



## Closing Remarks for the Challenges Forum 2009

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Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, Partners and Friends,

It is my privilege to bring this 2<sup>nd</sup> Challenges Forum to a close. Over the past two days, we have reflected on, sought to tackle and, I would argue, developed our thoughts on our chosen theme: A New Horizon for Peace Operations Partnerships – What are the Next Steps?

We have had a wide-ranging dialogue on some of the key challenges facing peacekeeping today. Or as our Challenges Forum Patron, Jean-Marie Guéhenno, put it: How do we most effectively orchestrate our efforts? We have explored the peacekeeping-peacebuilding interface, looking at the challenges posed by the gap between mandates and mandate implementation, as well as lessons learned regarding support to the rule of law and security sectors in the early peacebuilding phase. Further thought needs to be given to how key activities in these sectors are prioritized, sequenced and delivered in the immediate aftermath of conflict and we hope that Challenges can contribute some research and analysis to this effort. Our discussion on command and control highlighted the strong impact that these arrangements can have on the success of a peacekeeping operation, and the important proposals made in the background paper regarding modification of planning processes.

We also reviewed progress made this year in the quality of consultations among the Security Council, the Secretariat and Troop- and Police-Contributing Countries, and examined how the base of contributions to peacekeeping can be expanded. That session highlighted the need for further dialogue on how to make mission planning more inclusive as well as changes to a number of other policies and practices. For example, Brig Muhammed Feyyaz addressed the partnership perspective from the point of view of the need for a more integrated approach, between military and policy, between the developed and developing worlds. So it was indeed rewarding to learn that there was unison support from our diplomatic, research and practitioners panel of United Nations, Japanese, Pakistani, and British speakers of the need for, and proposals for, more integrated assessment mechanisms.

We are also very pleased that our French partners have proposed to hold a meeting in France next year to discuss the issue of robust peacekeeping operations and mission planning. Further, we are delighted that the newest Challenges Partner – Egypt – will be hosting the third annual meeting of the G8++ Global Peacekeeping Operations Capacity Building Clearinghouse in Cairo

in December. This meeting will focus on the New Horizon and will discuss several of the challenges and recommendations highlighted in our sessions over the past two days.

As you are aware, the UN Secretariat has undertaken, in the New Horizon process, to engage Member States in dialogue on a number of issues, many of which were also the subject of recommendations made in the background papers for this Forum. It is our hope that the Challenges Partners, Partners individually or others will step forward in the coming months and offer to host or fund some of the proposed discussions and studies, to move forward the Secretariat's efforts.

Earlier today, Mr Guéhenno reminded us that not only is all politics local, so is peacekeeping. If I may add, that also applies to the Challenges Forum. We bring our local and regional experiences to our common global table. What we do might not have an instant global impact - but step by step - and through all of our investments into the Challenges effort with different expertise and various perspectives, I would argue, we are making real progress. The Challenges Forum 2009, thanks to all of your engagement, contributions and interventions, has taken our cooperation to the next level.

I would like to say a word about our concepts and doctrine development work, which we are carrying out in response to a DPKO request for assistance from Challenges and which is coordinated by Gen Robert Gordon. A paper prepared by Gen Gordon outlines the background and status of our concept development initiative. As you are aware, Challenges will not be developing any actual guidance; that is a DPKO responsibility. Rather, the project aims to distill the key considerations that senior mission leadership must take into account in their decision-making. The concepts development working group has already met three times since January 2009 and produced preliminary drafts. These will be further refined in the coming months and we expect to meet twice (one of which kindly hosted by the Institute for Security Studies in South Africa) more before presenting our work at the next Forum meeting in April 2010 for comments and consideration by the broader International Community.

As Senior Adviser General Nambiar said, we need to do what we can to prevent the marginalization of UN Peacekeeping, as an effort and as an option. It will also assist the UN to be a credible and effective partner to the people in need as well as to international partner organizations in the field, as represented by our distinguished panellists this late afternoon.

Excellencies, dear Colleagues,

We are already looking forward to gathering again in April 2010, for the next Challenges Forum in Australia. Australia is a longstanding Challenges Partner and an engaged, proactive contributor to peace operations. The focus will be on the Protection of Civilians, a subject that both Australia and not least R H Dr Michael Kelly, Parliamentary Secretary for Defence Support and Founder of our Hosting Organization, and Maj Gen Michael Smith, its Executive Director, have prioritized for a long time. I am sure the Forum 2010 will be both rich and productive.

We are also looking forward to the Challenges Forum 2010, which will be hosted by our new Partners from Egypt, the Cairo Regional Centre for Training for Conflict Resolution and

Peacekeeping in Africa, an organization under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Egypt. We also look forward to hosting a Challenges Forum in Islamabad as soon as the situation allows. We hope the Challenges Partnership will continue to expand, bringing in new perspectives and experiences. This will allow us to continue to raise, and tackle, key challenges of peace operations. New ideas are needed – but also as both the Permanent Representative of Japan and Fatemeh Ziai both suggested – often what is needed is not new mechanisms, but instead that we enhance and make better use of the once we have.

Concluding, I would like to express my appreciation, once again, to our Partner Pakistan, for co-hosting this event and making it such a great success. I forward our thanks to the Permanent Representative of Pakistan Amb Haroon for his effective and resolute decision to support and co-host this event in New York. Amb Haroon had to return to Pakistan, but we have been generously hosted by the Acting Permanent Representative, Amb Sial. Three days of our work in the beginning of this week was held at the Permanent Mission of Pakistan. I would also like to thank Gen Anis Bajwa, Brigadier Muhammed Feyyaz, our new Challenges Point of Contact at the National Defence University in Islamabad, Col Hamad Doghar at the Mission here in NY, who together with his staff have also been invaluable to this effort.

Second, I would like to express our appreciation to our Challenges Partners, without who's perspectives and expertise, there would be neither dialogue nor Challenges outcomes. We are greatly indebted to the distinguished representatives of the United Nations, the facilitators, panelists, presenters and the expert authors of the background studies and papers, all of you greatly enriched our discussions. I would like to thank you all for responding to our invitation to make this an interactive discussion and for your thoughtful questions to the speakers.

We are delighted and most grateful for the unique and active contribution to our efforts by the Challenges Patron Jean-Marie Guéhenno, who kindly spent much time advising us on program and substantive issues. Senior Advisers Gen Nambiar and Gen Gordon, and Research Adviser Ms Fatemeh Ziai have also been invaluable to our effort. I would like to express our thanks to our important Associate Coordinators in Sweden, who contributes to the Coordination effort with their valuable military, police, and prison and probation service expertise and resources.

Last but anything but least I would like thank my colleagues in the Challenges Secretariat: Anna-Linn Persson my professional and effective project officer; Anna Wiktorsson, our unfortunately temporary, but quick and engaged reinforcement; our excellent Rapporteur Dr. Louise Ohlsson, who is engaged to ensure that we can pick up on issues related to gender in peacekeeping and to mainstream the gender perspective in our work; and Marianne Kihlberg, the Academy Press and Information Officer, who has rolled up her sleeves to assist us in the Secretariat for this occasion. All of whom have worked very hard to put this event together.

Dialogue is critical if we hope to have a shared understanding of the areas of peace operations that need review, strengthening or modification. We hope that Challenges will remain at the forefront of these efforts and look forward to your participation in future Forum meetings. Thank you again for your invaluable contributions to the Challenges Forum 2009 and see you again soon in Australia!