

United Nations  
Department of Peace Operations  
Department of Operational Support  
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## Guidelines

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# Peacekeeping Capability Readiness System (PCRS)

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Approval date: 1 January 2019  
Contact: Strategic Force Generation and Capability Planning Cell,  
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Review date: 1 January 2021

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**GUIDELINES FOR THE PEACEKEEPING CAPABILITY READINESS SYSTEM**

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**CONTENTS : A. Purpose**

**B. Scope**

**C. Rationale**

**D. System Overview**

**E. Procedures**

**F. Roles and Responsibilities**

**G. Terms and Definitions**

**H. References**

**I. Monitoring and Compliance**

**J. Contacts**

**K. History and Amendments**

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**ANNEX**

- A. Template of the Note Verbale with Pledge
  - B. Table of Organization for PCRS Pledge
  - C. List of Major Equipment (ME) for PCRS Pledge
  - D. List of Self-Sustainment Equipment (SS) for PCRS Pledge
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**A. PURPOSE**

1. The purpose of these guidelines is to detail the procedures related to the registration of pledges made by Member States to the Peacekeeping Capability Readiness System (PCRS) and to explain the System's organization and structure.

**B. SCOPE**

2. These guidelines outline the process of registration of all military, police and civil defence enabling capabilities pledges to the PCRS. They also explain the System's organization and structure, with required criteria to be observed by Member States so pledges can escalate from one level to another in the System. These provide guidance on the actions to be taken by Member States, describe the Secretariat's responsibilities, and list considerations to be observed by both Member States and the Secretariat when using the System.
  3. The guidelines are complementary to the 2017 Contingent Owned Equipment (COE) Manual and provide an umbrella for the 2018 Rapid Deployment Level (RDL) Guideline. The COE Manual remains the official reference for reimbursement of military and police equipment deployed to UN peace operations.
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**C. RATIONALE**

4. The PCRS aims to establish a predictable and dynamic process of interaction between the UNHQ and Member States for ensuring readiness and timely deployment of quality peacekeeping capabilities. To ensure predictability, standardization and efficiency, these guidelines establish clearly defined criteria and a set process for registration and verification to be followed by Member States and the UN Secretariat.
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**D. SYSTEM OVERVIEW**

5. The PCRS replaced the United Nations Standby Arrangement System (UNSAS) in September 2015 and is managed by the Strategic Force Generation and Capability Planning Cell (SFGCPC). The System is web-based and hosted at <https://pcrs.un.org>.
6. The aim of the PCRS is to achieve a greater degree of readiness and predictability for newly-deployed units through a more sustained, efficient, and collaborative approach between UNHQ and the Member States. The PCRS should be the sole mechanism for the selection of a military or police unit for deployment.
7. There are four distinct levels of the PCRS, defined as follows:

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- Level 1: A pledged capability has been fully accepted and registered in the PCRS.
  - Level 2: A Level 1 capability has received a successful Assessment and Advisory Visit (AAV) has been deemed deployable.
  - Level 3: A Level 2 pledged capability has its Contingent-owned Equipment and Personnel aligned with a specific or generic UN military/police requirement (SUR).
  - Rapid Deployment Level (RDL): A unit at the RDL is ready for deployment to any UN filed mission within 60 days of a formal invitation from the Secretariat.
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### **E. PROCEDURES**

#### **8. User Registration for Member States to access the PCRS website**

- 8.1. Member States are authorized to have up to three users registered in the PCRS website. Each user must request their own login identification by filling a registration form in the PCRS website and submitting it to the PCRS Manager through the website.
- 8.2. The PCRS Manager will confirm with the Military/Police Adviser of the Permanent Mission to the UN to authorize/validate these users.
- 8.3. The PCRS Manager will process the information and send to the Unite Service Desk. The user will receive an email from the Unite Service Desk to activate their Unite Identification, which includes a user ID and temporary password for the PCRS website.
- 8.4. The user ID and temporary password will be assigned by Unite Service Desk via email. The temporary password will expire within 24 hours after it is sent. The user must reset the password by following the link and instructions contained in the email.

