

**Joint Statement on Behalf of A3 (Niger, South Africa and Tunisia) and Saint  
Vincent and the Grenadines**

Delivered by

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**Open VTC on United Nations Peacekeeping Operations: The Evolving Role of  
United Nations Policing in Peace Operations, Post-Conflict and other Crisis  
Situations**

United Nations Security Council

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Madam President,

I thank you for convening this important annual meeting on “The evolving role of United Nations policing in peace operations, post-conflict and other crisis situations”.

I have the honor to deliver this statement on behalf of the A3+1, namely Niger, South Africa, Tunisia, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

We thank Under-Secretary-General Jean-Pierre Lacroix, Ms. Unaisi Vuniwaqa, UNMISS Police Commissioner, Mr. Pascal Champion, MINUSCA Police Commissioner, Mr. Issoufou Yacouba, MINUSMA Police Commissioner, Mr. Serge Therriault, BINUH Police Commissioner for their informative presentations on the evolving role of the United Nations Police, especially against the backdrop of the major challenges faced by peacekeeping operations in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Madam President,

As 2020 marks the 60th anniversary of United Nations Police, the A3+1 reaffirms their support for UNPOL and value their role in promoting international peace and security. We commend the contribution of formed police units, individual police officers and specialised police teams, in peacekeeping operations in the discharge of their respective mandates as determined by the Security Council.

The component of police in peacekeeping is vital. It plays a key role in restoring stability in conflict areas and contributes significantly to peaceful and longstanding solutions. While we pay tribute to fallen peacekeepers and praise their sacrifice, we call on all member states to collectively commit to enhancing the safety and security of all peacekeepers, police and military as well as civilian ones on the field, mainly through the full implementation of the Security Council resolution 2518 (2020).

UNPOL continues to be deployed in accordance with the principles of peacekeeping, such as consent of the parties, impartiality, and non-use of force, nevertheless, its contribution to peace and security has undergone a significant evolution to meet the new challenges. Currently, UNPOL plays a substantial role in helping national authorities to protect civilians and participates actively to build the capacity of national law-enforcement bodies. UNPOL continues to cooperate with the host countries to improve their ability in combatting transnational organized crime and international terrorism.

In this context, we stress the importance of providing UNPOL with appropriate resources to promote the effectiveness and success of UN missions. It is of paramount importance to provide police officers with adequate and targeted training and necessary equipment.

Moreover, we call for strategic, clear, realistic, and achievable mandates supported by requisite resources.

The A3+1 welcomes the continued efforts of the United Nations to strengthen its capabilities by developing very specific training groups and programs to deal with the new challenges in accordance with the Strategic Guidance Framework for International Policing (SGF).

In the same vein, we reiterate our support to the Secretary General's "Action for Peacekeeping (A4P)" initiative, which remains a road map for a better United Nations policing in peacekeeping missions, through the promotion of inclusive and participatory approaches. These collaborative approaches, championed by UN Police, pave the way for the delivery of comprehensive nationally-led political solutions that facilitate suitable conditions for mission transitions and successful exit strategies.

Madam President,

The COVID-19 pandemic has a major impact on UNPOL's actions and enterprise. We commend the United Nations efforts to successfully mitigate the effects of the pandemic, drawing on their experience in health crises. Accordingly, the United Nations immediately paused all troop and police rotations and provided guidance to ensure the safety of the UN police and the local populations. UN police were well inspired to suspend training for local partners that involved "physical contact and proximity". We commend our Police Commissioners and the Police Division in this regard.

At this stage, the A3+1 believes that it is important for the UN to stay vigilant and well prepared to meet the challenges of a likely second wave of the pandemic.

We acknowledge the increasing importance of UN Police in mission transition, and after the withdrawal of peacekeeping missions in the stabilisation and recovery efforts of post-conflict countries. It is, however, imperative that national authorities should take the lead to decide on the assistance that is required

Madam President,

Women's contribution to peace and security remains at the heart of the concerns of the international community. We should continue to mobilize political will and resources to promote gender parity, full, equal participation and leadership of female police officers. In this context, we welcome the contribution of the United Nations Police to implementing the Women, Peace, and Security agenda.

The A3+1 supports the United Nations Police gender initiative to further increasing the number of women in all peacekeeping missions. In this respect, we believe that female police officers are a key element in the process of peace solutions. While women police officers have made significant contributions to gender equality advocacy, gender-based violence awareness, trust and confidence-building among local populations, and have provided an important sense of security to women and children; women police officers shouldn't be limited in their ability to contribute to the full range of UN policing. Equally, all aspects of UN policing normally associated with women have to be prioritized as critical actions to be undertaken by all police officers, regardless of gender.

Currently in peacekeeping operations 15.1 per cent of police are women, compared to 10.2 per cent in 2015. We urge for the full implementation of the recently adopted resolution 2538 (2020) on women in peacekeeping.

In connection, the A3+1 reaffirms its support to the zero-tolerance policy on sexual exploitation and abuse and emphasizes that all police officers have a role to play in eradicating this scourge.

The A3+1 recognizes the critical role of UN policing in operational support, protection of civilian as well in capacity building of host state police. As lasting impact in sustaining peace, we foresee an increased role of the UN police, including in COVID-19, in future under the given mandate by the Security Council.

Madam President,

The A3+1 attaches great importance to the reinforcement of regional partnerships between the UN and relevant international, regional, and sub-regional organizations, particularly with the African Union (AU). In this regard, we welcome the continued support and collaboration for mutual enrichment particularly in these difficult circumstances to alleviate the impact of COVID-19.

The re-hatting of African Union-led peace operations, transitions and eventual drawdowns require close liaison to ensure coherence and harmonisation of peace efforts. In this regard, we are pleased that the Strategic Guidance Framework for International Police Peacekeeping was developed in consultation with several organisations, including the African Union.

Madam President,

Finally, the A3+1 requests for the Secretary-General to submit to the Security Council a report on developments regarding UN policing in 2021. We make this proposal as the last report on UN policing was issued in 2018.

In conclusion, we would like to take advantage of the presence of the Police Commissioners to ask the following questions:

- What are your expectations from the Security Council to help you to fulfill your mandate in better way?
- What progress is being made in the further development of the police sector in Haiti, including the use of technology, given the current situation in the country and the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic?
- How is your Mission striking a balance in equally deploying the individual police officers, formed police units and specialised police teams? We are asking to ascertain the importance of each within operations noting that the specialised police team approach has been praised as an effective and efficient tool for providing required policing expertise for the implementation of UN police mandates in field missions.

Thank you for your attention.