



Permanent Mission of Uruguay

Pledging to Protect Civilians in Peacekeeping Operations: Lessons from the Implementation of the Kigali Principles

Friday, May 29, 2020

3:00pm–4:30pm

Zoom Webinar

The International Peace Institute, and the Permanent Missions of Ireland, Rwanda and Uruguay to the UN are pleased to invite you to a public event entitled “Pledging to Protect Civilians in Peacekeeping Operations: Lessons from the Implementation of the Kigali Principles.” The policy forum will be part of Protection of Civilians (POC) Week and be held virtually on the margins of the UN Security Council Open Debate on POC. It will provide an opportunity to discuss the impact of the Kigali principles since their adoption at the High-Level International Conference on POC in Kigali five years ago. Panelists will examine the extent to which troop- and police-contributing countries have incorporated the eighteen principles into their efforts to enhance the delivery of POC mandates. In particular, panelists will present on how these countries, in coordination with the UN, have adapted training, demonstrated enhanced operational readiness, strengthened POC-related performance, and established accountability mechanisms to better protect civilians.

The policy forum will take place virtually on **May 29, 2020, from 3:00pm to 4:30pm**

Opening Remarks:

- **H.E. Ms. Geraldine Byrne Nason**, *Permanent Representative of Ireland to the UN*
- **H.E. Ms. Valentine Rugwabiza**, *Permanent Representative of Rwanda to the UN*

Keynote:

- **Ms. Bintou Keita**, *Assistant-Secretary-General, Department of Peace Operations and Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs*

Speakers:

- **H.E. Mr. Carlos Amorín**, *Permanent Representative of Uruguay to the United Nations*
- **Lieutenant-Colonel Raoul Bazatoha**, *Defence and Military Advisor, Permanent Mission of Rwanda to the United Nations*
- **Mr. Eshete Tilahun**, *Minister Counselor and Political Coordinator, Permanent Mission of Ethiopia to the UN*
- **Ms. Alison Giffen**, *Director, Peacekeeping, Center for Civilians in Conflict (CIVIC)*

Moderator:

- **Dr. Namie Di Razza**, *Senior Fellow and Head of the Protection of Civilians Program, International Peace Institute*



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The eighteen Kigali principles are a nonbinding set of commitments to enhance the effective implementation of POC by UN peacekeeping operations. They focus on the training of troops, their performance, and their readiness to identify and address threats, including through the use of force to protect civilians, the provision of adequate resources and capabilities, and the establishment of accountability and oversight mechanisms in case they fail to protect or engage in misconduct. The principles call for the Security Council and all troop- and police-contributing countries to improve consultations on the mandating of peacekeeping operations and implementation of POC mandates and for the Secretariat to effectively support military plans.

The Kigali principles are largely supported and generally perceived as a positive initiative to enhance the commitment and accountability of troop- and police-contributing countries with regards to POC. By late 2018, forty-seven countries had endorsed the principles.¹ Notably, these include twelve of the top twenty troop-contributing countries (Ethiopia, Bangladesh, Rwanda, Nepal, Ghana, Tanzania, Senegal, Burkina Faso, Togo, Uruguay, Italy, and Zambia), and more than 50 percent of all troops deployed come from countries that have endorsed the principles.

In an open debate of the Security Council in 2017, Secretary-General António Guterres called on all states to endorse the principles “as an urgent priority,” and in July 2018, signatories sent a letter to encourage him to further pursue accountability for POC. Most recently, the 2018 Action for Peacekeeping initiative and the Declaration of Shared Commitments on Peacekeeping Operations, signed by 150 member states, echoed the Kigali principles in their call for a renewed partnership for peacekeeping and the effective performance and accountability of peacekeeping missions.

This virtual policy forum will provide an opportunity for member states, the UN, and civil society to present and discuss the progress made since the adoption of the Kigali principles. In particular, panelists will explore changes in the practices of troop- and police-contributing countries following their endorsement of the Kigali principles, ongoing challenges with implementation, and the way forward to pursue their full implementation and promote their endorsement among all contributors to peacekeeping. They will also identify potential synergies between the Kigali principles and other initiatives such as the Action for Peacekeeping initiative and annual Peacekeeping Ministerial conference to strengthen the culture of protection among peacekeepers and peacekeeping stakeholders. The panel discussion will be followed by a Q&A session and will provide an opportunity to encourage endorsements of the Kigali principles.

¹ Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Benin, Burkina Faso, Canada, Côte d’Ivoire, Djibouti, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Germany, Ghana, Guinea, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Malawi, Montenegro, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Rwanda, Senegal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Tanzania, Thailand, Togo, Ukraine, Uganda, UK, Uruguay, US, and Zambia