

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

United States Issue Paper # 06

REPATRIATION OF UNSERVICEABLE COE

1. ISSUE PAPER THEME

Major Equipment, Self-Sustainment

2. SUMMARY / BACKGROUND / PREVIOUS HISTORY

Repatriating non-functioning equipment during the withdrawal phase of a mission is unnecessarily costly. The drawdown and liquidation of The United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) highlighted gaps in policy in the disposal action for contingent-owned equipment, including the disposal of unserviceable and beyond economical repair equipment. The Board of Auditors financial report and audited financial statements, volume II, for the period of July 2023 to June 2024 also notes the threat posed by stockpiling unserviceable contingent-owned equipment in the event of a drawdown.

3. DETAILED PROPOSAL

It is proposed to revise the existing policy of the COE Manual, informed by the withdrawal and liquidation of MINUSMA, to limit the eligibility period for the repatriation of equipment that is unserviceable and beyond economic repair to reduce transportation costs that exceed any remaining value of such equipment.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

To be determined by the Secretariat.

5. PROPOSED 2026 COE MANUAL TEXT

Chapter 4, Section IV Deployment and repatriation of equipment, paragraph 8, p. 142, add text in bold:

8. The United Nations is responsible for the deployment and repatriation of contingent-owned major and minor equipment, including spare parts and consumables, as noted in the memorandum of understanding or as outlined in the guidelines for troop-contributing countries. **Contingent-owned equipment that is reported as non-functional for four consecutive quarters (12 months) or more and has not been disposed of by the contingent will become ineligible for repatriation at UN expense. Any additional exceptions to this policy will be treated on a case-by-case basis and will require UN concurrence.** The port of embarkation/disembarkation shall be agreed upon and noted in the memorandum of understanding. For landlocked countries or countries where equipment is moved by road or rail to the mission area, the port of embarkation/disembarkation will be an agreed border crossing.⁵ The United Nations will normally make the necessary transportation arrangements with the troop/police contributor and appropriate carriers. When a troop/police contributor offers to provide transportation to and from the mission area, or when the United Nations is unable to provide the required transportation, the United Nations may request the troop/police contributor via a letter of assist to provide such transportation. In such cases, the United Nations will reimburse the troop/police contributor the associated cost up to the estimated amount that would have been incurred had the United Nations provided those services, normally the lowest bid that meets the transportation requirement, or provide reimbursement at a rate agreed to between the United Nations and the troop/police contributor.

- Where there are delays to troop/police contributing country's ability to deploy due to equipment procurement, personnel training, or other reasons that only affect a part of the unit's ability to deploy, the United Nations may consider a phased deployment of the unit to meet the operational needs of the receiving field mission. Phased deployments will only be considered where the operational integrity of the unit can still be maintained (at a reduced level) and the reduced unit can carry out the mandated tasks considered critical for the success of the field mission, especially when it can save lives. The decision to authorize a phased deployment will remain with the United Nations Secretariat, on advice from the receiving field mission and in discussion with the troop/ police contributor. Where the delay

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is caused by the procurement of equipment, personnel associated with the employment of that equipment should not be deployed until that equipment is available within the mission. Any delay to equipment deployment should not increase the operational risks to the personnel deploying.

Chapter 4, Section VI Rotation of Equipment, paragraph 24 and 26, p. 145-146, proposed replacement:

24. Certain categories of major equipment under prolonged deployment to peace operations that are non-operable **for four or more consecutive quarters (12 months)**, or for which continued maintenance is not economical in the mission area, **cannot** be considered for rotation **at United Nations expense** under the arrangement of the United Nations or under the letter of assist **except when otherwise approved** at the discretion of a mission contingent-owned equipment/memorandum of understanding management review board, in consultation with the applicable contingent commander, on the basis of operational requirements within the mission. These categories are as follows: aircraft/airfield support equipment, all types of vehicles, material handling equipment, logistical equipment, electrical equipment, communication equipment, and engineering equipment.

Major equipment that are non-operable for four or more consecutive quarters (12 months) and has not been disposed of by the contingent will become ineligible for rotation at United Nations expense, except when it directly impacts the operations of the unit as assessed by the mission contingent-owned equipment/memorandum of understanding management review board.

Chapter 4, Section VIII Disposal of contingent-owned equipment, paragraph 38, p. 148, proposed replacement:

38. The in-mission disposal of contingent-owned equipment should be an ongoing process, rather than an action undertaken shortly before contingent repatriation. As part of the quarterly contingent-owned equipment verification process, contingents may consider conducting a regular in-mission disposal analysis of such equipment. This analysis should include a list of contingent-owned equipment that has become unserviceable, is beyond economical repair or is obsolete, with a recommendation for disposal actions. Contingent-owned equipment that is found to be non-functional for four consecutive quarters (12 months) must be repaired by the contingent or otherwise disposed of either through repatriation by the troop/police contributor or through an in-mission disposal method within the following six months. **Contingent-owned equipment that is reported as non-functional for four consecutive quarters (12 months) or more and has not been disposed of by the contingent will become ineligible for repatriation at UN expense. Any additional exceptions to this policy will be treated on a case-by-case basis and will require UN concurrence.**