

**Delegation from
The Republic of Poland**

**Represented by
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Position Paper for the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations (C-34)

The topics under discussion in this Session of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations (C-34) are: I. Strengthening Regional Arrangements in Africa; II. Enhancing Robust Mandates to Deal with Complex Crises; and III. Enhancing the Use of Technology in Peacekeeping Missions. Since 1953, Poland has been dedicated to implementing initiatives on peacekeeping. Over 84,000 Polish soldiers and military personnel have taken part in 71 operations. Presently, Poland is participating in 14 international operations carried out under the auspices of the United Nations (UN), North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and the European Union (EU), in which over 3500 are playing important roles. Considering the urgent need to improve multi-dimensional challenges in African peacekeeping operations, the Republic of Poland looks forward to discussing every topic, particularly Agenda I.

I. Strengthening Regional Arrangements in Africa

As one of the founding members of the Standby High Readiness Brigade (SHIRBRIG), from which the African Standby Force (ASF) was established, Poland is committed to flexible and rapid intervention in emerging conflicts. Poland views ASF as an essential and promising strategic component in order for the African Union (AU) to secure stability in Africa, and enhance peacebuilding and post-conflict reconstruction activities. As a member of the EU, Poland recognizes the significant role of AMANI-AFRICA, a collaborative effort between the AU and the EU, in promoting the full operationalization of ASF and the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA) for strengthening Africa's capacity to deal timely and appropriately with peacekeeping issues. Given the limited human resources in peacebuilding operations in Africa, Poland believes the appropriate structures with staffing and more effective coordination called for in the Report of the Secretary-General on United Nations-African Union cooperation in peace and security (*S/2011/805*) are essential for the ASF to become fully operational. Poland also reaffirms that the AMANI-AFRICA Cycle is an essential tool of assessment and calls upon Member States to contribute to the strategic partnership by providing integrated management capacity building, notably in terms of financial, structural, and human resources. In order to provide training of peacekeeping personnel including financial management capacity building, the delegation of Poland draws attention to Peacekeeping Training Programme of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) for enabling fulfillment of mission mandates and ensuring the safety of peacekeepers in Africa. Poland recommends troop and police contributing countries to closely work with UNITAR through its programs such as training of trainers by building partnerships between existing African peacekeeping training institutions at the regional and sub-regional levels. Also given the limited amount of funding, Poland emphasizes the increasing need for greater cooperation between UN, EU and its relevant partners to provide the AU with adequate financial support necessary for the improvement of troop capacity and technology. Poland encourages all Member States to act in accordance with Security Council Resolution *2173 (2014)* to enhance political communication through which Member States can efficiently and effectively provide financial assistance by making full use of the existing information-sharing mechanism like that of the United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID). For the full achievement of this agenda "Strengthening Regional Arrangements in Africa", Poland believes cooperation with regional organizations is one of the priorities as stated in the speech by Hervé Ladsous, the Head of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO), in Fourth Committee on Peacekeeping. Poland also believes not just international partnerships with the AU, Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), EU, and NATO, but also civil society level partnerships with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and other regional organizations is key to better provide targeted support for peacekeeping and peacebuilding operations in Africa. Poland calls upon Member States to actively include NGOs in the improvement of logistics, medical transportation, human resources including leadership and military training, provision of information on the ground for the safety of peacekeepers and other mission support. The Republic of Poland will continue our efforts to minimize the gaps in African peacekeeping operations through the EU, NATO, and our domestic NGOs.

