

CONCEPT NOTE

United Nations Peacekeeping Ministerial 2025

13-14 May 2025, Berlin / Germany

The Future of Peacekeeping

For more effective and safer UN Peace Operations

Leading up to the 80th anniversary of the United Nations, and marking the ten-year anniversary of the Leaders' Summit on Peacekeeping, the next UN Peacekeeping Ministerial will be held in Berlin on 13-14 May 2025.

Since 1948, United Nations (UN) peacekeeping has demonstrated multilateralism in action. UN peacekeeping remains one of the most relevant, legitimate and cost-effective tools for preventing, managing and resolving armed conflict, including by protecting civilians, monitoring ceasefires, supporting peace processes and sustaining peace. UN member states recommitted themselves to UN peacekeeping in the “Pact for the Future”. They also stressed that UN peacekeeping and other tools need to “be adapted to meet evolving needs, to allow for more agile, tailored responses to existing, emerging and future challenges”. Member states also requested the UN Secretary-General “to undertake a review on the future of all forms of UN peace operations” (Pact for the Future, Action 21). Furthermore, the UN and its member states need to maintain a sufficient state of peacekeeping preparedness, and to reinvigorate UN peacekeeping reform to enhance the effectiveness of current and future operations, building on Action for Peacekeeping (A4P) and A4P+.

The Berlin Ministerial will serve as a high-level political forum to discuss the future of peacekeeping. It will also provide a platform for delegations to announce substantial pledges in support of closing capability gaps and adapting peace operations to better respond to existing challenges and new realities, in line with the UN’s pledging guide. The UN Peacekeeping Ministerial 2025 shall thereby contribute to increased safety and security for peacekeepers deployed, and foster overall mission effectiveness. For their pledges, member states are encouraged to arrange partnerships where appropriate, for instance in training and capacity-building.

On the first day, delegations will be given the opportunity to participate in high-level political discussions and to attend keynotes and high-level panels on the future of peacekeeping. On the second day, heads of delegation are invited to announce substantial pledges in support of UN peacekeeping. Delegations will also have the opportunity to engage in focused breakout sessions.

Ministerial discussions on the future of peacekeeping will focus on potential new models of peacekeeping operations, as well as priority areas for peacekeeping reform. Issues to be addressed will include, but are not limited to:

- Achieving responsive, adaptable and adequately mandated and resourced missions, now and in the future, in support of political processes, including future peacekeeping scenarios and desirable end-states as well as potential changes to how missions are constituted and operate;
- Maintaining host nation consent and ensuring proactive transition planning as well as greater integration between peacekeeping, peacebuilding and conflict prevention;
- Ensuring accountability to and accountability of peacekeepers, including by improving the safety, security and well-being of peacekeepers, performance as well as conduct and discipline;
- Strengthening training, capacity-building and partnerships;
- Highlighting the pivotal role played by UN Police;
- Promoting the implementation of the Women, Peace and Security agenda 25 years after UN Security Council resolution 1325;
- Advancing the digital transformation of and reinforced use of technology in peacekeeping (such as the use of UAVs as well as artificial intelligence);
- Preparing and supporting peacekeeping to tackle new threats in light of the changing nature of conflict;
- Strengthening strategic communications and countering misinformation, disinformation and hate speech;
- Adapting UN peacekeeping in light of the global climate crisis, addressing environmental management and increasing operational resilience for “greener and safer peacekeeping”;
- Underlining the continued need for protection of civilians and community engagement;
- Enhancing the cooperation between the UN and regional organizations such as the African Union in international crisis management against the backdrop of UN Security Council resolution 2719 (2023).

The Berlin Ministerial will build on the series of previous successful Peacekeeping Ministerials, the latest of which was held in Accra, Ghana in December 2023.

Three preparatory meetings, organized by UN Peacekeeping Ministerial co-chairs, will pave the road to Berlin, and their outcomes will be presented at the Ministerial.

The independent study “Future of Peacekeeping, New Models and Related Capabilities”, commissioned by the UN Secretariat’s Department of Peace Operations, as well as contributions by civil society, think tanks, and academia will also inform the discussions in Berlin.

A draft program and a logistics note will be distributed in early 2025. In case of preliminary inquiries, please reach out to: BMVgUNPKM2025@bmvg.bund.de