

NEPAL

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PROPOSAL TO INCLUDE REIMBURSEMENT FOR MAJOR COMPONENTS OF SELF-SUSTAINMENT (SS) CAPABILITIES UNDER THE PEACEKEEPING CAPABILITY READINESS SYSTEM (PCRS)

1. ISSUE PAPER THEME

Self-Sustainment

2. SUMMARY / BACKGROUND / PREVIOUS HISTORY

While the COE Manual provides a general framework for reimbursement, it does not currently include provisions specifically addressing self-sustainment (SS) capabilities maintained by Troop-Contributing Countries (T/PCCs) under the Peacekeeping Capability Readiness System (PCRS). Although the PCRS encourages high readiness and rapid deployment, the existing financial framework does not fully address the costs associated with sustaining SS capabilities, which may impact T/PCCs' ability to consistently maintain these capabilities at optimal readiness levels.

Additionally, maintaining SS capabilities under PCRS requires year-round readiness, including continuous preparation, maintenance, and equipment upkeep. While T/PCCs are expected to maintain fully trained and equipped troops throughout the year, the actual deployment period is typically limited to short durations not exceeding 60 days. This results in a situation where substantial investment is required to keep both personnel and critical self-sustainment equipment—such as communications, observation, and medical systems—in operational condition at all times. Without specific financial provisions for these sustained readiness efforts, T/PCCs face logistical and budgetary challenges in meeting PCRS expectations.

BACKGROUND:

The PCRS framework encourages T/PCCs to register and maintain high-readiness units at Levels 2, 3, and Rapid Deployment Level (RDL). RDL units are expected to be deployable within 60 days or less and must have self-sustainment capacities ready for immediate use, including capabilities in communications, medical care, catering, observation, and sanitation.

Many of the SS items—such as VHF/UHF/HF radios, night vision devices, Laser Range Finder (LRF), binoculars, ECG machines, defibrillators, and AEDs—require continuous upkeep, including battery replacement, calibration, and preventive preservation (e.g., tube preservation, Battery replacement for night vision devices). These items are technically sophisticated and critical to operational success but are not categorized as Major Equipment (ME), making them ineligible for reimbursement under the current COE framework.

Landlocked T/PCCs and countries without domestic production capacities face even greater challenges, often depending on third-country imports and requiring early procurement and pre-positioning of up to 90% of SS items to meet readiness and verification timelines. This is especially critical for high-readiness units under the RDL, where deployment is expected within 60 days or less.

In light of these operational and logistical demands, it is imperative that certain Self-Sustainment (SS) items particularly those that are technically advanced, high in cost, and essential for enabling rapid deployment should be formally recognized as eligible for reimbursement within the PCRS framework.

3. DETAILED PROPOSAL

To address the current reimbursement gap and support operational sustainability within PCRS, it is proposed that:

- Reimbursement should be introduced for selected SS capabilities that are verified and maintained by T/PCCs during the readiness/ verification phase/ for RDL units under PCRS, prior to deployment.
- High-value, technically complex SS items—especially those related to communications, observation, EOD items and medical support—should be reclassified under the Major Equipment (ME) category when they are dedicated to and verified as part of RDL commitments.
- The reimbursement mechanism may follow either:
 - Flat-rate allowance for declared and verified SS items assigned to RDL units, or
 - Cost-based reimbursement model subject to existing UN verification and audit standards, based on actual costs incurred by T/PCCs in maintaining such equipment.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The financial implications of this proposal are expected to be moderate, as it applies only to a limited number of units registered at the RDL level. Providing reimbursement for select SS items would promote fair burden-sharing, encourage participation in PCRS, and help ensure rapid deployment readiness. All reimbursements would be subject to existing COE verification procedures, financial ceilings, and accountability mechanisms

5. PROPOSED 2026 COE MANUAL TEXT

Chapter 8, Section II, Peacekeeping Capability Readiness System, para 16, p. 181.

8.16 Reimbursement for Self-Sustainment (SS) Capabilities for Rapid Deployment Level (RDL) Units

16. To enhance the readiness of units registered at the Rapid Deployment Level (RDL) under the Peacekeeping Capability Readiness System (PCRS), it is proposed that certain self-sustainment (SS) capabilities maintained by Troop-Contributing Countries (T/PCCs) be eligible for reimbursement. This is to ensure that units can deploy quickly and operate effectively once deploy in the mission area.

- a. **Eligibility for reimbursement shall be limited to SS items that meet the following criteria:**
 - The items are dedicated to RDL-registered units and maintained as part of their readiness.
 - The items are kept in working condition throughout the year, ensuring that RDL units are always prepared for deployment when needed.
 - The items are considered critical for quick deployment and initial mission success, meaning they are necessary for the unit's immediate operational capabilities once deployed.
- b. **Eligible SS items include high-value, technically complex equipment such as:**
 - Communications equipment, including radios (e.g., VHF/UHF/HF radios),
 - Observation equipment, such as night vision devices, binoculars, and Laser Range finder,
 - Medical equipment, including Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs), ECG machines, and other critical medical devices.

These items are essential for the unit's ability to function independently and effectively once deployed.

c. **Reimbursement as Major Equipment (ME):**

These SS items, due to their technical complexity and high value, should be classified as Major Equipment (ME) for reimbursement purposes. Reimbursement will be based on the verification of these items by the UN, ensuring they are maintained to the required standards of readiness.

d. **Reimbursement Process:**

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The reimbursement method for these items will be a flat-rate reimbursement for eligible items, to be determined by the UN. The specific guidelines for flat-rate reimbursement may be developed in consultation with Member States and incorporated into the PCRS framework.