II. Enhancing Robust Mandates to Deal with Complex Crises

The Republic of Poland supports the robust peacekeeping as it is referred to in the Report of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations *A/68/19 (2014)* where it calls for the respect of basic peacekeeping principles, such as the consent of the parties, impartiality and the non-use of force except in self-defense of a mandate authorized by the Security Council. In 2009, other than ongoing

UN missions, the Polish government decided to remove the Armed Forces, due to civilians and peacekeeping personnel becoming victims. Therefore, Poland recalls and supports the concept of the Responsibility to Protect (R2P) and the GA resolution *A/RES/60/1* in the 2005 World Summit Outcome, especially paragraphs 138 and 139, which declare that every state has the responsibility to protect its population from war crimes, genocide, ethnic cleansing, and crimes against humanity and this responsibility entails the prevention of crimes. Moreover, the resolution states that the international community, through the UN, also has the responsibility to use appropriate diplomatic, humanitarian, and other peaceful means, in accordance with Chapters VI and VIII of the United Nations Charter. Confirming that the GA resolution *A/RES/63/308* (2009) suggests continuing its consideration of responsibility to protect, Poland believes that a robust doctrine and realistic mandates are necessary in order to ensure the safety of the civilians and peacekeepers as already stated in the Report of the Panel on United Nations Peace Operations *A/55/150-S/2000/809* (2000). Mr. Witold Sobków, chairman of the delegation of Poland in the GA 24th plenary meeting *A/65/PV.24* (2010), stated, “We believe that peacekeeping reform must continue. We support efforts that will bring new quality to peacekeeping, and in this regard we are committed to working towards achieving a wider consensus on its strategic aspects through a renewed partnership among all stakeholders.” In February 2015, Poland and Lithuania welcomed Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko's signing of a law ratifying the creation of a joint military unit. The headquarters will be in Lublin, Poland, and the brigade is to become a UN and EU peacekeeping force. Other states can join under joint invitation. Given the years of effort it has taken to reach the agreement, Poland believes that the brigade can make a great contribution to UN missions in terms of troops and financial support. Finally, the Republic of Poland calls upon C-34 to cooperate with all Member States, other brigades, and organizations to ensure the first priority for the peacekeeping mission as a countermeasure against recent complex crises.

III. Enhancing the Use of Technology in Peacekeeping Mission

The Republic of Poland, emphasizes the necessity to ensure security for both peacekeepers and civilians with the increasing security challenges, recognizing and supporting the EU for taking leadership in peacekeeping operations to enhance stability through the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP). From United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO), Poland learned that more comprehensive adoption of technology in peacekeeping operations enhances the implementation of its protection mandates using fewer resources. In this regard, Poland supports the Global Field Support Strategy (GFSS) in promoting the safety and security of peacekeepers and civilians through the improvement of logistical supports such as communications and information technology for military staff officers, UN police and civilian staffs in peacekeeping missions. As Ioannis Vrailas, Deputy Head of the EU Delegation to the UN, encouraged the efforts for modernization of technology in peacekeeping missions during the GA Fourth Committee Sixty-ninth session *GA/SPD/567* (2014), the delegation of Poland recognizes the wider use of modern technologies as vital for the success of peacekeeping operations. Poland recommends DPKO to further explore opportunities to use modern technology in its missions by making full use of existing frameworks in the most effective way. Furthermore, Poland draws attention to a close partnership between the Enterprise Resource Planning System (UMOJA), the Office of Information Communication and Technology (OICT), and the Information Communication, and Technology Division (ICTD) of the Department of Field Support (DFS) in improving the way in which all UN-related data is thoroughly protected by utilizing its advanced methods of data security. This close collaboration between the three actors enhances the use of technology in terms of the safety of peacekeepers and individuals and information gathering. Ms. Pęksa-Krawiec, a delegation of Poland, in the General Assembly Sixth session *A/C.4/60/SR.15* (2005) recognized the significant role of the Report of the Panel on United Nations Peace Operations *A/55/305-S/2000/809* (*Brahimi Report*) in adopting a more complex, mature and effective approach to the reform of peacekeeping mechanisms through the implementation of the recommendations. Poland emphasizes the urgent need to update basic frameworks, which would describe the environment in which peace operations are conducted, give systematic guidelines for the planning, deployment and conduct of operations, and establish rules of engagement with regional organizations and other international institutions taking the use of modern technology into consideration. Thus, the Republic of Poland encourages C-34 to include the possibility for technology to support peacekeeping operations into its updated frameworks adhering to the principles of the *Charter of the United Nations* (1945).