

SECRETARIAT

DISPOSAL OF CONTINGENT OWNED EQUIPMENT - COMPLIANCE WITH UNITED NATIONS POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Secretariat Issue Paper # 21

1. ISSUE PAPER THEME: Major Equipment

2. SUMMARY / BACKGROUND / PREVIOUS HISTORY

The rapid drawdown and liquidation of the Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) highlighted several challenges in the rapid disposal and/or repatriation of contingent-owned equipment. One issue identified was that certain types of contingent owned equipment could not be disposed of within the mission area due to security implications and needed to be removed for repatriation and/or destruction. For example, MINUSMA's mission specific policies did not allow for disposal via donation or sale of certain types of sensitive military assets deployed under MOU (such as Armoured Personnel Carriers, armaments, ammunition etc.), due to associated safety, security, customs/tax, and Human Rights due diligence requirements. Other types of items (such as medical consumables) could only be disposed of providing certain checks and procedures were followed. As such it is recommended that the COE Manual Chapter 4 section on disposals be strengthened to affirm that the disposal method for COE deployed in UN peace operations must also be conducted in accordance with existing UN policies and procedures. This will allow missions and T/PCCs to proceed with future disposal activities with more clarity on regulations and respective responsibilities.

The proposal has not previously been considered by the Contingent-Owned Equipment Working Group.

3. DETAILED PROPOSAL

The current COE Manual text in Chapter 4, Section VIII, Disposal of contingent-owned equipment (p.33) currently requires that the in-mission disposal of equipment deployed under MOU is conducted in compliance with 'the mission status-of-forces agreement or status of mission agreement; host country customs and tax rules, regulations and procedures; and other relevant host country and international laws', however fails to include UN policies and procedures. This policy proposal suggests expanding the list to include 'United Nations policies and procedures'.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There is no financial implication from this proposal, as specific decisions regarding disposal of equipment will occur within existing budgetary resources.

5. PROPOSED 2026 COE MANUAL TEXT

The following text, in bold, is proposed to be added to para 33, Chapter 4, Section VIII. Disposal of contingent-owned equipment (p.147/281) of the COE Manual:

33. Contingent-owned equipment may be disposed of by repatriation, as stipulated in paragraph 8 of the present chapter, or in the mission area by sale, donation or disposal action by the mission on behalf of the troop/police contributor. In-mission disposal of contingent-owned equipment, by any method, must be in compliance with the mission status-of-forces agreement or status of mission agreement, **United Nations regulations and policies**; host country customs and tax rules, regulations and procedures; and other relevant host country and international laws.