

« Innovating in peacekeeping training »

Workshop to share experiences and best practices among French-speaking peacekeeping training centres

Thursday 23 May 2024

UN Regional Training & Conference Centre (RTCC) in Entebbe, Uganda

Concept note

I – Context :

Towards a new approach to peacekeeping

While UN peace operations have just celebrated their 75th anniversary, they are now at a crossroads in view of the evolution of crises and the challenges they face: the long-term nature of conflicts and the complexity of implementing political solutions; the proliferation of non-state armed groups and the persistence of terrorism in addition to new threats ; the mismatch between ambitious mandates and available resources; the erosion of trust with host states and their populations, fuelled by the spread of disinformation campaigns targeting peacekeepers and the UN in general.

With this in mind, the UN Secretary-General's [New Agenda for Peace](#) (NAP, July 2023) sets out recommendations for a renewed approach to peacekeeping. These are intended to complement the Secretary-General's report, [Our Common Agenda](#) (September 2021), and to feed into the intergovernmental discussions leading up to the Summit of the Future, where the Pact for the Future will be adopted (September 2024). The NAP promotes a new approach to peacekeeping based primarily on :

- strengthening UN peace operations: while reaffirming the primacy of politics, they must have clear mandates, with achievable priorities, sufficient resources, and the ability to adapt to changing contexts.
- when justified by the context, the possibility of peace-enforcement operations authorized by the Security Council and led by regional and subregional organizations, in particular the African Union. Adopted on December 21, 2023, [UN Security Council Resolution 2719](#) on the financing of AU-led peace support operations is also a step in this direction.

This new doctrine in the process of being drawn up aims to make operations more effective, by considering the realities of contemporary conflicts. It raises major new challenges, particularly in terms of the national capabilities of contributing countries to implement it.

Francophone expertise and training network for peace operations (Réseau d'expertise et de formation francophone pour les opérations de paix - REFFOP)

In the search for greater performance in peace operations, national peacekeeping training structures play an essential role. A more endogenous approach to training is a guarantee of empowerment, sustainability and efficiency in the actions carried out in this field. The development of synergies and

cooperation between these structures can also contribute to the emergence of best practices and innovative actions, as well as contributing to a better harmonization of their training offer with a view to greater alignment with the highest standards of the United Nations and regional organizations.

The French-speaking world includes several peacekeeping training centers in Africa, North America, Europe and Southeast Asia. They help to build the capacity of French-speaking peacekeeping personnel, including by fostering the development of specialized language skills¹ through training in and to French.

To develop and leverage this potential, in 2014 the International Organisation of La Francophonie (*Organisation internationale de la Francophonie* – OIF) launched the [REFFOP](#) network, whose main objective is to network French-speaking peacekeeping training schools and centres. Since the end of 2020, the OIF has tasked the Peace and security information and research group (*Groupe de recherche et d'information sur la paix et la sécurité* - [GRIP](#)), manager of the Boutros-Ghali Peacekeeping Observatory (*Observatoire Boutros-Ghali du maintien de la paix* - [OBG](#)), with revitalizing and leading the REFFOP platform, which now has 14 member training centres.

Round table of French-speaking training centres in Kinshasa - May 2022

On May 20, 2022, a [first strategic reflection workshop for REFFOP training centres](#) was organized on the sidelines of the OBG seminar², which focused on “UN peace operations facing the challenges of regionalization, parallel forces and outsourcing”. The aim of the meeting was to support the contribution of French-speaking peacekeeping training centres to achieving the priorities of the Action for peacekeeping (A4P) initiative, to consolidate a common understanding of emerging peacekeeping training needs, and to develop synergies between them, and international training partners. The workshop led to the launch of a call for training projects by the OIF, in partnership with the UN and OBG, aimed at REFFOP training centres, to promote cooperation in the implementation of selected projects.

II – General objective:

- Support the contribution of French-speaking training centres to peace operations by promoting experiences’ sharing and innovative capacity-building practices.

III – Specific objectives:

- Develop a common understanding of new doctrinal and strategic orientations for peace operations;
- Encourage innovation in the themes and teaching methods of training courses, in order to better meet the contemporary challenges facing peace operations in the field ;
- Consolidate synergies and cooperation between French-speaking training centres, and between them and international training partners ;

¹ Paragraph 13 of the Declaration of Shared Commitment of A4P recognizes specialized language skills as a key component of peacekeeping operations’ performance.

² With the support of the Directorate General for International Relations and Strategy (DGRIS) of the French Ministry of the Armed Forces.

- Promote the French language and interculturality in the training activities of French-speaking training centres.

