



Second Meeting of the CSCAP Study Group on Enhancing Contributions from Asia Pacific Countries to UN Peacekeeping Operations

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, May 18-19, 2017

**Co – Chair’s Report
Malaysia, South Korea, Cambodia**

In line with the recommendations of the United Nations *High level Independent Panel on Peace Operations* (HIPPO) report which identified four essential shifts required in UN Peacekeeping reforms, experts from the Asia-Pacific region continued to discuss ways to contribute to these shifts. The focus of this Study Group was on strengthening UN peacekeeping operations through enhanced contributions by countries from the region.

The views of several participants who had served and are still serving in various UN peacekeeping related areas were very useful in understanding the opportunities and challenges in UN Peacekeeping Operations. Among them was a government official who was part of a UN peacekeeping mission in his own country, an ex-military officer seconded to the Office of Military Affairs in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, UNHQ New York, the Director of the Center for Peace Operations at the International Peace Institute (IPI) in New York, an ex-Force Commander of the UN Peacekeeping Mission (MONUC) in Congo, ex-UN field mission staff, government officials advising the government on UN matters, and scholars and researchers on UN peacekeeping operations. The discourse among the mélange of participants contributed to fruitful engagements and enhanced the knowledge of other participants who were new to UN Peacekeeping.

CSCAP participants for the second SG were from Aus-CSCAP, CSCAP Cambodia, CSCAP China, CSCAP-EU, CSCAP India, CSCAP Indonesia, CSCAP Japan, CSCAP Korea, CSCAP Malaysia, CSCAP New Zealand, CSCAP Singapore, US-CSCAP, and CSCAP Vietnam.

The study group appreciated the contributions of the Asia-Pacific region in global peace and security through UN Peacekeeping operations over the years and stressed the need to further strengthen UN Peacekeeping Operations, including the implementation of the High level Independent Panel on Peace Operations (HIPPO) report. Key areas of debate covered reforms and recent developments in UN Peacekeeping Operations and the need for like financial contribution, logistics, scholastic pursuit and technological capacity among others. Hence, the agenda of the Study Group meeting was designed to explore possible contributions. The inputs from the Study Group will thereafter be incorporated as recommendations into the final Study Group meeting to be held in Cambodia.

These recommendations are not intended to duplicate efforts already undertaken by member states but are to complement efforts being taken to enhance contributions to UN peacekeeping. In doing so, many potential areas were discussed in length, from areas and types of contributions, capacity building matters for the contributions, and logistical support and co-operation

between TCCs and other organisations. Participants also deliberated on the UN Peacekeeping Capability Readiness System (PCRS).

The opening remarks was delivered by the three Co-Chairs preceded by Capt. Martin A. Sebastian RMN (R), CSCAP Malaysia, followed by HRH Samdech Norodom Sirivudh, CSCAP Cambodia and finally Prof. Heung-Soon Park, CSCAP Korea.

In his remarks, Capt. Martin brought to attention the HIPPO report which covered the reforms in UN peacekeeping. He further appraised on the 2015 UN Peacekeeping Summit in New York where Heads of State pledged extra contributions to UN Peacekeeping. In 2016, during the London Ministerial Meeting, Defence Ministers reiterated 2015 pledges with some taking the opportunity to pledge extra contributions. A Peacekeeping Defence Ministerial Conference is being planned in Vancouver, Canadian 2017 while Ethiopia announced its intention to host a high-level open debate, at the level of State, in September 2017. As such, the study group was urged not to discuss the needs to reform UN peacekeeping and associated issues, but to focus on matters pertaining to contributions. HRH Norodom called for the continuation of deliberations to matters arising during the first meeting in Seoul and expressed that it was timely to address many pertinent issues as he has personally experienced the UN Peacekeeping mission in his home country Cambodia. Prof Heung –Soon Park referred to the first meeting in South Korea which set the pace for further deliberations. He expressed that South Korea has made many advances in UN Peacekeeping and is willing to share these with member states.

Session I: UN Reforms and Recent Developments in UNPKO Contribution

This session started with a video presentation by Mr Arthur Boutellis, Director of the Center for Peace Operations at the International Peace Institute (IPI) in New York. His presentation was on the UN Reforms and Recent Developments in UNPKO Contribution. He remarked on the 4 essential shifts needed in UN peacekeeping operations namely *Primacy of Politics, Responsive Operations, Stronger Partnerships* and *Field-focused and people centered*.

CSCAP Malaysia informed on the need also to focus on various other type of contributions that cannot be reflected in the recent pledges. This includes seconded staff to UNHQ from Member States. Reference to Chapter 15 of the UN Charter addresses Article 101 which specifically addresses the topic of staff appointments. The paramount consideration in the employment of the staff and in the determination of the conditions of service shall be the necessity of securing the highest standards of efficiency, competence, and integrity. Due regard should be paid to the importance of recruiting the staff on as wide a geographical basis as possible. There is an opportunity for Member States to contribute staff to UNHQ when a vacancy announcement is received by the national Permanent Mission to UN. Besides that, contributions as Head of UN Mission like the Special Representative of the Secretary General (SRSG), Senior Mission leadership like Force Commander or other appointments should also be considered by member states.