#### **9. Pledge Registration**

- 9.1. A pledge should be submitted through the PCRS website by filing out a pledge form in the system and uploading a copy of a NV, along with Annex A (Table of Organization), Annex B (List of Major Equipment, and Annex C (List of Self-Sustainment Equipment). Templates of these documents are included as annexes to the guidelines.
- 9.2. If a capability comes with any caveats or specific requests for the location or duration of deployment, those should be listed clearly in

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both the NV and in the pledge form. Any gaps in capability (e.g. shortage of number, equipment, etc.) should also be listed clearly in the NV and pledge form.

- 9.3. Each capability should be pledged separately (one form for each type of formed unit or capability - e.g. infantry battalion, military staff officers, military observers, individual police officers and training support).
- 9.4. Once a pledge is registered, a system generated receipt will be issued by email to the Member State. Any Member State whose pledge does not meet the full requirements for Level 1 will be contacted by the PCRS Manager and Administrator with guidance on how to meet the full requirements to reach Level 1.
- 9.5. If there is any capability gap of the unit pledged in the PCRS, Member States may coordinate with SFGCPC to discuss training, equipment, or other needs to seek help identifying potential sources of assistance. Member States seeking to engage in a bilateral operational partnership can also be assisted by the SFGCPC.
- 9.6. All pledges entered in the PCRS by Member States will receive a label as Pending Approval until they are verified by the PCRS Manager.
- 9.7. Pledges can be created or cancelled at any time by the Member States.

### 10. Pledge Renewal

- 10.1. Member States must renew their pledges annually (based on the UN peacekeeping fiscal year: 1 July - 30 June), regardless of the level of the pledge. A system generated notification will be sent to the Member State 30 days prior to the end of valid fiscal year. A confirmation button will be available, and the user should choose the next UN peacekeeping fiscal year to confirm the pledge.

### 11. Pledge Registration and Acceptance at Level 1

- 11.1. A pledge fulfilling all required criteria will be accepted at Level 1 of the PCRS. A system generated notification will be sent to the user informing of the result.

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11.2. Only military units, police units (FPU, GU and SWAT) and civil defence units will be accepted at Level 1, all other types of pledges (individuals, training support, and other capabilities) will be considered as "Registered". Once these pledges are accepted, a system generated notification will be sent to the user informing the result.

### 12. Elevation from Level 1 to Level 2

12.1. The UN Secretariat will make the decision to initiate the process to move a unit from Level 1 to Level 2. The Secretariat will analyze, among other criteria, the operational requirements in field missions, geographical diversity, a Member State's historical performance record, language, level of female participation, and availability of Secretariat human and financial resources, to invite Member States to initiate a process to elevate a military and/or police unit from Level 1 to Level 2. Member States can, at any point, request the Secretariat to elevate their units from Level 1 to Level 2, but the decision will belong to the Secretariat.

12.2. Once a decision is made to proceed with the protocol to move a pledge from Level 1 to Level 2, the SFGCPC will coordinate with Member States to conduct an Assessment and Advisory Visit (AAV).

12.3. Based upon the outcome of the AAV, Member States will either be informed of the elevation of a pledge to Level 2 by fax from OMA or OROLSI/PD or through a system generated notification. In case the unit is not yet ready to be elevated to Level 2, the Member State will receive advice on the necessary areas of improvement (e.g. training, equipment, operational capability, SEA prevention efforts, etc). The AAV report will be shared with the Member State within 30 days of signature.

12.4. If shortfalls are indicated in the AAV report, the Member State should formally notify the Secretariat, via NV with the SFGCPC in copy, when the shortfalls have been addressed. The notification must attach copy of documents that describe and prove exactly how the shortfalls have been addressed. Once the provided documents are received, the Secretariat will decide whether to elevate the unit from Level 1 to Level 2.

12.5. If a unit is accepted at Level 2, and the Member State is willing to maintain that pledge in the System, the regular annual pledge confirmation will be required for the following UN peacekeeping fiscal year. Following three years on Level 2, if a unit has not been deployed,

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a self-certification from the Member State stating that the unit retains the capabilities that were assessed and verified during the AAV will be required to maintain the unit at that level. This self-certification will be valid for two years. If required, after a five year period total at Level 2, an new AAV will be required to stay at Level 2.

