



Permanent Mission of
Bangladesh to the UN



Permanent Mission of Uruguay
to the United Nations



Training for the protection of civilians

Assessing the challenges and best practices of contributions to UN peacekeeping training

CONCEPT NOTE

PoC Week VIRTUAL Side Event to UNSC Open Debate on PoC

1 June 2020

10:00am – 11:45am EDT

Meeting to be held virtually via Zoom

Background:

Since the UN Security Council first established the protection of civilians (PoC) as an explicit mandate in UN peacekeeping operations in 1999, peacekeeping has evolved significantly and much progress has been made in elevating the protection of civilians on the international agenda. National and international training institutions have developed various training courses focusing on the protection of civilians in peacekeeping operations and have incorporated PoC into existing training curricula. However, despite its prioritization, the building of national and international capacities to protect civilians in complex and fragile settings is riddled with challenges such as competing coordination mechanisms, limited capacities to plan for and adjust to local realities, a general lack of outcome tracking, and ultimately the risk of harming human security despite the best intentions.

On 1 June 2020, the Governments of Bangladesh, the Netherlands, Rwanda, and Uruguay, in partnership with PAX, will convene a virtual panel of training experts and policy-makers to reflect on the challenges and best practices of contributions to UN peacekeeping training aimed at improving the capacities of UN peacekeeping operations to fulfill their mandates to protect civilians. This event will take place as part of the PoC Week events on the sidelines of the 27 May UNSC Open Debate on the Protection of Civilians.

Format:

The event will be held virtually via Zoom from 10:00am – 11:45am on 1 June 2020. Following welcoming remarks, the panel will begin with introductions by the moderator and briefings from selected featured discussants representing T/PCC governments, the UN Department of Peace Operations' Policy, Evaluation and Training Division, civil society, and practitioners from training institutions. Each briefer will be allotted an initial 10 minutes to speak. The briefing will be followed by an opportunity for an interactive discussion during which the floor will be open to the audience for a Q&A session moderated by **Mr. Hans Rouw of PAX**.

In an effort to encourage a frank and free-flowing exchange of ideas, ***the event may be subject to limits on participation and will be held under Chatham House Rules. The discussion will not be recorded.*** In other words, participants are encouraged to use the information received from this meeting in a not-for-attribution manner, with neither the identity nor the affiliation of participants to be shared.



Permanent Mission of
Bangladesh to the UN



Permanent Mission of Uruguay
to the United Nations



Program:

10:00 am – 10:15 am

- Opening remarks:

- **H.E. Mr. Karel J.G. van Oosterom**, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Netherlands to the United Nations
- **H.E. Mr. Carlos Amorín**, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Uruguay to the United Nations

10:15 am – 11:00 am

- Moderated panel featuring:

- **Major General (Ret.) Patrick Cammaert**, Former UN Assistant-Secretary-General and Military Adviser for Peacekeeping Operations
- **Mr. Mark Pedersen**, Chief of the Integrated Training Service, UN Department of Peace Operations
- **Dr. Lotte Verweij**, Senior Advisor, Norwegian Defence International Centre (NODEFIC)

11:00 am – 11:30 am

- Moderated interactive discussion among all participants with featured discussants

11:30 am – 11:45 am

- Concluding remarks:

- **Mr. Robert Kayinamura**, First Counsellor and Political Coordinator of the Permanent Mission of Rwanda to the United Nations
- **H.E. Ms. Rabab Fatima**, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the United Nations

RSVP and further information:

Please register via <https://bit.ly/registerPoCtrainingevent> by 5pm EDT Wednesday, 27 May 2020. Prior registration is required to attend, but please note that participation will be limited and early registration is recommended. Joining instructions to follow via email.

For the latest updates on the program and confirmed speakers please visit <https://bit.ly/TrainingPoCevent>. For more information, please contact Ms. Brittany Roser at roser@paxforpeace.nl or +1 (646) 318 – 8698.



Permanent Mission of Bangladesh to the UN



Objectives:

The virtual panel and following interactive segment present an important opportunity for discussion and exchange amongst training experts, practitioners, and policy-makers on current challenges in making PoC more practical in trainings, including:

- 1.) Deepening understanding of realities in training and sharing best practices for how to improve the impact of training on the PoC capacities of UN peacekeeping operations at the national and international levels;
- 2.) Exploring how comprehensive training packages can contribute to the combined impact of all peacekeepers (military, police and civilian) at the tactical level in UN peacekeeping operations;
- 3.) Identifying opportunities and recommended actions on how to adjust comprehensive training packages to local realities; and
- 4.) Developing an expanded network to assess and consult on how to better deal with challenges to training for PoC in peacekeeping.

Questions for consideration:

- What mechanisms/methods exist/can be (further) developed to adjust comprehensive training packages to local realities?
- What strategies within civilian, military and police functions exist/can be (further) developed and better integrated in training to better equip the PoC agenda in operational planning? How can protection content be better integrated into field and command post exercises, including multilateral exercises and joint military/police/civilian exercises?
- How can the issue of training for PoC be better integrated/coordinated across the UN system to improve capacities to protect civilians?
- What steps can UN Member States take to improve the impact of training on the protection of civilians capacities of UN peacekeeping operations at the national level? How can the UN or other stakeholders further improve the training of national trainers on PoC and other related protection mandates (including CRSV, child protection and human rights)?
- How can the roles of civil society, States and UN agencies better complement each other to improve the impact of training on the protection of civilians capacities of UN peacekeeping operations at the national and international level? How can coordination among all actors improve?
- What are the most salient gaps in current training programs for PoC as compared to practical needs on the ground? Please consider underscoring what made these examples fall short of needs and identify lessons learned and potential actors/tools which could assist in closing these gaps.
- As demand for online training and e-learning materials increases, particularly in light of the constraints of COVID-19 and other potential pandemics, what are current capacities for virtual training on PoC for peacekeepers? What opportunities and gaps exist? (i.e. broader dissemination and participation, language/translation access, limits on physical training components)