting mental health information and self-awareness among deployed uniformed personnel. The Special Committee encourages the Secretariat to ensure equal access to and functionality of the application across all available language versions, within existing resources, and encourages Member States to provide feedback to the Secretariat and explore the further use of technology and technological developments, as appropriate, to advance the implementation of the strategy, in coordination with the Secretariat, with a view to contributing to the welfare of United Nations uniformed personnel and the success of missions. The Special Committee encourages the Secretariat to continue informing Member States about the application and encourages Member States to expand education material as part of the tools provided to improve the health and well-being of peacekeepers, in support of the Mental Health Strategy for United Nations Uniformed Personnel. Furthermore, the Special Committee requests the Secretariat to brief it on the usage of the application, on the degree of access to the application across all available language versions and on the feedback received from Member States.

107. The Special Committee underscores the link between training and capacity-building and peacekeeper safety. The Special Committee encourages Member States to strengthen predeployment training and preparation, with particular emphasis on the protection of personnel operating in complex humanitarian situations, including through integrated base defence. The Special Committee further encourages the Integrated Training Service to more proactively communicate training gaps and identify opportunities to harness partnerships and Member State expertise to deliver specialist training, including through training-of-trainers initiatives.

108. The Special Committee encourages the Secretariat to continue the implementation and, in consultation with Member States, the actualization of the counter-unmanned aircraft systems guidelines and introduce improvements in counter-unmanned aircraft systems tactics and procedures in peacekeeping missions. The Committee encourages the Secretariat and Member States, in order to strengthen knowledge and capacity-building on counter-unmanned aircraft systems, to share expertise, exchange best practices and enhance cooperation on training, within both the Secretariat and the peacekeeping missions. The Special Committee further encourages initiation of the development of a framework on counter-unmanned aircraft systems for United Nations peacekeeping operations, and requests the Secretariat to brief Member States on the progress made before its next substantive session.

109. The Special Committee notes with concern that mines and improvised explosive devices continue to pose a significant threat to peacekeepers. In this regard, the Special Committee notes the development in training courses and materials on counter-improvised explosive devices, including a force protection training package and a training-of-trainers course. The Special Committee notes that the 2024 core predeployment materials contain the most recent buddy first aid doctrine and recognizes the importance of basic first aid training in enabling the delivery of immediate life-saving treatment in the 10 minutes following a life-threatening incident. The Special Committee encourages all troop- and police-contributing countries and the Secretariat, as appropriate and where mandated, to ensure that peacekeepers are given quality training, both predeployment and in-mission, in operating safely in environments contaminated by mines and improvised explosive

devices, taking into account emerging delivery methods. The Special Committee further encourages Member States to continue to provide voluntary support to the efforts of the Mine Action Service to assist troop- and police-contributing countries in addressing the threats posed by mines and improvised explosive devices in the area of operation, in accordance with the mandate and in line with international standards, to assist host States, upon their request, to enhance capabilities to address such threats, including on explosive ordnance risk education and information management, in particular in transition planning processes.

110. The Special Committee recognizes the importance of continued training for peacekeeping-intelligence staff in missions to enhance situational awareness and improve the safety and security of peacekeepers. The Special Committee requests the Secretariat to continue its efforts to provide peacekeeping-intelligence training, including through partnering with Member States to improve predeployment training.

111. The Special Committee takes note of the ongoing work of the Secretariat in integrating the use of new and existing technologies and digital tools for the purposes of increasing safety and security, enhancing field support and facilitating mandate implementation. The Special Committee encourages the Secretariat and troop- and police-contributing countries to support field-focused, reliable modern technological solutions that are driven by the practical needs of end users on the ground, with due respect for the sovereignty of host States, and in this regard stresses the need for consultations with Member States and host countries, while strictly respecting the four principles of procurement, as appropriate.

112. The Special Committee requests the Secretariat to provide an update on the implementation of the Strategy for the Digital Transformation of United Nations Peacekeeping before its next substantive session, in close consultation with Member States throughout, outlining how the Strategy has served to improve the safety and security of peacekeepers, enhance field support, facilitate mandate implementation, streamline processes and improve situational awareness, including through the improved collection, analysis and dissemination of data. The Special Committee requests the Secretariat to include in this briefing information on the existing plans to further expand the use of digital solutions, including Unite Aware, as appropriate and within existing frameworks and resources, building on lessons learned and mission-specific requirements across peacekeeping operations. The Special Committee further requests the Secretariat to explore and report to Member States on the potential use of artificial intelligence, including its risks and opportunities, in enhancing the safety and security of personnel.

113. The Special Committee takes note of the findings of the review of the Office for the Peacekeeping Strategic Partnership conducted by the Secretariat, as requested by the Committee at its substantive session of 2024, and of the recommendations presented by the Secretariat. The Committee further encourages the Secretariat and troop- and police-contributing countries to ensure that the findings and recommendations of the review are taken into consideration. The Special Committee also requests the Secretariat to do a separate briefing to the Member States before its next substantive session.