### 13. Elevation from Level 2 to Level 3

13.1. The UN Secretariat will make the decision to initiate the process to move a unit from Level 2 to Level 3. The Secretariat will analyze, among other criteria, the operational requirements in field missions, geographical diversity, a Member State's historical performance record, language, level of female participation, and availability of Secretariat human and financial resources, to invite Member States to initiate a process to elevate a military and/or police unit from Level 2 to Level 3. Member States can, at any point, request the Secretariat to elevate their units, but the decision will belong to the Secretariat.

13.2. Once a decision is made to invite a Member State to elevate a unit to Level 3, the Secretariat will share a generic Statement of Unit Requirement (SUR), if relevant, with the Member State or ask which SUR was used to base the unit's organization and equipment. As soon as the Member State is sure that the unit meets the ME and SS requirements, it should send a NV including the list of the ME, SS, a load list, the desired port of embarkation, and proposed deployment readiness timelines to the SFGCPC. The SFGCPC, with the support from OMA and PD, together with the Department of Operational Support (DOS), will coordinate with the Member State the verification of aforementioned documents.

13.3. Once the documents are verified by DOS and the SFGCPC, and considered acceptable, the Member State will be informed, by fax from OMA or OROLSI/PD, or through a system generated notification about the elevation of that unit from Level 2 to Level 3 in the PCRS.

13.4. If a unit is accepted at Level 3, and the Member State is willing to maintain that pledge in the System, the regular annual pledge confirmation will be required for the following UN peacekeeping fiscal year. After two years at Level 3, a self-certification stating that the unit's information (cargo-load list, ME and SS list and port of embarkation) is

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still valid will be required to maintain the unit at that level. This self-certification will be valid for one year.

14. Elevation to the Rapid Deployment Level (RDL)

14.1. A Member State must make a specific pledge through NV to have a unit registered at the RDL. Units at the RDL undergo a specific verification procedure. Detailed information on procedures for military and police units to be selected for the RDL are provided in the specific RDL Guidelines (Reference 12).

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**F. Roles and Responsibilities**

15. DPO

15.1. OMA is responsible for providing military experts to participate in AAVs when required.

15.2. PD is responsible for providing police experts to participate in AAVs when required.

16. SFGCPC

16.1. The SFGCPC, in coordination with OMA, PD, and DOS, is responsible for general coordination with Member States for all activities related to the PCRS.

16.2. The PCRS Manager shall assist Member States to obtain credentials to use the PCRS website; analyze all pledges and decide the acceptance at Level 1; keep track of all pledges; and ensure deadlines for renewal or expiration of pledges are adhered to.

17. DOS

17.1. DOS is responsible for verifying and validating, together with the SFGCPC, required documents for Level 3 submitted by a Member State and liaising with the Member State to address these problems.

17.2. DOS is responsible for providing technical experts to participate in AAVs.

18. Member States

18.1. Member States are responsible for registering their users for the PCRS website, filling the pledge form, attaching the supporting documentation and submitting the pledge.



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- 18.2. Member States must provide the necessary documents in a timely fashion that are required to elevate or maintain units in the various PCRS Levels.
  - 18.3. Member States are responsible for hosting the AAVs, including, among other things, providing in-country travel arrangements, to provide all supporting documentation and to display all available ME and SS capabilities of the pledged units during these visits.
  - 18.4. Member States are responsible for confirming their pledges in an annual basis before the beginning of the UN peacekeeping fiscal year. They are also responsible for withdrawing their pledges if/when those capabilities are no longer available or at the required state of readiness.
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### **G. Terms and Definitions**

