Geopolitical tensions, the climate crisis, global mistrust and the dark side of technology, which Secretary-General António Guterres called the “looming threats of the 21st century”, are affecting the well-being and livelihoods of communities worldwide and the planet itself. National and United Nations Police are on the frontlines of averting and addressing these transnational threats. As societies emerge from conflict, violence and instability, rule of law institutions, including the police – the first element of the justice chain – are essential to preventing the outbreak or relapse into conflict and paving the way for sustainable peace, stability and prosperity.

Comprising close to 10,000 authorized United Nations Police officers from 129 countries (since 1990), the United Nations Police support Member States to realize effective, representative, responsive and accountable police services that serve and protect the population, operating in line with the Strategic Guidance Framework for International Policing (SGF), the system-wide doctrine. United Nations Police contribute to the Action for Peacekeeping (A4P) initiative, its Declaration of Shared Commitments and A4P+ priorities by building and supporting or, where mandated, acting as a substitute or partial substitute for host-State police capacity to prevent and detect crime, protect life and property, and maintain public order and safety in adherence to the rule of law and international human rights law. Their work advances political solutions through community-oriented policing; enhances gender equality through gender-responsive policing; augments the safety and security of United Nations personnel through intelligence-led policing; and contributes to a lasting, positive impact through environmentally responsive policing. The United Nations Police thereby act as enablers of several Sustainable Development Goals.

The year 2022 is critical for revitalizing inclusive and networked multilateralism to address the most complex global challenges. A number of frameworks have generated new momentum for the United Nations Police, including the Secretary-General’s A4P initiative and A4P+ priorities; Agenda 2030 and Our Common Agenda proposals for “a new vision for the rule of law”; “a new agenda for peace”; and “the call to action for human rights”; as well as Security Council resolutions 2185 (2014), 2382 (2017) and 2447 (2018), and guidance from the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations. This momentum is evidenced by United Nations Police’s contributions to mission exits through strengthened host-State police services and other law enforcement institutions including in Côte d’Ivoire, Liberia and Timor-Leste. In addition, the 2021 Peacekeeping Ministerial highlighted the evolving requirements of the United Nations Police in these changing contexts. UNCOPS provides a platform to consider ways to further strengthen these efforts.
Contributing to collective coherence behind political strategies through comprehensive police reforms.

Protecting and empowering civilians through community-oriented policing to help renew our social contract.

Accelerating the implementation of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda through gender-responsive policing, increased women’s political participation, decision-making and parity both nationally and within the United Nations Police.

Enhancing accountability to peacekeepers by increasing their safety and security through intelligence-led policing and greater situational awareness.

Sustaining peace by contributing to integrated rule of law assistance, in line with Agenda 2030 and Sustainable Development Goal 16.

Strengthening data-driven and tech-enabled United Nations Police capabilities and mindsets through a systematic performance regime that spans from pre- to post-deployments.

Improving partnerships with host countries, regional and other organizations, to facilitate coherent international policing assistance.

Strengthening accountability of peacekeepers through awareness raising on conduct and discipline, as well as the United Nations Police Environmental Management Framework.

A common vision and concrete commitments to further equipping the United Nations Police to effectively contribute to A4P and A4P+ priorities. Awareness of interlinkages between national and United Nations policing to increase global security.


Joint understanding of needs of the United Nations Police, including related to safety and security, and concrete Member State and Secretariat commitments to meet demands.

Common roadmap to realize the Secretary-Generals vision of “a transformed United Nations police that is people-centred, modern, agile, mobile and flexible, specialized, rights-based and norm-driven”, and that is also innovative, data-driven and tech-enabled.

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