

# UNCAP Annual Report

20

Strengthening Peacekeeping Through Technology Training 24



# THE UNITED NATIONS C4ISR ACADEMY FOR PEACE OPERATIONS (UNCAP)

Annual Report 2024

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## Glossary of Key Terms and Acronyms

ATMIS African Union Transition Mission in Somalia

AR/VR Augmented Reality / Virtual Reality

CCD Course Content Document

C4ISR Command, Control, Communications, Computers, Intelligence, Surveillance, and

Reconnaissance

CIS Communications and Information Systems

DCB Defence Capacity Building (NATO-led initiative supporting UN peace operations

DOS Department of Operational Support

FTS Field Technology Section

GIS Geographic Information System

ICT Information and Communications Technology
ISR Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance

MINUSCA United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central

African Republic

MONUSCO United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the

Congo

MUAS / M-UAS Micro-Unmanned Aerial Systems

MTT Mobile Training Team

NATO North Atlantic Treaty Organization

NCI Academy NATO Communications and Information Academy

OICT Office of Information and Communications Technology

OSD Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth
OPSCEN-STE Operational Centre Simulated Training Environment

RSCE Regional Service Centre Entebbe

SHAPE Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe

SOP Standard Operating Procedure

TCCs/PCCs Troop and Police Contributing Countries

TNA Training Needs Assessment

TOT Training of Trainers

TPP Triangular Partnership Programme

UNCAP United Nations C4ISR Academy for Peace Operations

UNFICYP United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus

UNGSC United Nations Global Service Centre
UNIFIL United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon

UNISFA United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei

UNMISS United Nations Mission in South Sudan
UNSOS United Nations Support Office in Somalia

Unite Aware Situational awareness platform used by peacekeepers

VILT Virtual Instructor-Led Training

WOC Women's Outreach Course





# **Executive Summary**

The year 2024 has been transformative for the United Nations C4ISR Academy for Peace Operations (UNCAP), marking a phase of exceptional growth and impact. At the heart of our progress lies a commitment to innovation, inclusion, and excellence, which has enabled us to address the evolving challenges of modern peacekeeping.

This year, UNCAP expanded its training programmes to introduce specialized courses in spectrum management, ICT security, and advanced surveillance planning and techniques. These enhancements ensure that peacekeepers are equipped with cutting-edge skills to navigate complex operational environments effectively. Simultaneously, the Women's Outreach Course (WOC) reached new milestones, empowering more women to take on leadership roles in Command, Control, Communications, and Computers (C4), Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR) operations and reinforcing our commitment to gender equality.

The expansion of the Micro-Unmanned Aerial Systems (MUAS) training programme, including the Remote Pilot and Training of Trainers (TOT) courses, has also been pivotal following the Training Needs Assessment (TNA) at the beginning of the year. These initiatives have strengthened field adaptability, contributing directly to operational success in peace missions worldwide.

None of this progress would have been possible without strategic partnerships. Our collaborations with the Governments of Canada, Japan, France, Denmark, Germany, India and Uganda, alongside support from innovators and academic institutions, have been instrumental. These partnerships have provided essential financial resources, advanced technologies, and technical

expertise, significantly enhancing our capabilities.

Infrastructure advancements have also played a key role. The integration of secure communication platforms, enhanced data analytics systems, and state-of-the-art virtual training facilities have modernized our curriculum and improved the learning experience for peacekeepers.

Looking ahead, UNCAP is driven by a clear strategic vision: to establish C4ISR as a cornerstone of modern peacekeeping, align our initiatives with global peace objectives, and build an inclusive, gender-balanced workforce. This forward-thinking approach emphasizes operational readiness, leveraging advanced technologies like AI and drone surveillance, and fostering diverse perspectives in leadership roles.

The achievements of 2024 underline the academy's impact, with graduates reporting increased confidence and skill proficiency, particularly in emerging technologies. Our partnerships have fostered innovation and provided a robust foundation for future growth. Progress in gender parity has been a highlight, as more women are stepping into influential roles within peace operations.

