

PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH

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DELAY IN RECEIVING CLEARANCE FROM THE HOST NATION ARE RESULTING IN UNFAIR REIMBURSEMENT REDUCTIONS FOR MAJOR EQUIPMENT, SELF-SUSTAINMENT ITEMS, CONSUMABLES AND SPARE PARTS

1. ISSUE PAPER THEME

Major Equipment, Self – Sustainment, Medical and Other

2. SUMMARY / BACKGROUND / PREVIOUS HISTORY

The UN is responsible for transporting all major equipment, self-sustainment equipment, consumables and spare parts during the initial deployment phase. Once deployed, it becomes the responsibility of the TCC to sustain their troops, including the maintenance and replenishment of major equipment, self-sustainment assets, and other operational necessities. Additionally, with occasional updates to the SUR or MOU, new equipment/ items are often added to the SUR. More so, the shelf life of ammunition often gets expired, requiring timely replacement from the home country.

To meet these evolving needs, TCCs typically plan for resupply of major equipment, self-sustainment items, consumables, and spares either during troop rotation, at regular intervals throughout the year through sea shipments. However, even when fully prepared and in possession of an approved CLL from UNHQ, TCCs often face significant delays in dispatching these supplies due to prolonged host nation clearance processes. These delays are primarily bureaucratic in nature and can take months or even years to resolve.

As a result, TCCs are subjected to unfair reimbursement deductions for equipment and supplies that are ready for deployment but held up due to clearance issues, factors entirely beyond their control. It is important to note that UN is responsible to provide necessary assistance for obtaining shipment clearance from the host nations. The current situation not only imposes an unjust financial burden on TCCs but also undermines their operational sustainability and commitment to UN peacekeeping missions. Moreso, delays in the arrival of essential equipment and logistical assets compromise mission sustainability, safety and potentially putting personnel and peacekeeping objectives at risk.

3. DETAILED PROPOSAL

The UN in coordination with host nations, should work towards streamlining cargo and shipment clearance procedures to facilitate timely deployment and resupply by TCCs. This includes establishing clear, time-bound protocols for the processing of entry permissions and cargo clearance, along with creating responsive mechanisms to address and resolve bureaucratic delays.

The COE Working Group should review current reimbursement policies to ensure they accurately reflect the readiness and sustained efforts of TCCs. Current policies do not adequately account for delays caused by host nation clearance processes, factors entirely beyond the control of TCCs. To promote equity and transparency, adjustments should be made to prevent unjust reimbursement deductions in cases where equipment, consumables, and spares are ready for deployment but are delayed due to clearance-related procedural issues.

2026 COE WORKING GROUP | MEMBER STATE ISSUE PAPER

COE Manual (current 2023 version)

Present COE manual 2023, Chapter 4 clearly defines the responsibility of the UN at the time of initial deployment and repatriation including transportation of consumables and spares. However, Paragraph VI-

Rotation of equipment and Paragraph VII-Transportation of spare parts and consumables does not clearly define the issues mentioned above. Only in Chapter 4, Sub Paragraph 28 it is mentioned that "Upon request from a troop- or police-contributing country, the United Nations may assist the troop- or police-contributing country by providing guidance on how to arrange such shipments and appropriate assistance in obtaining cargo entry clearance from host countries in a timely manner".

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5. PROPOSED 2026 COE MANUAL TEXT

An additional paragraph may be inserted in Chapter 4 as Paragraph IX, under the heading Reimbursement, with the following text: (text in bold proposed below)

"If the TCC/PCC is prepared to deploy with the necessary major equipment, ammunition, self-sustainment items, consumables, spare parts and the Cargo Load List has been approved by UNHQ, but the required shipping clearance cannot be obtained from the relevant authorities of the host nation, then the TCC/PCC shall continue to receive reimbursement from the date the Cargo Load List is approved till the time all major equipment, ammunition, self-sustainment items, consumables and spare parts are received by mission contingent."