CSCAP Korea took note of the fact that there are both major troops and financial contributing countries in the Asia-Pacific region, and appreciates that a number of countries in the region pledged additional contributions at the Leaders' Summit on Peacekeeping in 2015 and the London Peacekeeping Defence Ministerial in 2016, respectively. It also stressed that CSCAP needs to promote further implementation of HIPPO report.

US CSCAP presented on the need to revisit maritime capabilities in UN Peacekeeping. CSCAP Malaysia informed on the UN Maritime Operations Manual and the UN Riverine Operations Manual which is available online. The UN has a Maritime Task Force (MTF) operating in Lebanon with UNIFIL and a few riverine operations eg. Sudan and Congo. Indonesia and Bangladesh are regular contributors from Asia Pacific for the MTF.

Session II: Enhancing Capacities for UNPKO: The Need for Scholastic Pursuit and Technical Capacity

Scholastic Pursuit. CSCAP Indonesia articulated on the study on the role of *Women in UN Peacekeeping* and described how women have contributed enormously in peace operations. These studies reinforce the need to have scholastic pursuit for UN Peacekeeping as many TCCs focus only on peacekeeping training centres. These centres build capacity for contributions prior operations in field missions and do not address scholastic pursuits.

CSCAP Korea reiterated that Korea Defence University has a peacekeeping study centre which studies and advises government on matters concerning the UN. Journals are being published to assist in understanding trends and how best national contributions can be met. CSCAP Korea also presented the role of academia in the legislation of the PKO Act in Korea, and stressed the need for cooperation between academia and government in PKO policy making and implementation.

CSCAP India mentioned on the experience in Congo and the need to revisit field mission structures e.g., Joint Mission Analysis Centre (JMAC) and Joint Operations Centre (JOC). These structures are headed by civilians who advise the SRSG on matters pertaining to the mission. The competency of staff in these centres needs to be enhanced and can be part of a multidimensional training syllabus.

Technical Capacity. CSCAP Malaysia informed the SG on the *Performance Peacekeeping* document that is available online which elaborates on technology in UN Peacekeeping.

CSCAP Korea took note of growing efforts to utilize technology and innovation to improve effectiveness and efficiency of UN Peacekeeping Operations, including the Report of Expert Panel on Technology and Innovation and the annual Partnership for Technology in Peacekeeping symposium. Korea aims to increase its technology contribution to UN Peacekeeping Operations and works closely with the UN in this regard, including developing a UAV-based mapping solution.

USCAP informed on the need to view contributions to Department of Field Support (DFS) as well as much discussions were on contribution to DPKO.

Logistics were also essential to field operations and therefore member states could enquire more information from their respective Permanent Missions in the UN.

Session III: Peacekeeping Capability Readiness System: Commitment to Peacekeeping

This session deliberated on the PCRS which is the successor to the UN Standby Arrangement System (UNSAS). The aim of the PCRS is to serve as a comprehensive platform for UNDPKO to collaborate with Member States on their commitments.

Through the process of the PCRS systems, pledges are assessed and validated for deployment; however, under the principle of “consent”, pledges could only be deployed in the host country if belligerents consent to the deployment. Then again, since the assessment process is generally conducted between the Office of Military Affairs in DPKO and DFS with the Defence Ministry of the TCC, when the actual day comes for deployment, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the TCC may not consent to the deployment due to political exigencies.

One other point was that once contributions were assessed to be deployed within the 30/60/90-day period, contributions will have to be ready for the period. There could be issues within the TCC when these contributions are not deployed as they cannot be utilized by the said TCC.

Findings of Day 1 and deliberations for the 2ndSG meeting.

Participants summarized and debated the findings of the first day. The session was chaired by Capt. Martin A. Sebastian, CSCAP Malaysia.

The importance of intellectual contributions was also stressed. In the future, a joint analysis center could be established. The CSCAP Study Group on Enhancing Contributions from Asia Pacific Countries to UN Peacekeeping Operations has not only provided a valuable forum for comparing national experiences and strengths in the field of UN peacekeeping, but also one for discussing challenges and opportunities for countries from the Asia-Pacific region.

Several key recommendations have been adopted:

- a) CSCAP SG recommendations are to complement ongoing efforts to strengthen UN Peacekeeping.
- b) Scholastic pursuits can contribute to a variety of needs for member states;
- c) Technical and logistic capacities are as important to UN Peacekeeping as other pledges.
- d) PCRS is a comprehensive platform for member states to collaborate with member states on their commitments. More engagements are required among all stakeholders to enable contribution to be timely deployed with the assessed capabilities and competencies.

Appendix: List of Participants

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