As we look to the future, UNCAP remains committed to advancing autonomous systems, data analytics, and ICT security resilience while deepening collaborations with member states and global organizations. Our collective achievements in 2024 reflect a shared dedication to enhancing the effectiveness and inclusivity of peacekeeping forces. Together, we continue to build a skilled, resilient, and technologically advanced workforce capable of navigating the complexities of modern peace operations.





# Introduction

## About UNCAP

The United Nations C4ISR Academy for Peace Operations (UNCAP) was established to address the increasing importance of Command, Control, Communications, Computers, Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance (C4ISR) in peacekeeping operations. Recognizing the need for advanced skills and technological knowledge among peacekeepers, the academy was founded as a specialised institution to provide training in these critical areas. Since its inception, UNCAP has developed into a leading centre for C4ISR-related education, supporting both the operational effectiveness and safety of UN peacekeepers in conflict zones worldwide.

UNCAP's origins trace back to the growing emphasis on <u>technological integration within peacekeeping missions</u>. As peace operations faced more complex and digitally driven challenges, the UN saw the need for a dedicated academy to train personnel in leveraging C4ISR capabilities for enhanced mission success. Today, UNCAP remains at the forefront of training initiatives that directly support the UN's commitment to global peace and security.

Through the generosity of Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, India, Japan, Uganda and other Member States that have partnered with UNCAP and contributed training expertise, equipment, funding, and other valuable resources to the programme over the last five years—the academy provides standardized, mission-specific, gender-inclusive training on UN-Owned Equipment as well as familiarization on UN policies and standard operating procedures.

## **Purpose Statement**

Our purpose is to harness the power of digital technologies to provide peacekeepers with the skills and knowledge needed to effectively protect lives and contribute to a more peaceful and stable world.

## **Our Mission**

UNCAP's mission is to equip peacekeeping personnel with the skills and knowledge necessary to effectively use C4ISR technologies in the field. By delivering specialized training in command and control systems, advanced surveillance, and digital communication, the academy enhances the operational readiness of UN peacekeepers and reinforces the UN's overarching mission of maintaining international peace and security.

## Our Vision

UNCAP envisions a future as the foremost provider and preferred partner in capacity building for digital technologies, empowering peacekeepers to enhance operational readiness and effectiveness in creating a stable and secure environment, ultimately safeguarding lives and promoting global peace and security.

# Our Objectives

- Greater coordination and interoperability between troops from various nations
- Enhanced participation by women in peace operations
- Economies of scale for mission operations
- Strengthened C4ISR strategic partnerships

# Preparing Uniformed C4ISR Personnel for Their Service Under the Blue Flag

C4ISR is fundamental to modern peace operations, providing the capabilities needed to coordinate, communicate, and gather intelligence effectively across diverse and often hazardous environments. By integrating C4ISR technologies, peacekeeping missions gain enhanced situational awareness, data-driven decision-making, and reliable communication channels all of which are essential in achieving mission objectives and maintaining personnel safety.

For 2024, UNCAP outlined strategic objectives to support these capabilities:

- Enhancing Technological Training: Expanding C4ISR training modules to include emerging technologies, such as real-time data analytics and ICT security defense measures, to address the evolving needs of peace operations.
- Promoting Gender Equity in C4ISR: Increasing the representation and active participation of women in C4ISR fields within peacekeeping operations through programmes like WOC.
- Strengthening Field Deployments: Prioritizing practical, hands-on training and simulations that enable personnel to apply their knowledge effectively in field scenarios.

• Fostering Innovation through Partnerships: Collaborating with academia, and UN member states to introduce the latest technologies and methodologies into the curriculum.

# Organisational Structure and Leadership

With a focus on training, capacity building, and operational readiness, UNCAP's management is structured to guide the development and implementation of training programmes designed to prepare personnel for complex peacekeeping missions. They are responsible for fostering a collaborative environment, engaging with global stakeholders, and securing resources necessary for success.

