



## Security Council briefing on the contribution of United Nations Police to the New Agenda for Peace, 14 November 2023

Malta Statement delivered by Ms Francesca Gatt

Deputy Permanent Representative of Malta to the United Nations, New York

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Thank you, President. We welcome this exchange with Under-Secretary-General Lacroix, and the Heads of the Police Components of UN Operations, Mr. Christophe Bizimungu, Ms. Christine Fossen, Mr. Faisal Shahkar as well as Ms. Karin Landgren.

We acknowledge the men and women police officers who have served and worked in communities with outmost dedication and honour the memory of those who lost their lives in the line of duty.

President,

Now more than ever, the United Nations Police are an essential component of peacekeeping. As we speak, ten thousand UN police officers serve on the frontlines in 16 UN peace operations globally. Their efforts not only help us to reinforce security through patrolling and other operational support, but as we have heard today, also increase compliance with international human rights standards and uphold the rule of law.

UNPOL have demonstrated to operate in an integrated manner in peacekeeping missions. In South Sudan, they have supported prevention efforts on sexual and gender-based violence and promote human rights by engaging directly with the communities they serve. In the Central African Republic, they have provided support to National Security Forces (NSF) to



set down capacity building for National Police and Gendarmerie to facilitate the efficient exercise of their missions.

President

UNPOL operates in challenging and dangerous settings. For them to be effective we must pursue meaningful performance assessments to address deficiencies, and promote their effectiveness on the ground. Furthermore, we must work to ensure UNPOL are properly prepared, equipped and resourced to address the challenges on the ground.

The New Agenda for Peace represents a valuable opportunity to reinforce and strengthen UN peacekeeping capacities to operationalize rapid responses to emerging crisis. We also echo the Secretary-General's call for a networked multilateralism. This would enable a more effective and universal approach to peace and security, and an extended use of the peacekeeping tools at our disposal to respond to the new and emerging threats.

President

We must ensure that the existing tools will continue to improve UNPOL's performance and accountability. Better trained and equipped uniformed personnel will enhance safety and security to civilians and will strengthen accountability to peacekeepers.

Malta welcomes the Women Peace and Security agenda as a cross-cutting theme within the Action for Peacekeeping Plus. As a result, UNPOL has



achieved its gender parity targets for 2025, and five out of the nine police components in UN peacekeeping operations are led by women. We must continue to fully implement the WPS agenda and to increase the number of women in UN peacekeeping, and make sure that they can continue to participate and contribute in a meaningful manner. In this regard, I would like to thank Ms. Fossen for sharing her experiences in UNMISS.

President, the upcoming UN Peacekeeping Ministerial Meeting to be held in Accra next December will provide an opportunity to achieve concrete outcomes to improve peacekeeping operations in line with ongoing reform efforts. Malta remains committed to supporting UN Police and to help to meet the challenges that lie ahead.

To conclude, I would like to pose the following questions on three issues raised today:

1. On training and capacity building, how can this be improved to get the results in need on the ground? What are the current shortcomings?
2. On gaining trust of local communities, what are the lessons learnt that could help other missions?
3. On new and emerging threats, how are you able to adapt to evolving situation in your respective missions?

Thank you very much.