

**Security Council**

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**Letter dated 18 December 2017 from the Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

I have the honour to inform you that, under the presidency of Japan, the Security Council plans to hold a briefing on Thursday 21 December 2017 on peacekeeping operations.

In this regard, Japan has prepared the attached concept note (see annex). I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Koro **Bessho**  
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary  
Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations



## **Annex to the letter dated 18 December 2017 from the Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

### **Concept note for the Security Council briefing on peacekeeping operations, to be held on 21 December**

#### **Overview**

1. In September, the Security Council held an open debate on peacekeeping and unanimously adopted resolution [2378 \(2017\)](#). In paragraph 10 of the resolution, the Security Council requested the Secretary-General to provide recommendations to fill the existing gaps in terms of force generation and capabilities.
2. On the occasion of the release of the Secretary-General's report pursuant to paragraph 10 of resolution [2378 \(2017\)](#), Japan will convene a meeting of the Security Council. The meeting is aimed at discussing measures to fill the existing gaps, focusing especially on training and capacity-building, in view of the discussions to be held and concrete actions to be implemented in 2018.

#### **Background and objective of the briefing**

3. The issue of the gaps in United Nations peacekeeping, especially in terms of force generation and capabilities, has been discussed not only in the Security Council, including during the debate held in October, but also in other forums, including the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations and ministerial conferences, such as the one most recently held in Vancouver, Canada.
4. It is generally agreed that the gaps need to be filled and that training and capacity-building are important tools to that end, tools that can contribute to efforts to improve peacekeeping performance. Efforts have been made by various actors, including the Secretariat, but some gaps remain. Why do these gaps persist? Who can address them and how? In this regard, collective efforts by the Security Council, the Secretariat and Member States (troop/police-contributing countries and donor countries) are imperative.
5. Measures to fill the gaps need to be followed up with the broad participation of stakeholders. The Security Council working group on peacekeeping operations is an appropriate venue to do this, as stipulated in resolution [2378 \(2017\)](#). The Special Committee can also play an essential role in the follow-up. Past and ongoing measures should continue to be assessed regularly, including by using data with regard to their performance. Doing so would contribute to creating a "virtuous cycle", as mentioned by the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Jean-Pierre Lacroix, at the debate in October, including cycle of performance improvement through assessment and advisory visits, regular in-field performance assessments, better planned rotations and deployments of new capabilities and training and capacity-building improvements. "Smart pledging", in which groups of Member States jointly provide capabilities, can also play a role in plugging persistent gaps.
6. United Nations peacekeeping reform, including efforts to fill the gaps and ultimately realize more effective and efficient United Nations peacekeeping, shares a goal with the ongoing Secretary-General's reform initiatives because both aim at increasing the effectiveness and efficiency of the United Nations system and realizing positive change on the ground. The year 2018 is the time to translate the 2017 discussions on United Nations peacekeeping into concrete actions; it also coincides with detailed discussions to be held on the Secretary-General's reform initiatives. Therefore, it would be beneficial to discuss how the issue of the gaps in United

Nations peacekeeping operations can be addressed in the context of the Secretary-General's vision for United Nations reform.

**Suggested questions for discussion**

7. In order to fill the gaps through effective and efficient training and capacity-building, what further measures can be taken? What can the Security Council, the Member States (troop/police-contributing countries and donor countries) and the Secretariat do, respectively, taking into account the background relating to persistent gaps (e.g., in personnel, equipment or mission environment)?
8. Some innovative measures have already been implemented, such as the establishment of the Peacekeeping Capability Readiness System and the Strategic Force Generation and Capability Planning Cell, rotation plans for transport aircraft, triangular partnership projects and the conference on force generation. How can these existing measures be more fully utilized?
9. How can measures to fill the gaps be followed up? What can be done by the Secretariat and peacekeeping missions, and what roles can the Security Council and Member States play?
10. How can we ensure better coordination of training and capacity-building efforts?
11. How can measures to fill the gaps, especially training and capacity-building, be positioned in the Secretary-General's reform initiatives?

**Format and outcome**

12. There will be a briefing by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, followed by statements by Council members. No outcome document is expected.
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