The leadership at UNCAP emphasizes innovation and responsiveness in peacekeeping training, adapting strategies to meet evolving geopolitical challenges and technological advancements. They also prioritize transparency and accountability, ensuring that each initiative aligns with international standards and contributes positively to global peace efforts.





<u>UNCAP aligns with the United Nations</u>
<u>Sustainable Development Goals (SGDs),</u>
<u>focusing on gender equality, peace, and global partnerships for sustainable development.</u>





The academy adopts the triangular partnership framework for the UN and its supporting Member States to provide training and capacity building assistance to uniformed peacekeepers. This approach was initiated as a direct outcome of the 2014 UN Peacekeeping summit and formally started in 2015.





# **Academic Achievements**

# Summary of Trainings Conducted in 2024

In 2024, UNCAP continued to expand and enhance its training programmes to meet the evolving needs of modern peacekeeping missions. The academy conducted a total of 20 training courses, reaching over 226 participants from 74 different countries.

The trainings courses were designed to strengthen the capabilities of peacekeeping personnel in areas such as C4ISR, virtual and in-person training technics, advanced training technology utilization, gender inclusivity, and leadership development.

# Key training programmes conducted in 2024 included:

- 1. C4ISR Technology Orientation for Staff Officers
- 2. CIS Planning for Staff Officers
- 3. CIS Technical Instructor Course #1
- 4.CIS Technical Instructor Course #2
- 5. Micro-UAS Remote Pilot Course #7
- 6. Micro-UAS Remote Pilot Course #8
- 7. Micro-UAS Remote Pilot Course for MONUSCO at Goma (2 iterations)
- 8. Micro-UAS Remote Pilot Course for UNISFA at Abyei
- 9. Micro-UAS Train the Trainer Course #6
- 10. Micro-UAS Train the Trainer Course #7
- 11. UN Peacekeeping ICT Security Fundamental Course
- 12. UN PKO Spectrum Management
- 13. Unite Aware Tier II #3
- 14. Unite Aware Tier II #4
- 15. Unite Aware Tier II #5
- 16. Unite Aware Tier II #6
- 17. Unite Aware Tier II #7
- 18. Women's Outreach Course #12
- 19. Women's Outreach Course #13

Participant feedback consistently highlighted the relevance and applicability of the training content, as well as the expertise of the instructors. The programmes received an average satisfaction rating of 4.8 out of 5, indicating a high level of approval and appreciation from attendees.



Following the NCI Academy support with developing the Course Content Document (CCD) for 5 courses: UN PKO C4ISR Technology Orientation Course, CIS Technical Instructor Course, Spectrum Management Course, Information Communication Technology (ICT) Security Fundamentals Course, and C4ISR Planning Course in 2024, UNCAP successfully conducted the first iteration of theses courses.

This inaugural implementation underscores UNCAP's commitment to providing tailored, mission-oriented training while ensuring gender inclusivity and operational excellence across its curriculum.

By identifying areas for improvement, future iterations of the courses will continue to strengthen peacekeepers capabilities in managing vital UN owned resources in mission environments.

# C4ISR Technology Orientation for Staff Officers

UNCAP successfully delivered the first iteration of the UN PKO C4ISR Technology Orientation Course in May 2024. The course trained 16 participants, including military, police, and civilian personnel directly involved in C4ISR operations from various peacekeeping missions. The cohort comprised 14 male and 2 female participants, representing a diverse range of roles and missions.

The primary objective of the course was to equip participants with a foundational understanding of C4ISR technologies in the context of UN peacekeeping operations. Through targeted lessons, participants explored how these technologies integrate into peacekeeping missions to enhance communication, intelligence, and operational resilience.

#### **Performance Outcomes**

- Participants developed skills to explain C4ISR concepts, including their application in realworld UN peacekeeping contexts.
- Lessons emphasized communication systems, ICT security, and the role of connectivity in operational success.
- Practical discussions and theoretical modules highlighted the integration of emerging technologies, such as surveillance tools and data management systems.

