

CSCAP MEMORANDUM NO. 32

Enhancing Contributions from Asia Pacific Countries to UN Peacekeeping Operations



**A Memorandum from the
Council for Security Cooperation in the Asia Pacific (CSCAP)**

March 2018

CSCAP MEMORANDUM NO. 32
STUDY GROUP ON ENHANCING CONTRIBUTIONS FROM ASIA PACIFIC
COUNTRIES TO UN PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS

Introduction

In line with the reforms in United Nations Peacekeeping Operations (UNPKO), the UN *High-Level Independent Panel on Peace Operations (HIPPO)* report recommended a number of reforms to enhance and strengthen UNPKO. These reforms and recent developments in UNPKO contributions called for 4 essential shifts namely *Primacy of Politics, Responsive Operations, Stronger Partnerships, Field-focused and People-centred operations*.

The Study Group (SG), Co-chaired by CSCAP Malaysia, CSCAP Korea and CSCAP Cambodia focused on enhancing contribution from Asia Pacific countries with the view to strengthen UNPKO by providing policy imperatives in matters concerning contributions to UNPKO. The SG conducted three meetings namely in Seoul on 11-12 November 2016, Kuala Lumpur on 18-19 May 2017, and Siem Reap on 20-21 November 2017.

Background

The SG took note of the regular Troop/Police Contributing Countries (TCCs/PCCs) to UNPKO and the ongoing effort by the UN and member states in strengthening contributions. The 2015 UNPKO Summit in New York where Heads of States pledged commitments and the subsequent UN Chief of Police Summit 2016 in New York and the 2016 Defense Ministerial meeting in London, where pledges were further discussed.

In 2017, another Defense Ministerial meeting was held in Vancouver with the view to strengthen planning and performance of UNPKO.

Findings

While the UN has provided a number of documents as reference to TCCs/PCCs in the preparation and readiness of their pledges into the Peacekeeping Capability Readiness System (PCRS), the SG identified several other supporting contributions that could strengthen UNPKO namely staff at UNDPKO, scholastic pursuit, technological and logistics capacity.

Pursuant to the ongoing efforts to enhance military/police personnel and enablers from Member States in the field mission through PCRS and the new Strategic Force Generation and Capacity Planning Cell in DPKO, the SG recognized the importance of the Member States responsibility to properly prepare their contribution for

deployment and acknowledged the efforts of the UN in developing guidance and training materials to assist Member States. Experienced staff officers are equally required in various fields of expertise as seconded personnel at UNDPKO. In addition to the effort by Member States Peacekeeping Centers to build capability and capacity to UNPKO, civilian-military centers, universities and think-tanks provide in depth research on UNPKO policy matters to respective governments.

These researches include current thematic matters related to *women and peacekeeping*, *protection of civilians*, *Responsibility to Protect as stated in the World Summit 2005*, and *Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR)* among others. Technological and logistics support are necessary for better performance in the digital age and delivery to UNPKO respectively.

The SG recognizes that Asia Pacific countries, as members of the UN, have a commitment to peacekeeping, and should not leave these matters to just those TCCs/PCCs which are regularly contributing to UNPKO. To this end, the SG noted the recent return of some European Union member states to UNPKO after a long hiatus. This indicates that although there may be differences in the way UNPKO is perceived in managing crises, member states are still willing to play a role in strengthening UNPKO. This may provide Asia Pacific countries a renewed impetus in UNPKO. The SG noted that emerging TCCs/PCCs could become more involved in PKO by beginning with deployment of individual staff officers, military observers and police to gain experience and build national capacity ahead of a larger contingent contribution. It was noted that the high cost of peacekeeping contributions are actually offset by the UN reimbursement process so costs should not be a deterrence to enhanced contributions.

UNPKO requires the mobilization of military, police and civilian assets for crisis management but states need to prepare also for other contingencies such as natural disasters, humanitarian emergencies or deterioration of the conflict in the mission area.

Recommendations

- a. The SG deliberated on *political will* as essential to enhance contribution to UNPKO. Thus, better information flow for evidence-based decision making is required. There is a need to strengthen interpersonal relationships between Permanent Missions of Member States and DPKO for better information flow including strategic communication plans on all peacekeeping missions, keeping member states Permanent Missions informed. Appropriate and relevant information would contribute to foreign policy objectives and preparations of contributions by member states.
- b. Among the Asia Pacific countries, closer cooperation and collaboration regarding strengthening UNPKO should be encouraged at all levels. Peacekeeping could be

enhanced through greater sharing of communication and capacity-building efforts among the member states and the regional peacekeeping centers.

- c. Whilst partnerships are being built between peacekeeping centers to enhance capacity and capability for peacekeeping, civil-military and police centers, universities and think-tanks can build partnership for scholastic pursuit in providing policy imperatives to guide commitment to UNPKO.
- d. *The role of women in peacekeeping* has recently been emphasized and member states should strengthen their contribution to UN Peacekeeping in this regard.
- e. Member states should enhance the police and civilian contributions to UNPKO where appropriate.
- f. Member states should provide training on matters regarding protection of civilians where appropriate.
- g. UNPKO mission should also consider building civil and military (land and maritime) capacity in conflict countries as part of the post-conflict plans as well as exit strategies.
- h. Member states should be aware and consider to use new UN peacekeeping documents, e.g. Performance Peacekeeping, the new Military Unit Manuals including manuals on UN Maritime Task Forces and UN Riverine Operations, to strengthen their contribution to UNPKO.
- i. Peacekeeping Capability Readiness System (PCRS) is a comprehensive platform for member states to collaborate with one another on their commitments. PCRS would enable more engagements among all stakeholders so as to enable the contributions to be timely deployed with the assessed capabilities and competencies.
- j. Adaptability of contingents to deal with changes in missions (natural disasters, deteriorating humanitarian or conflict situation) will enhance Member States contributions to UNPKOs.