19. PCRS - The Peacekeeping Capability Readiness System (PCRS) replaced the United Nations Standby Arrangement System (UNSAS) in July 2015. The PCRS is a system administered by DPO to register and maintain capability pledges for UN Peacekeeping. It aims to establish a predictable, efficient and dynamic process of interaction between the UNHQ and T/PCCs for ensuring readiness and timely deployment of quality peacekeeping capabilities.
20. UNSAS - United Nations Standby Arrangement System - a system put in place in 1993, after the Agenda for Peace, by Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali to provide standby military forces capable of deploying at short notice for traditional peacekeeping operations to deal with threats to international peace, by agreement with nations concerned; facilitate the planning, implementation and effectiveness of peacekeeping operations.
21. RDL – The Rapid Deployment Level (RDL) is the fourth and highest level of readiness of the PCRS. On completion of RDL verification visit and RDL agreement, a unit is prepared to be fully ready to deploy from the port of embarkation within 60 days of the request made by the Secretariat.
22. AAV - Assessment and Advisory Visit – a visit planned and executed to facilitate the planning and decision-making process of UNHQ and a Member State. It is aimed at gaining an accurate picture of the preparedness and readiness of pledged units, so as to enable more timely deployment of capabilities to peacekeeping operations.

## **H. REFERENCES**

1. 2017 Contingent-Owned Equipment (COE) Manual (A/72/288).
2. 2012.18 - United Nations Policy on Human Rights Screening of United Nations Personnel (11 December 2012).
3. DPKO-DFS 2015.16 - Policy on Operational Readiness Assurance and Performance Improvement (1 January 2016).
4. DPKO/DFS 2016.08 – Guidelines Operational Readiness Preparation for Troop Contributing Countries in Peacekeeping Missions (1 January 2017).
5. DPKO/DFS 2016.10 – Policy (revised) on Formed Police Units in United Nations Peacekeeping Operations (1 January 2017)
6. DPKO/DFS 2017.02 - SOP on Assessment and Advisory Visits (Draft).
7. DPKO/DFS 2017.03 - SOP on Contributing Country Reconnaissance Visits (Draft).
8. DPKO/DFS 2017.04 - SOP on Planning and Implementing Pre-Deployment Visits (Draft).
9. Generic Guidelines for Troop Contributing Countries Deploying Military Units to the UN Peacekeeping Missions dated 2008.
10. Guidelines for Police Contributing Countries Deploying Formed Police Units to Specific UN Missions.
11. SOP Assessment of Operational Capability of Formed Police Units for Service in United Nations Peacekeeping Operations and Special Political Missions (REF 2017, 9).
12. Guidelines for the PCRS Rapid Deployment Level dated January 2019.

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## **I. MONITORING AND COMPLIANCE**

23. The implementation of this policy is monitored by DPO and DOS. Compliance with this policy is mandatory. All DPO/DOS staff involved in the PCRS shall make arrangements to support the implementation of these guidelines.
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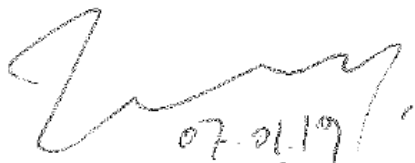
**J. CONTACT**

24. The point of contact for this policy is the Strategic Force Generation and Capability Planning Cell.
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**K. HISTORY AND AMENDMENTS**

25. The policy was approved on 01 January 2019 and shall be effective from that date. The policy shall be reviewed no later than 01 January 2021.
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**APPROVAL SIGNATURE:**



**Jean-Pierre Lacroix**  
**Under-Secretary-General**  
**Department of Peace Operations**

**APPROVAL SIGNATURE:**



**Atul Khare**  
**Under-Secretary-General**  
**Department of Operational Support**

### Template of the Note Verbale for making a Pledge

The Permanent Mission of **XXX** to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Office of the Military Affairs (and/or OROLSI/PD as relevant) of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and has the honour to refer to the “Uniformed Capability Requirements for UN Peacekeeping” paper.

In this respect, the government of **XXX** has the honour to inform of the availability of the following capability(ies) for contribution in UN Peacekeeping Operations if and when requested by the United Nations Secretariat. The government of **XXX** also certifies that the individuals attached to the pledged unit will have completed their basic training in accordance with the UN Training requirements.