## Feedback and Impact

- Post-course surveys indicated a 100% recommendation rate, with all participants expressing confidence in applying the knowledge gained to their missions.
- Participants reported an increased understanding of C4ISR applications and highlighted the course's relevance to their operational responsibilities.
- The diversity of participants enriched group discussions, promoting cross-mission collaboration and knowledge sharing.





Trainer, David Gensenmueller Certifying a Spectrum Management Graduate

# UN Peacekeeping Operations Spectrum Management Fundamentals

The Spectrum Management Course was successfully conducted from May 20 to 24, 2024, training nine participants, including seven male and two female peacekeepers. This inaugural session aimed to equip peacekeeping personnel with the foundational knowledge and skills required to manage and optimize the radio frequency spectrum in United Nations operations.

The course provided a comprehensive overview of spectrum management principles, including frequency allocation, international regulations, and the use of communication technologies within peacekeeping missions. Participants were introduced to key tools such as the UN Spectrum Management e-Book and engaged in discussions on best practices for spectrum allocation and electromagnetic protection measures. The five-day programme combined theoretical instruction and interactive discussions, covering topics such as:

- Fundamentals of radio wave propagation.
- International approaches to spectrum management, including ITU frameworks.
- Practical applications of spectrum management tools and techniques in UN peacekeeping contexts.

## **Impact on Peacekeeping Missions**

Graduates of this course contribute to improved spectrum efficiency, ensuring reliable communication systems critical for operational success in peacekeeping missions. Participants were drawn from key missions, including UNIFIL, UNISFA, UNSOS, MONUSCO, UNMISS, and MINUSCA, enhancing their capacity to manage mission-critical communication systems and support operational agility.



Group Photo of the CIS Technical Instructor Course Graduates

# CIS Technical Instructor

Two iterations of the CIS Technical Instructor Course was delivered in 2024, training a total of 14 participants, including 9 men and 5 women. This course was designed to enhance the instructional capabilities of technical experts, enabling them to deliver high-quality training sessions in communication and information systems (CIS) across various peacekeeping missions.

## **Key Outcomes and Impact**

Participants demonstrated significant growth in their instructional capabilities:

- Practical Skills Development: The course emphasized active participation, with participants preparing and delivering lesson plans daily. These practical components were consistently rated as the most valuable aspects of the course.
- Increased Confidence: Graduates reported feeling more confident in their ability to manage classrooms, engage audiences, and deliver clear, impactful lessons.

Focus on Lesson Planning: Participants recognized the importance of structured lesson planning, with many committing to adopting these practices in their future roles.

NCI Academy Trainer (right), Ana Miguel Certifying a Participant



# UN Peacekeeping ICT Security Fundamental Course

The Information Security Fundamentals Course, conducted by UNCAP on May 27–28, 2024, successfully trained 16 participants, comprising 13 male and 3 female attendees. This two-day programme was designed to enhance the UN workforce's ability to identify, respond to, and prevent ICT security threats, while fostering a culture of risk awareness critical to safeguarding UN information systems and data.

## Objectives and Key Content

The course provided participants with:

- A foundational understanding of ICT security threats, including the anatomy of a cyber attack and social engineering tactics.
- Best practices for data encryption, secure authentication, and managing sensitive data.
- Strategies to enhance the physical security of ICT security assets.
- Techniques to mitigate threats to mobile devices and counteract hybrid and social engineering attacks.

The curriculum emphasized hands-on learning through demonstrations of encryption methods, multi-factor authentication (MFA), and other tools to ensure participants could apply their knowledge effectively in real-world UN contexts.



Mr. Michael Mwaura Addressing Graduates of the ICT Security Course

## **Key Outcomes**

The training achieved its objectives, with 87.5% of participants reporting that course goals were fully met, and the remaining 12.5% indicating they were mostly achieved. Post-course evaluations highlighted:

- Increased confidence among participants in identifying and addressing ICT security threats.
- A high likelihood of applying course knowledge to their roles within three months of completion.

# The 12th and 13th Edition Women's Outreach Course (WOC)

The Women's Outreach Course (WOC) remained a flagship programme for UNCAP in 2024, aiming to empower women in peacekeeping roles and enhance gender balance within C4ISR fields.

