



## CO-CHAIRS' SUMMARY

### **Taking Stock, Looking to the Future: A High-Level Dialogue on United Nations Peace Operations**

On September 21, 2016, the governments of Finland, Indonesia, Rwanda, and Uruguay, and the International Peace Institute co-organized the fourth annual ministerial dinner on UN peace operations on the sidelines of the annual General Assembly debate. The dinner was attended by foreign ministers and high-level delegates from capitals representing forty member states. The UN Under Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations was also in attendance.

The dinner afforded participants the opportunity to engage in a candid discussion on the most pressing issues confronting UN peace operations, and on what member states and the next UN Secretary-General can do together to carry forward the change agenda laid out in the 2015 report of the High-Level Independent Panel on Peace Operations (HIPPO). The following were some of the main conclusions of the dinner:

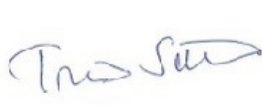
- Recommendations from the HIPPO report remain valid and should form the basis for member states' engagement with the next Secretary-General in order to maintain the momentum necessary for their implementation. Many have been acted upon or are in the process of internal review, but the essential shifts called for by the HIPPO are not yet in evidence.
- A clear political strategy must drive the design, deployment, and implementation of UN peace operations. While pledges to enhance the capabilities of peacekeeping were welcomed, more effort must be invested in local political solutions to conflicts, which peace operations must endeavor to support.
- Prevention should be the world organization's top priority. As such, it needs to strengthen its own capacities to undertake prevention and mediation, by creating more opportunities and pressure for early action from key actors, by conducting more horizon-scanning exercises, through better assessment of the root causes of conflicts, and by exploring the potential to use sustainable development as a vehicle for effective prevention. In particular, member states need to mobilize political will and financial resources

in support of a more pro-active prevention agenda for sustaining peace.

- A stronger global-regional partnership is needed to respond quickly and effectively to crises, and must be based on enhanced collaboration and consultation.
- Mandate development should marry strategic considerations with enhanced consultations, in particular, when considering troop-and police-contributing countries.
- In the face of the changing nature of conflicts, administrative procedures need to be made more flexible and field-oriented in order for peace operations to meet actual needs on the ground.
- There is a need for greater prevention of, and accountability for sexual exploitation and abuses, which remain a grave concern.
- Leadership, including that of women, is critical and should be enhanced by investing in a merit and expertise-based selection process, and in the preparation and management of performance of high-ranking UN officials.

In closing, participants recognized the continued relevance of recommendations from the HIPPO, an initiative of Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, while highlighting that although implementation of some of the HIPPO's recommendations was underway, their impact on the ground has yet to be felt and major shifts of approach have yet to occur. They stressed that full implementation of key HIPPO recommendations would require the leadership of the next Secretary-General and effective collaboration between the UN Secretariat and member states.

The co-chairs welcomed IPI's publication of the "HIPPO Scorecard," as a summary of the remaining key strategic areas of change that would benefit from the meaningful and focused attention of the next Secretary-General and other international key stakeholders, including the "Friends of HIPPO," an informal group of Permanent Representatives which has been meeting on a regular basis in New York.



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