All initiatives of the UN Secretariat on UN Peacekeeping should be taken under consideration and approval by the Member States. We, CSCAP members, urge the UNDPKO to take this Study Group recommendations as a complement ongoing efforts in strengthening the UN Peacekeeping Operations.

ABOUT CSCAP

CSCAP is a non-governmental (second track) process for dialogue on security issues in the Asia Pacific. Membership in CSCAP is on an institutional basis and consists of Member Committees. Current membership comprises Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Canada, China, the EU, India, Indonesia, Japan, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar New Zealand, the Philippines, Russia, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam and the USA.

The functions of CSCAP are as follows:

- a. to provide an informal mechanism by which political and security issues can be discussed by scholars, officials, and others in their private capacities;
- b. to encourage the participants of such individuals from countries and territories in the Asia Pacific on the basis of the principle of inclusiveness;
- c. to organise various working groups to address security issues and challenges facing the region;
- d. to provide policy recommendations to various intergovernmental bodies on political-security issues;
- e. to convene regional and international meetings and other cooperative activities for the purpose of discussing political-security issues;
- f. to establish linkages with institutions and organisations in other parts of the world to exchange information, insights and experiences in the area of regional political-security cooperation; and
- g. to produce and disseminate publications relevant to the other purposes of the organisation.

Study Groups are the primary mechanism for CSCAP activity.

This memorandum was produced by the CSCAP Study Group on Maritime Environmental Protection.

Further information on CSCAP can be obtained from the CSCAP website at www.cscap.org or by contacting the CSCAP Secretariat:

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CSCAP Memoranda

CSCAP Memoranda are the outcome of the work of Study Groups approved by the Steering Committee and submitted for consideration by the ASEAN Regional Forum and other bodies.

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Author: Study Group on Marine Environment Protection
Date published: March 2018
- Memorandum No.30 – Preventive Diplomacy: Promoting Prospects or Mediation and Peaceful Settlement of Disputes in the Asia Pacific Region
Author: Study Group on Preventive Diplomacy
Date published: December 2017
- Memorandum No.29 – Harmonisation of Aeronautical and Maritime Search and Rescue (SAR)
Author: Study Group on Harmonisation of Aeronautical and Maritime Search and Rescue (SAR)
Date published: July 2017
- Memorandum No.28 – Energy Security in the Asia Pacific Region
Author: Study Group on Energy Security
Date published: June 2016
- Memorandum No.27 – Implementation of UNSCR 1540
Author: Study Group on Countering the Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction in the Asia Pacific
Date published: April 2015
- Memorandum No.26 – Towards an Effective Regional Security Architecture for the Asia Pacific
Author: Study Group on Regional Security Architecture
Date published: June 2014
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Author: Study Group on Principles for Good Order at Sea
Date published: June 2014
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Author: Experts Group on Vital Undersea Communications Infrastructure
Date published: May 2014
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Author: Study Group on Water Resources Security
Date published: January 2014

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 Author: Study Group on Countering the Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction in the Asia Pacific
 Date published: September 2012

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 Author: Study Group on Naval Enhancement in the Asia Pacific
 Date published: August 2012

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 Date published: February 2012

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 Author: Study Group on the Responsibility to Protect (RtoP)
 Date published: September 2011

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 Author: Study Group on Countering the Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction in the Asia Pacific
 Date published: June 2011

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 Date published: January 2011

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 Author: Study Group on the Security Implications of Climate Change
 Date published: July 2010

- Memorandum No.14 – Guidelines for Managing Trade of Strategic Goods
 Author: Export Controls Experts Group (XCXG)
 Date published: March 2009

- Memorandum No.13 – Guidelines for Maritime Cooperation in Enclosed and Semi-Enclosed Seas and Similar Sea Areas of the Asia Pacific
 Author: Study Group on Facilitating Maritime Security Cooperation in the Asia Pacific
 Date published: June 2008

- Memorandum No.12 – Maritime Knowledge and Awareness: Basic Foundations of Maritime Security
 Author: Study Group on Facilitating Maritime Security Cooperation in the Asia Pacific
 Date published: December 2007

- Memorandum No.11 – Human Trafficking
Author: Study Group on Human Trafficking
Date published: June 2007
- Memorandum No.10 – Enhancing Efforts to Address Factors Driving International Terrorism
Author: Study Group on Enhancing the Effectiveness of the Campaign Against International Terrorism with Specific Reference to the Asia Pacific Region
Date published: December 2005
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Author: Working Group on Transnational Crime
Date published: May 2004
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Author: Working Group on Maritime Cooperation
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Author: Working Group on Transnational Crime
Date published: July 2003
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Author: Working Group on Maritime Cooperation
Date published: December 2002
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Author: Working Group on Maritime Cooperation
Date published: February 2001
- Memorandum No.4 – Guidelines for Regional Maritime Cooperation
Author: Working Group on Maritime Cooperation
Date published: December 1997
- Memorandum No.3 – The Concepts of Comprehensive Security and Cooperative Security
Author: Working Group on Comprehensive and Cooperative Security
Date published: December 1995
- Memorandum No.2 – Asia Pacific Confidence and Security Building Measures
Author: Working Group on Confidence and Security Building Measures
Date published: June 1995
- Memorandum No.1 – The Security of the Asia Pacific Region
Author: CSCAP
Date published: April 1994