

**Security Council**

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**Letter dated 5 March 2020 from the Permanent Representative of  
China to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

I have the honour to inform you that, as President of the Security Council for March, China will convene a Security Council debate on 24 March 2020 on the theme “United Nations peacekeeping operations: better capacity-building, more safety and security”. A concept note is attached for the benefit of Member States wishing to participate in this debate (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

*(Signed)* **Zhang Jun**  
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary  
Permanent Representative



**Annex to the letter dated 5 March 2020 from the Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

[Original: Chinese and English]

**Concept note for the Security Council debate on United Nations peacekeeping operations, to be held on 24 March 2020**

## **I. Background**

1. As President of the Security Council for the month of March, China will hold a debate on the theme “United Nations peacekeeping operations: better capacity-building, more safety and security”.
2. Peacekeeping operations came into being in response to the needs of the times, and evolve as those needs change. Over the past 72 years, United Nations peacekeeping, as an important tool for maintaining international peace and security, has played an important role in advancing political solutions to hotspot issues. More than 95,000 peacekeepers are currently serving in 13 missions across the world. Over the past 20 years, the magnitude and intensity of conflicts have changed significantly, and United Nations peacekeeping has continued to improve with the changing situation. United Nations peacekeeping operations face more challenges and an increasing need for capacity-building. Traditional and non-traditional security factors pose serious threats to the safety and security of peacekeepers. Since 2013, 257 peacekeepers have been killed in targeted attacks, and loss of life owing to factors such as disease and traffic accidents is not uncommon. Improving capacity-building and enhancing peacekeepers’ safety and security are two of the prominent challenges facing peacekeeping operations today.
3. Strengthened capacity-building is required to improve peacekeeping performance and is an important means of ensuring the safety and security of peacekeepers. Training systems and standards, the allocation of equipment and resources, medical and rescue mechanisms and comprehensive performance evaluations are all important factors affecting capacity-building. Building the capacity of troop- and police-contributing countries is relevant to the entire process of reforming peacekeeping operations, as it has an impact on the effectiveness of peacekeeping. Capacity-building affects peacekeeping performance, personnel safety and security and political solutions to hotspot issues, and is therefore essential to the improvement of peacekeeping operations.
4. In recent years, the Security Council has adopted several resolutions exploring ways to build peacekeeping capacity. Resolution [2272 \(2016\)](#) concerns discipline for peacekeepers. Through resolution [2378 \(2017\)](#), the Council emphasized the need to enhance partnerships, improve mission planning and strengthen training mechanisms and capacity-building. Through resolution [2436 \(2018\)](#), it welcomed Member States’ commitment to supporting enhanced training and capacity-building activities to strengthen peacekeeping operations. Through resolution [2447 \(2018\)](#), it reiterated its support for and made requests regarding the work of police in peacekeeping.
5. The safety and security of peacekeepers is a priority of the Secretary-General’s Action for Peacekeeping initiative. Experience shows that the safety and security of peacekeepers is at risk without uniform deployment standards. Well-trained and well-equipped troops are able to perform mandates more effectively, with fewer casualties. Therefore, strengthening safety and security training, improving equipment and ensuring adequate resources for peacekeepers are of vital importance for

peacekeepers' safety. Injury treatment, emergency rescue and medical evacuation are also important.

6. The Security Council and the Secretariat have made tremendous efforts in this area. With the support of the China-United Nations Peace and Development Fund, in December 2017, Lieutenant General (Retired) Carlos Alberto dos Santos Cruz issued his report, entitled "Improving security of United Nations peacekeepers: we need to change the way we are doing business" (also known as the Santos Cruz report), in which specific measures were proposed. On the basis of that report, the Secretary-General issued an action plan in January 2018, followed by various updated versions, proposing multifaceted solutions to improve the safety and security of peacekeepers. In both 2019 and 2020, the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations made the safety and security of peacekeepers a key topic of its report, and recommendations were provided by its members. On 24 February 2020, at a side event on peacekeeping capacity-building jointly sponsored by China, Indonesia, Morocco and Pakistan, Member States discussed ways to improve the safety and security of peacekeepers, which provide a valuable reference. Consensus needs to be translated into action. Guaranteeing the safety and security of peacekeepers is the common responsibility of the international community, but especially of the Security Council, the Secretariat, troop- and police-contributing countries, financial contributors and host States. The Council should formulate clear and actionable mandates in line with the real situation on the ground. The Secretariat should strengthen operational and logistical support. Troop- and police-contributing countries should ensure that personnel are well trained. Financial contributors should provide the resources necessary for peacekeepers to discharge their duties. Host States should ensure public understanding of and support for United Nations peacekeeping operations and bring to justice those responsible for attacks against peacekeepers.

## II. Objective

7. The purpose of this debate is to provide a platform for the Security Council and troop- and police-contributing countries to discuss peacekeeping capacity-building and peacekeepers' safety and security, find solutions to the major problems and challenges facing peacekeeping operations and elicit greater input from the international community to help troop- and police-contributing countries to improve their deployment and operational capabilities, expand the positive effects of peacekeeping operations, improve the safety and security of peacekeepers and promote the implementation of the Secretary-General's Action for Peacekeeping initiative.

## III. Key questions

8. Participants may wish to consider the following key questions:

(a) The year 2020 marks the seventy-fifth anniversary of the United Nations, and United Nations peacekeeping is at a turning point. It is the common responsibility of Member States to improve peacekeeping operations in the face of the new situation and challenges. What measures should the Security Council, the Secretariat, troop- and police-contributing countries, financial contributors and host States take to strengthen capacity-building?

(b) Troop- and police-contributing countries provide important support for United Nations peacekeeping operations. How should Member States help those countries to improve capacity in terms of training, equipment and resources?

(c) Complex situations on the ground mean that peacekeepers in peacekeeping operations such as the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali, the United Nations Mission in South Sudan and the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo are serving in dangerous environments and facing severe security challenges. How should the Security Council, the Secretariat, troop- and police-contributing countries, financial contributors and host States respond to those challenges to ensure the safety and security of peacekeepers and the effectiveness of peacekeeping?

(d) Training is an effective means of strengthening capacity and ensuring personnel safety and security. How should the United Nations and its Security Council improve the training system to better train peacekeepers?

(e) Establishing uniform deployment standards for peacekeepers is important for strengthening capacity and ensuring the safety and security of peacekeepers. What standards should the Secretariat introduce and what efforts should be made to that end?

#### **IV. Meeting arrangements**

9. The meeting will take the form of a debate. Troop- and police-contributing countries are welcome to address the meeting, which will be held in the Security Council Chamber at 10 a.m. on 24 March. The Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations will preside over the meeting, and participants will hear briefings by the Under-Secretary-General for Peace Operations and the Under-Secretary-General for Operational Support. An outcome document on the safety and security of peacekeepers will be adopted.

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