



Statement

by

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Prevention and Criminal Justice***

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Excellencies,
Distinguished colleagues,
Ladies and gentlemen,

1. It is a pleasure to address this Commission as the United Nations Police Adviser on behalf of the Department of Peace Operations (DPO).
2. In his “Our Common Agenda” report, our Secretary-General called for a new vision on the rule of law, a new agenda for peace, and a call to action for human rights. As peace operation settings are often characterized by high levels of corruption that further drive conflict, curbing it is essential to strengthen the rule of law and restore trust in public institutions. We believe that, wherever feasible, peace operations should adopt an anti-corruption lens as part of their broader efforts to build and sustain peace. Following the finalization, in 2020, of the UN Common Position on Anti-Corruption, DPO is working closely with UNODC and others to strengthen UN efforts to combat corruption in peace operations settings by “peace through integrity”.
3. Further solidifying the already strong partnership between DPO and UNODC, including in police training and transnational organized crime, our Under-Secretary-General Jean-Pierre Lacroix and UNODC Executive Director Ghada Waly last week co-chaired the first meeting of the new United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on Policing. The Task Force was established by the Secretary-General’s Executive Committee to strengthen strategic-level coordination of the policing assistance delivered across the UN system to peace operations as well as Heads of Missions and Resident Coordinators in non-mission settings.
4. In establishing the Task Force, the Executive Committee called it to provide updates in our respective fora, including this Commission. I would therefore like to highlight our vision for the Task Force of fostering a safe and secure world by helping Member States realize representative, responsive, and accountable policing services that undertake human rights-compliant, gender and environmentally responsive and evidence-based policing to protect and empower their communities, including by complementing field-level engagements by the Global Focal Point for the Rule of Law (GFP).
5. This vision is centered on four strategic priorities. The first is policy and guidance standardization. DPO, UNODC and many other organizations that are part of the Task Force already collaborate within the United Nations Strategic Guidance Framework for International Policing (SGF), which the Secretary-General has designated as the systemwide doctrine guiding UN policing, and related training initiatives. By further reinforcing this collaborative approach to doctrine, we aim to fill gaps and develop the appropriate training based on international norms and standards, as we have done for the Malian security forces on electoral security and crisis management, or in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, where DPO, UNODC and other partners are supporting the Joint Support Program for the Reform of Justice.

6. Second, the Task Force will look to strengthen planning, coordination, and partnerships, building on members' comparative advantages and common priorities, to maintain an overview of emerging policing challenges and the Organization's assistance through real-time mapping, in complementarity with the GFP, the Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact and other existing mechanisms.

7. Third is joint resource mobilization to identify and secure funds for international policing support and possible joint initiatives to deliver greater value for money to our Member States, including financial donors. And finally, dialogue. No doubt, recent events have tested governments and their policing organizations around the world. We aim for this Task Force to be a forum for strategic discussions and advocacy about and responses to contemporary policing challenges.

8. Looking ahead, DPO expects to leverage the gathering of senior police officials from our Member States for the UN Chiefs of Police Summit (UNCOPS) in New York in September – in which we hope all your governments will participate – to enable us to further refine this discussion and the framework for the Task Force.

Ladies and gentlemen,

9. As you know, the police are often the most visible representatives of the state and, when operating effectively within a legal framework based on the rule of law and human rights and engaging directly with host-State communities, they contribute to building inclusive, diverse, peaceful, and prosperous societies and strengthen the social contract and public's trust.

10. Drawing on members' comparative advantages and mandates, the Task Force will be essential towards realizing this and other Organizational priorities, including Action for Peacekeeping, which puts integration and partnerships at the heart of our collective efforts.