



## International Forum for the Challenges of Peace Operations

### Presentation of “Considerations” Study at Challenges Forum

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Annika has described the work over the years that Challenges has undertaken to support best practice in peacekeeping. This next session reports to the Forum, the most recent effort. The Considerations Study has been mentioned by a number of speakers yesterday, The Study began in 2008, Carrying on work of Challenges’ support to the Capstone Doctrine project.

Discussion with DPKO that helpful area of work for Partnership would be to identify the principles and concepts underpinning the 3 core functions of PK as articulated in the Capstone Doctrine.

Operational level, linking bridge between the strategic and tactical levels. Where complex lines of activity needed for mission success need to be knitted together and integrated into a mission plan by the MLT.

The Requirement: Many lines of activity.

Study Milestones: Key milestones of Partners process to produce Study.

Key decision was made in Stockholm in June last year to refine methodology to reflect the considerations needed to be addressed by the MLT. Identify Objectives, outputs and activities etc from mandate analysis and from Capstone Doctrine.

#### Points To Be Made on Study

The Considerations Study is a true product of the partnership that is international peacekeeping. For two reasons:

First, it is based on the combined expertise of the Challenges Partnership, which includes political, academic, military, and police institutions.

Second, the study has benefitted from the input, review and comments from dozens of experts from the entire UN system, as well as senior level peacekeeping practitioners. The list of senior commentators is included in your conference package as are their most positive quotes in validation. Commentary and support is still coming in and so the process remains dynamic.

The Partners undertook to produce as complete a draft as they could for this Forum. Its length has been a fine balance between covering the issues but keeping that coverage at the operational level. We recognize that commentary from this Forum, both formally and informally, will lead to the need for further refinement and a final articulation.

To the extent possible, the study is as current as can be, and it includes the issues raised in all relevant recent papers and reports. You will see from your Q and A sheets that came in your folders, the list of issues that we have addressed and reports that we have consulted. However, we are aware that thinking and debate on UN peacekeeping is a dynamic and continuous process (as demonstrated by this Forum). And so at the suggestion of DPKO Partners have already agreed to revisit the Study in the future and produce a follow-on version in order to keep pace with this change. In other words the Partnership will remain committed to the project.

A clear direction that we received from our DPKO interlocutors was that the study should highlight the political primacy of peacekeeping, i.e. missions being driven by and drivers of political processes. That was also why it was decided during the seminar in Pretoria that, even though stabilization is listed as the first core function of a peacekeeping operation in the Capstone Doctrine, facilitating and supporting the political process is the first objective covered in the study.

We have tried to harmonize the study as much as possible. Certain issues (e.g. environmental considerations, training of personnel) are not yet but will be included. It will be up to the Partnership to decide how and when to finalize the study, recognizing that the complexity and dynamic nature of peacekeeping mean that every (favourite) issue cannot be given due consideration.

The study can be used, as was pointed out, by many of the senior practitioners consulted, as an introduction, instruction, reminder or reference document. It is also hoped that it can be used in the context of senior mission leadership training. Partners themselves have expressed the utility of the Study for the training of their people in multi-dimensional peacekeeping.

Having described the process, which I as the Senior Adviser to Challenges was lucky to oversee, let me introduce the man who latterly did most of the work in putting it together into a single coherent document.

While the study is primarily intended as a document for the MLT, it could be useful for staff at all levels as a tool to gain better understanding of the multitude of issues and challenges facing a mission as a whole. With peacekeeping today being complex and multidimensional, there is a real need for all involved to know what others are doing, as well as understand the overall objectives and challenges of the whole mission.