114. The Special Committee stresses the importance of having realistic and adaptable contingency plans in place for all peacekeeping missions that are capable of addressing various scenarios and ensure personnel security. The Special Committee requests the Secretariat to ensure that every peacekeeping mission has appropriate contingency plans, including withdrawal plans, which implement relevant lessons learned and take into consideration the changing security environment. The Special Committee also stresses that these plans, including any withdrawal, transition or downsizing of missions, prioritize peacekeeper safety and context-specific security

threats and safeguard safety and security for all personnel. The Special Committee further stresses that such plans should be widely disseminated and easily accessible, include regular drills, be regularly updated, ensure mutual understanding and include a clear chain of command to avoid delays. The Special Committee also stresses that closer cooperation is required across Secretariat departments and the field missions to achieve this objective and calls upon Secretariat experts to periodically review missions' contingency plans and provide guidance, as required. The Special Committee requests the Secretariat to provide a briefing on this matter before its next substantive session.

K. Women, peace and security

Proposals and recommendations

115. The Special Committee encourages peacekeeping operations, according to their mandates, to facilitate the wide engagement of women, including from host Governments and civil society, in peace processes. The Special Committee further requests the Secretariat to provide an update on these efforts prior to its next substantive session.

116. The Special Committee takes note of the reconfiguration of peacekeeping missions and highlights the critical importance of safeguarding the gains achieved under the women, peace and security agenda regarding the full, equal and meaningful participation of women in peace and security and ensuring continued participation in all positions. In this regard, the Special Committee calls upon the Secretariat and missions to engage with gender advisers early on in peacekeeping drawdown and transition planning processes and to allocate specialized expertise to transition planning teams, and notes that a direct reporting line to mission leadership, that does not undermine mission hierarchy, may better inform decision-making at all stages of mission planning, as appropriate. The Special Committee requests the Secretariat to update on these efforts before its next substantive session.

117. The Committee encourages the Secretariat to strengthen, within existing resources, the collection and analysis of data on the different roles held by women in peacekeeping operations, including leadership and operational roles, and to use the data and analysis available as a planning and force generation tool, and to make those data available to all Member States in an effort to advance women's full, equal and meaningful participation in peacekeeping operations.

118. The Special Committee emphasizes the need to recruit and retain women peacekeepers, including by providing adequate health and well-being support.

119. The Committee emphasizes the need to adapt mission infrastructure to reflect the growing participation of women, ensuring, where appropriate, within existing resources, access to women-only accommodation and ablution units.

120. The Special Committee takes note of the review conducted by the Secretariat of efforts to strengthen the meaningful participation of uniformed women in peacekeeping operations and requests the Secretariat to regularly conduct reviews of efforts aimed at strengthening the meaningful participation of uniformed women in peace operations, within existing resources, in line with the identified priorities. The Special Committee emphasizes the need to document, analyse and disseminate lessons learned from past peacekeeping missions regarding women's meaningful participation in peacekeeping operations, and consider them in the development of policies.

121. The Special Committee underscores the importance of Member States enabling all of their peacekeepers to have access to peacekeeping predeployment training, including military and police training that includes critical combat, driving and language skills, which will better enable women to deploy on United Nations missions. The Special Committee encourages troop- and police-contributing countries and the Secretariat to work collaboratively to increase opportunities to access targeted training for uniformed women peacekeepers, and further calls upon the Secretariat to continue to improve outreach efforts on force generation opportunities.

122. The Special Committee takes note of the publication of the United Nations report entitled *Towards Equal Opportunity for Women in the Defence Sector*, which provides an overview of the status of women in national defence sectors and identifies good practices to overcome barriers in legislation, policies and practices to women's participation in the defence sector. The Special Committee acknowledges the contributions of Member States to the report and encourages the Secretariat to provide support, within existing resources, to interested Member States in implementing the recommendations in the report, including by developing and rolling out capacity-building support through training, guidance and analysis tools, and encourages Member States to continue sharing good practices and lessons learned.

123. The Special Committee requests missions to promote women's full, equal and meaningful participation in the design and implementation of security sector reform and disarmament, demobilization and reintegration processes. The Special Committee emphasizes that the design and implementation of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes should also take into account the specific needs of women, including in the areas of family reunification support, economic initiatives and vocational training, where appropriate.

124. The Special Committee calls upon the Secretary-General to make mission leadership accountable for the implementation of the relevant aspects of the women, peace and security agenda, through targeted data collection to inform decision-making and by raising the visibility of the agenda. The Special Committee notes the Secretary-General's strategies, plans and efforts to integrate the women, peace and security agenda in the context of United Nations peacekeeping, where and as mandated. The Special Committee further requests the Secretariat to continue its evidence-based reporting on the advancement of the women and peace and security agenda.

