

NEPAL

Nepal Issue Paper # 01

INCLUSION OF PERSONNEL BAGGAGE LOSS AND DAMAGE IN COE REIMBURSEMENT POLICY

1. ISSUE PAPER THEME

Other / Crosscutting

2. SUMMARY / BACKGROUND / PREVIOUS HISTORY

The COE Manual 2023, Chapter 6, does not include provisions for the loss or damage of personal baggage of contingent personnel due to hostile actions or circumstances beyond the control of the Troop-Contributing Country (T/PCC) during transit. This omission creates a financial burden on peacekeepers and T/PCCs, as there is no formal mechanism to claim compensation for such losses. This issue paper proposes to ensure that personnel baggage lost or damaged under such conditions is recognized under COE reimbursement policies in chapter 6.

BACKGROUND:

During peacekeeping deployments, personnel are required to transport essential personal baggage, including uniforms, equipment, and basic personal necessities (except soldier's kit). In many instances, such baggage is lost or damaged due to:

- Hostile Actions: Attacks on convoys, aircraft, or supply routes.
- Theft or Looting: In unstable regions during transit or movement between operational zones.
- Natural Disasters or Accidents: Incidents such as flooding, fire, or aircraft mishaps.

3. DETAILED PROPOSAL

To address this gap, following points are proposed in Chapter 6 of the COE Manual:

1. Inclusion of a Personnel Baggage Loss and Damage Clause:
 - Recognize personal baggage as an essential component of deployment logistics.
 - Provide a framework for reimbursement when loss or damage occurs due to hostile action or other uncontrollable factors during transit.
2. Establishment of Compensation Criteria:
 - Define the categories of baggage eligible for compensation (e.g., mission-issued equipment, uniforms, and personal necessities).
 - Set a maximum reimbursement limit per peacekeeper based on mission standards.
3. Standardized Reporting and Verification Procedures:
 - Require an official mission report confirming that the loss occurred due to hostile action or other uncontrollable circumstances.
 - Establish a structured claims process, similar to contingent-owned equipment damage claims.
4. Implementation of a Transparent Reimbursement Mechanism:
 - Ensure T/PCCs are reimbursed for the verified losses and damages of personnel baggage.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The introduction of reimbursement for loss or damage to personal baggage is expected to have a limited financial impact on the UN's COE budget. Each claim is capped at USD 1,000 per individual and is subject to confirmation through a Board of Inquiry (BOI) and mission reporting, ensuring that only verified and justified cases are reimbursed.

5. PROPOSED 2026 COE MANUAL TEXT

Proposed text Chapter 6, IV.

17. Reimbursement for Loss or Damage to Personnel Baggage

Reimbursement for loss or damage to personal baggage of contingent personnel may be considered under the COE reimbursement framework. Such reimbursement shall be subject to the following conditions:

- **The maximum amount payable shall not exceed USD 1,000 per individual case.**
- **Reimbursement shall be provided only after confirmation by a Board of Inquiry (BOI), based on a formal report from the field mission.**
- **Reimbursement shall cover only personal items, and shall exclude any standard-issue soldier's kit items supplied as part of the contingent's military equipment.**
- **Formal claims shall be submitted by the T/PCC based on BOI findings and the actual costs of the loss or damage.**