

SECRETARIAT

PROHIBITING THE DEPLOYMENT OF MINOR EQUIPMENT AND CONSUMABLES CONTAINING SUBSTANCES BANNED UNDER INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS, PROTOCOLS AND TREATIES

Secretariat Issue Paper # 41

1. ISSUE PAPER THEME: Other / Cross-cutting

2. SUMMARY / BACKGROUND / PREVIOUS HISTORY

Contingents may deploy to field missions with major equipment, minor equipment or consumables such as pesticides, lubricants, solvents, refrigerant gases, fire extinguishing agents, reagents or water treatment chemicals containing hazardous substances which may represent a hazard for safety, human health due to their toxic, corrosive, flammable, reactive or otherwise dangerous properties.

In absence of guidance on the topic, some of the hazardous substances deployed by contingents may be banned, or contain constituents banned, by relevant international conventions, protocols, treaties, or host country regulations.

The ultimate disposal of equipment and/or consumables containing substances banned by international conventions, protocols and treaties may represent a considerable challenge for the UN, from a regulatory, logistical, or financial perspective.

3. DETAILED PROPOSAL

It is proposed to add a new bullet under paragraph 8, chapter 4, section IV to provide clear guidance prohibiting the deployment of minor equipment and consumables containing substances banned under international conventions, protocols and treaties.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

No financial implications expected as alternatives to these banned substances are available on the international market. If approved, this proposal could also result in a reduction in costs related to hazardous waste disposal as the disposal of banned substances may not be achievable within the mission area and may require complex and costly export procedures.

5. PROPOSED 2026 COE MANUAL TEXT

Chapter 4, section IV, para 8, add the text in bold and revise the numbering of the footnotes.

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. 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 crossing⁵. 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. **The deployment of minor equipment and consumables containing substances banned under relevant international conventions, protocols and treaties, or under Annex C of the Environmental Policy for Peacekeeping Operations and Field-Based Special Political Missions⁶ is prohibited.**

Footnotes

⁵ A/C.5/54/49, para. 67 (c).

⁶ **Environmental Policy for Peacekeeping Operations and Field-based Special Political Missions (DOS/2022.01)**