

THE REPUBLIC OF RWANDA

Rwanda Issue Paper # 02

REPATRIATION OF EXPIRED AMMUNITIONS AND EXPLOSIVES AT UN EXPENSE

1. ISSUE PAPER THEME

Major Equipment

2. SUMMARY / BACKGROUND / PREVIOUS HISTORY

The COE Manual 2023 outlines the procedures for managing expired munitions in UN missions. Troop and police contributing countries (T/PCCs) are responsible for authorizing the disposal of expired or unserviceable ammunition and explosives. This authorization should be provided within six months of the expiry date or when the ammunition is declared unserviceable. If authorization is not given within this timeframe, the UN will dispose of the munitions in the mission area for safety reasons. The manual suggests that the process for approval of destruction or life extension of ammunition begin 18 months before the expiry date. Expired ammunition can negatively affect operational effectiveness and pose a threat. If a T/PCC is ready to replace expired items but the UN cannot transport them within 3-6 months, no reimbursement will be deducted. However, in some missions such as UNMISS, there have been hindrances to the replenishment of ammunitions and explosives, mainly because of the caveat and restrictions imposed by the host nation, over which neither the United Nations nor the TPCCs has control. This resulted into delays in ammunitions and explosive replenishment and the consequences are borne by the T/PCCs whose reimbursements are cut. In summary, the manual provides a framework for handling expired munitions to ensure safety and efficiency, placing key responsibilities on T/PCCs. In this respect, we suggest that TPCCs be responsible for a mistake they have caused but not for the less flexible procedures and restrictions imposed by the host nation.

3. DETAILED PROPOSAL

Expired ammunition and explosives affect operational effectiveness and readiness of the contingent, as well as financial loss to the T/PCCs. Such a state of ammunition stock poses a great threat to the effectiveness of the police/military components of the mission. Moreover, the T/PCC also faces setbacks in terms of the deduction of reimbursement against the expired ammunition and explosives. In this regard, it is imperative to stipulate that in instances where disposal is not possible due to restrictions by the host nation, the UN should endeavour to repatriate these ammunitions to the home country for disposal and eventual replenishment or to the country neighbouring the host country for disposal at UN expense. The UN should continue to reimburse the T/PCCs if they are ready to replenish the expired ammunition and explosives but transportation of the items to mission area is not possible because the disposal of the expired and non-serviceable ammunitions and explosives within the mission was restricted by the host country.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Repatriating and disposing of expired ammunition involves financial outlays, including transportation, safety measures, disposal procedures, and environmental safeguards.

5. PROPOSED 2026 COE MANUAL TEXT

- The 2026 COE Manual should reflect the following options for the disposal of expired ammunitions and explosives:
 - a) In the mission disposal of expired ammunitions as the first option
 - b) Ammunition repatriation to the home country for disposal at UN expense in case disposal in the mission is not possible due to host country restrictions.
 - c) Repatriation to the country neighbouring the host country for disposal at UN expense.
 - d) In cases where in-mission disposal is not possible due to restrictions by the host country, resulting in

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delays in ammunitions and explosives replenishment, there should be no reimbursement cuts for ammunitions and explosives, weapons, and personnel using such equipment.

END