IV – Date and venue : May 23, 2024 (one full day), at the UN Regional Training and Conference Center (RTCC) in Entebbe (Uganda), on the sidelines of the OBG seminar on “[Training uniformed personnel for peace operations: adapting the current model to contemporary challenges and issues](#)” (May 22, 2024), to which workshop participants are invited.

V - Programme :

In addition to the opening and closing (wrap-up) sequences, the operational and interactive discussions will focus on three main segments.

DRAFT PROGRAMME

09:00 – 09:15 : Welcome and introductory speeches

Moderator: Ms Clémence BUCHET--COUZY

- Mr Paulin DJOMO METANHI, Director, UN Regional Service Centre Entebbe, Uganda
- Mr Grégory ROBERT, Peacekeeping program specialist, Organisation internationale de la Francophonie (OIF)

09:15 – 10:15 : Towards a new approach to peace operations: from the New Agenda for Peace to the Pact for the Future

What are the UN's new doctrinal and strategic orientations for peacekeeping, and how are they shaping the future of peace operations? Within this framework, what is the role of peace operations led by regional and sub-regional organizations such as the African Union? With a view to better aligning policies and practices, the aim is to consolidate participants' understanding of the new peacekeeping paradigm currently being developed, and to reflect on its implications for training.

Moderator: Mr Grégory ROBERT

- Mr Dawit YOHANNES, Project Manager and Senior Researcher, Institute for Security Studies (ISS)
- Colonel Vincent GNAMOLENDE, Head of Planning and Operations Cell, Peace Support Operations Division, African Union

10:15 – 10:45 : Coffee break

10:45 – 12:30 : Innovative experiences and practices sharing by French-speaking peacekeeping training centres (1/2)

In view of the requirements arising from the evolution of conflicts and needs from the field, French-speaking training centres must constantly renew themselves to ensure that their capacity-building offer remains relevant. Following a call for communications, centres will be invited to share their experiences and best practices in innovative peacekeeping training, with the aim to inspiring all participants.

12:30 – 14:00 – Lunch break

Moderator: Mr Grégory ROBERT

- Representatives of peacekeeping training centers

14:00 – 15:40 : Innovative experiences and practices sharing by French-speaking peacekeeping training centres (2/2)

Moderator: Ms Clémence BUCHET--COUZY

- Representatives of peacekeeping training centers

15:40 – 16:00 : Coffee break

16:00 – 18:00 : Innovative experiences and practices sharing by international training partners

To consolidate, renew and respond to the obstacles they encounter in developing their training offer, French-speaking peacekeeping training centers can cooperate with international partners and capitalize on their innovative training practices and tools. This sequence will enable the main actors to highlight the diversity of their most recent experiences and lessons learned, as well as to explore the possibilities for partnerships to promote innovation in peacekeeping training.

Moderator: Mr Grégory ROBERT

- Ms Clémence BUCHET--COUZY, Researcher, GRIP, OBG, REFFOP
- Mr Herbert LORET, Team leader, Light Coordination Mechanism, UN Department of peace operations (DPO)

- Ms Eleanor PAVEY, Program manager in the pre-deployment training and consulting section of the Division for Peace, United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR)
- UN C4ISR Academy for Peace Operations (UNCAP) [TBC]
- Mr Phillipe RENARD, Programme manager, United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS)
- Integrated Training Service, UN Department of peace operations (DPO)

18:00 – 18:15 : Wrap-up session

- Mr Grégory ROBERT, Peacekeeping program specialist, OIF
- Ms Clémence BUCHET--COUZY, Researcher, GRIP, OBG, REFFOP

VI- Participants : French-speaking peacekeeping training centres

	Country	Peacekeeping training centres
1	Cambodia	National Centre for Peacekeeping Forces Mine and ERW Clearance (NPMEC)
2	Cameroun	École internationale des forces de sécurité (EIFORCES)
3	Egypt	Cairo International Center for Conflict Resolution, Peacekeeping & Peacebuilding (CCCPA)
4	Gabon	École d'État-Major de Libreville (EEML)
5	Ghana	Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre (KAIPTC)
6	Guinea	Centre d'Entrainement aux Opérations de Maintien de la Paix (CEOMP)
7	Mali	École de maintien de la paix Alioune Blondin Beye (EMP-ABB)
8	Romania	École d'Application des Officiers « Mihai Viteazul » de la Gendarmerie roumaine
9	Rwanda	Rwanda Peace Academy (RPA)
10	Senegal	Centre d'entrainement tactique 7 « Capitaine Mbaye Diagne » de Thiès
11	Togo	Centre d'entrainement aux opérations de maintien de la paix (CEOMP)