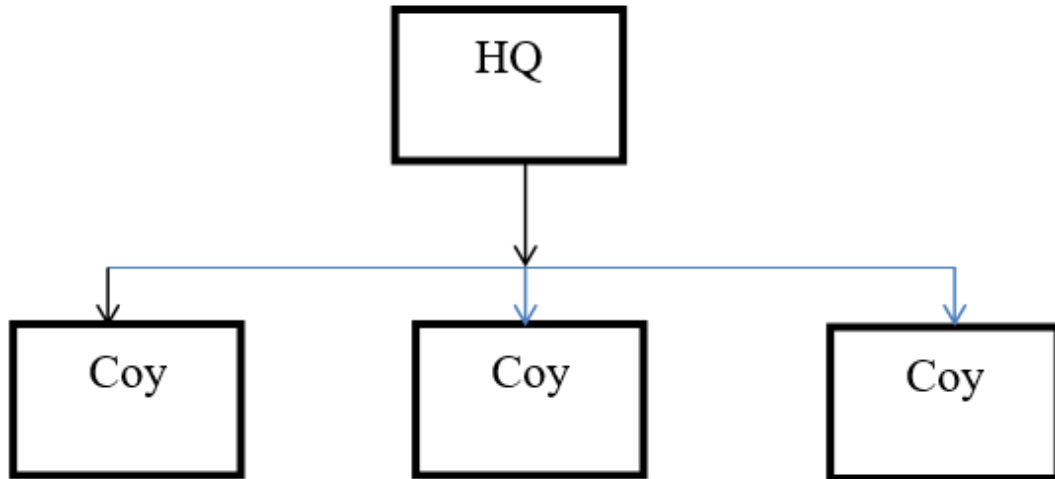
The government of **XXX** certifies that it is not aware of any allegation against any member of the participating unit having been involved, by act or omission, in the commission of any acts that amount to violations of international human rights law or international humanitarian law.

S.No.	Unit / Subunits	Remarks
1.	Level II Hospital <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Table of Organization as per annex A</li> <li>• List of Major Equipment as per annex B</li> <li>• List of Self Sustainment Equipment as per annex C</li> </ul>	
2.	Infantry Battalion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Table of Organization as per annex A</li> <li>• List of Major Equipment as per annex B</li> <li>• List of Self Sustainment Equipment as per annex C</li> </ul>	
3.	Formed Police Units <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Table of Organization as per annex A</li> <li>• List of Major Equipment as per annex B</li> <li>• List of Self Sustainment Equipment as per annex C</li> </ul>	

The Permanent Mission of the **XXX** to the United Nations avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the United Nations Department of Peacekeeping Operations the assurances of its highest consideration.

Date:

Table of Organization for PCRS Pledge



<b>Military Unit/Sub-unit</b>	<b>Number of personnel</b>	<b>Capability</b>
3x Companies	792	
Battalion HQ	40	
Total	832	
<b>Police Unit/Sub-unit</b>	<b>Number of personnel</b>	<b>Capability</b>
Formed Police Unit	160	(SWAT embedded, K9, etc)
Police Guard Unit	240	
SWAT Team	40	

## List of Major Equipment for PCRS Pledge

S.No.	Category of Equipment	Numbers	Remarks
1.	<b>Combat Vehicles</b>		
	<b>Armoured personnel carriers, wheeled</b>		
	Infantry Carrier, armed		
	Command post		
2.	<b>Electrical Equipment</b>		
	<b>Generators (Stationary Type)</b>		
	76-100 kVA		
	101-200 kVA		
3.	<b>Material handling equipment</b>		
	Forklift, medium (up to 5 tons)		
4.	<b>Medical and dental Equipment</b>		
	Level 1 hospital		
5.	<b>Support vehicles (military pattern)</b>		
	Truck, utility/cargo (2.5 to 5 tons)		
6.	.....		
7.	.....		
8.	.....		
9.	.....		

\* Equipment description should follow COE Manual nomenclature

**List of Self Sustainment Equipment for PCRS Pledge**

S.No	Category of Equipment	Numbers	Remarks
1.	<b>Catering</b>		T/PCC
2.	<b>Communication</b>		T/PCC
3.	<b>Office</b>		T/PCC
4.	<b>Electrical</b>		
5.	<b>Minor Engineering</b>		
6.	<b>EOD</b>		T/PCC
7.	<b>Tentage</b>		T/PCC
8.	<b>Accommodation</b>		UN
9.	<b>Basic Firefighting</b>		T/PCC
10.	.....		
11.	.....		
12.	.....		

\* Self-Sustainment capability description should follow COE Manual nomenclature