

INDIA

India Issue Paper # 03

RECOGNITION AND REIMBURSEMENT FOR LONG TERM USE OF IMPROVISED MISSION CRITICAL EQUIPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE BY TCCS

1. ISSUE PAPER THEME

Major Equipment and Self Sustenance

2. SUMMARY / BACKGROUND / PREVIOUS HISTORY

- (a) Various UN missions, especially those in austere or conflicted areas, lack adequate infrastructure to execute their mandate at the onset of deployment. Troop Contributing Countries (TCCs) often invest significant effort and capital in creating improvised but mission critical infrastructure to maintain as well as enhance operational continuity.
- (b) TCCs routinely undertake construction of temporary or semi- permanent infrastructure to enhance the operational capability. Usage of new technology such as light weight aero models for aerial surveillance, dash cameras, motion sensors and CCTVs not only augment the operational capability but also act as Force Multiplier (FM). However, these equipment/ resources are neither provisioned by the UN nor reimbursed under existing authorised equipment list. During various COE inspection, the inspection teams acknowledge as well as appreciate the utility of such equipment, but absence of any policy framework fails to provide TCCs with any compensation.
- (c) Therefore, TCCs resort to use their own resources and undertake improvisation to rapidly establish functional bases and facilities. The current COE manual does not adequately recognise or compensate for such contributions unless they fall within narrowly defined reimbursable category. Hence the option available to the TCCs are either to bear the cost of these equipment from own expenses or struggle to operate in resource devoid environment with available equipment/ technology.

3. DETAILED PROPOSAL

- (a) With emergence of new technology/ equipment and difficulty in its inclusion in authorised list of equipment, it is recommended to establish a new sub-category of "Improvised Mission Infrastructure". This category would assist TCCs to include any such equipment/ technology that would act as FM in executing their operational/ logistics task in remote operational areas. It would boost morale of the troops in carrying out their duty as well as provide an opportunity to expose troops with new and emerging technology in hostile and unpredictable environment.
- (b) Such equipment can be verified by designated inspection team and be reimbursed accordingly. Since this equipment would not be very costly, a waiver can be given to the user unit to continue its usage back home post completion of UN deployment and fresh equipment be provided to the new unit. The rationale behind this proposal is that since this equipment are not very expensive, they are prone to regular breakage and non-function which would further burden the repair cost. This equipment also has short usage time frame hence it is more economical to replace than to repair.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

While initial reimbursement outlays may slightly increase, this measure promotes equity and incentivizes innovation. In the long term, it will enhance operational capability and provide opportunity to exploit emerging technology.

5. PROPOSED 2026 COE MANUAL TEXT

To be inserted in Chapter 3, Annex B - Self-Sustainment and Engineering Categories Improvised Mission Infrastructure.

“TCCs may submit claims for infrastructure created/ procured in the field which was not originally planned but deemed as operational necessary for sustaining peacekeeping function. Such infrastructure includes but not limited to fortified checkpoints, helipads, operational shelters, and storage structures must be certificated by mission COE teams and approved by the United Nations HQ for one-time or prorated reimbursement. Eligibility will be based on function, contribution to mandate and alignment with environment and structural standard.”