DOS ENVIRONMENT STRATEGY FOR PEACE OPERATIONS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Phase Two: July 2020 – June 2023

The Environment Strategy for Peace Operations is a six-year strategy (2017 to 2023) to achieve a vision for the deployment of “responsible missions that achieve maximum efficiency in their use of natural resources and operate at minimum risk to people, societies and ecosystems; contributing to a positive impact on these wherever possible.” It responds to existing – and accompanies evolving – mandates from the membership of the United Nations that stress the importance of environmental management, and it embodies part of the shared commitment to this issue set out under paragraph 23 of Action for Peacekeeping.

OBJECTIVES

The strategy is built on five priority pillars, in pursuit of the following objectives (updated for Phase 2):

- **Env. Mgm't System**: To introduce and maintain a system to mitigate adverse environmental impacts and enhance environmental performance in line with the UN’s objectives.
- **Energy**: To reduce overall demand for energy through efficiencies, increase the proportion of energy sourced from renewables and reduce GHG emissions.
- **Water and Wastewater**: To optimize the use of resources for water and wastewater operations while managing risk to personnel, local communities and ecosystems.
- **Waste**: To minimize solid and hazardous waste generation and improve waste management, reducing the level of risk to UN personnel, local communities and ecosystems.
- **Wider Impact**: To ensure that operational requirements are met in a way that takes account of environmental impact and to increase the extent to which the footprint leaves a positive legacy.

ACHIEVEMENTS OF PHASE ONE

Phase 1 of the strategy ran from January 2017 to June 2020. It saw the introduction of global systems to support planning, performance and risk management, as well as a concerted effort within individual missions to address or integrate environmental considerations on the ground.

- An extensive data collection and verification system was established, providing – for the first time – a reliable picture of the environmental footprint of UN peace operations down to the site level, with issuance of an annual ‘scorecard’ for each mission that increases visibility as well as identifies priorities and gaps.
- Capacity was strengthened both in missions and at HQ to support progress on environmental management, including both civilian and uniformed components. Strong communities of practice have been established with regular exchange of information and good practice across missions.
- A risk assessment methodology was developed and applied for both wastewater and solid and hazardous waste management, resulting in the elimination of almost all significant risk in these areas within the three-year period.
- Missions developed multi-year plans in the areas of energy infrastructure management, waste management and environmental impact assessment, following promulgation of SOPs that provide a more coherent and holistic approach to these core operational requirements while taking environmental considerations into account.
  - Technical guidance, training and awareness raising was rolled out on a wide array of topics, ranging from the role of individual uniformed peacekeepers in environmental management to how missions can safely dispose of hazardous waste, and from how to commission waste-water treatment plants to how to calculate costs savings on energy projects. On-ground and remote technical assistance was provided on request to 19 missions, constituting some 900 days, and resulting in more than 340 follow-up actions, with dedicated specific assistance provided to missions drawing down.
  - Tangible progress was achieved across all pillars, with mission scores steadily increasing across the board and many examples of concrete steps taken to improve performance. For instance: synchronization of generators increased from 22% to 55%, installation of LED lighting from 37% to 63%, use of alternate water sources (e.g., harvested rainwater) from 8% to 23%, and installation of oil/water separators from 42% to 67%, as well as many other examples. Meanwhile, new approaches on waste, wastewater, renewables have been tested to inform strategic directions for the second phase of strategy implementation.
KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Global Strategy KPI</th>
<th>2019/20</th>
<th>2020/21</th>
<th>2021/22</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Range of mission environmental management scores</td>
<td>N/A-88</td>
<td>N/A-89</td>
<td>63-91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proportion of data directly measured vs estimated</td>
<td>66%</td>
<td>73%</td>
<td>73%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Proportion of sites where environmental inspections were conducted</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>87%</td>
<td>93%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Generators fuel consumption (UNOE and COE) (L/cap/d)</td>
<td>3.5</td>
<td>3.5</td>
<td>3.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proportion of renewable energy</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GHG emissions (TCO2eq/cap/year)</td>
<td>7.5</td>
<td>7.0</td>
<td>7.3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Freshwater use (L/cap/d)</td>
<td>159</td>
<td>123</td>
<td>114</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sites where wastewater assessed to pose a minimum risk (%)</td>
<td>66%</td>
<td>69%</td>
<td>72%</td>
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<td>Sites that use some alternative water sources (e.g., treated wastewater, collected rainwater) (%)</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>62%</td>
<td>57%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Generation of solid waste (kg/cap/d)</td>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>1.7</td>
<td>1.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sites where waste assessed to pose a minimum risk (%)</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Share of waste with preferred disposal methods</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>51%</td>
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STRATEGIC APPROACHES AND PRIORITIES FOR PHASE TWO

Phase 2 of the strategy, running to June 2023, is building on the foundations and structures put in place during Phase One, in order to advance progress on the ground. There is a particular focus the introduction of renewable energy and on exploring opportunities to leave a positive legacy through the physical footprint of peace operations.

• Environmental performance and risk data and reporting continue to be strengthened – including through increased use of remote monitoring methods that facilitate verification. The link between data analysis, planning and budgeting is being strengthened through better software and processes.
• An updated environment policy will be promulgated that includes clear expectations and standards for compliance, based on lessons learned and expertise gathered during the implementation of Phase 1.
• Category management strategies are being implemented in relation to energy, waste and water and wastewater to provide to missions with a suite of solutions that can be tailored to their specific needs while taking into consideration opportunities to leave a positive legacy for host communities.
• Efforts are being made to minimize waste through analyses of sourcing to identify the potential for reduced packaging, improved material use for recycling, reuse or disposal, and upgraded standards to improve quality of supplied goods for improved longevity. Takeback solutions for specific products are evaluated on a case-by-case basis with the aim to relieve missions of future waste stockpiles.

TIMELINE

Phase One:

- Env capacity created at HQ and REACT partnership launched
- Early 2017
- Mission environmental action plans completed for 2017/2018
- Mid-2017
- Strategy begins
- Oct 2017
- Mission performance reports include scores for the first time
- First round of data collection completed
- Mid-2018
- First meeting of the Group of Friends
- Early 2018
- UNHQ management reform
- Late 2019
- Second round of data collected
- Mid-2020
- Third round of data collected
- Late 2021
- Revised Environment Policy
- Mid-2022
- Contingent-owned equipment working group
- Early 2023
- Sixth round of data collected, end of strategy implementation

Phase Two:

- Launch of new eAPP system
- Oct 2020
- Strategy KPI baselines reported to Member States
- Late 2020
- Analysis of Phase One data completed and Phase Two launched
- Early 2021
- Fifth round of data collected
- Mid-2022
- Full analysis of strategy implementation presented, and next steps laid out
- Late 2022
- Revised Environment Policy
- Mid-2023
- Contingent-owned equipment working group
- Early 2023