# 66

## Curriculum and Objectives:

The WOC curriculum covered key areas such as leadership development, C4ISR technologies, strategic communication, and field operations management. The course also included modules on gender sensitivity and the importance of women's roles in peacekeeping missions. The course is delivered twice a year in English and French languages.

### **Success Metrics**

In 2024, the WOC trained 40 women peacekeepers, a 15% increase from the previous year. Participants represented 27 countries, bringing diverse perspectives and experiences to the programme. The course successfully increased the proportion of women in C4ISR roles within UN missions, contributing to UNCAP's gender equality goals.

The WOC has been a transformative experience. I feel more confident in my abilities to lead and contribute effectively to my mission.

Major Bello Oluyemisi Omonike Nigeria

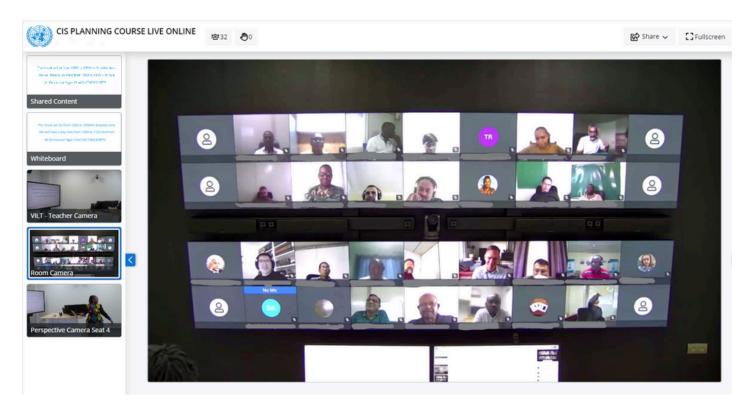
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Practical Sessions of the Women's Outreach Course #12 and #13

## WOC Training Data by Yearly Participation





# CIS Planning for Staff Officers

The CIS Planning Course was conducted from November 18 to December 6, 2024, and structured to strengthen the planning, coordination, and management capabilities of personnel in peacekeeping missions.

A total of 17 participants, including 13 men and 4 women, completed the programme, which was designed to address the growing complexity of communications and information systems (CIS) in peace operations.

#### Course Structure and Modules

The course was delivered in three distinct modules, each tailored to progressively build participants' competencies in CIS planning:

#### Module I: Virtual Instructor-Led Training (VILT)

This module ran virtually for one week using the VILT capability. Participants were introduced to the CIS environment, focusing on UN policy frameworks, organizational structures, and CIS capabilities. Emphasis was placed on understanding mission-specific CIS considerations through interactive lectures and virtual discussions.

## Module II: Face-to-Face Training

Held in Entebbe, Uganda for one week, this module provided hands-on training, including practical exercises on CIS architecture, operational requirements analysis, and service provision management. Participants developed CIS support plans and received critical feedback during syndicate sessions.

#### Module III: On-the-Job Experience

The duration of module was three months under strict supervision by the Mission Chief, FTS. Participants applied their learning in real-world peacekeeping missions, focusing on the creation of CIS deliverables and operational planning documents. This phase allowed them to consolidate their theoretical and practical knowledge.



Chief RFTS, Mr Emmanuel Ngor, Addressing CIS Planning Participants During the Course Opening Ceremony



# Learning Outcomes and Achievements

Participants demonstrated an improvement in their ability to analyse operational environments, define mission requirements, and plan CIS support. Over 90% reported increased confidence in performing CIS-related tasks.

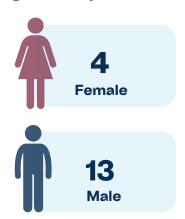
The course enabled the development of mission-specific CIS plans, enhancing interoperability and operational efficiency across participating peacekeeping missions, including MONUSCO, UNMISS, MINUSCA, MINURSO, UNISFA, and UNSOS.



A Group Photo of UNCAP and NCI Academy Subject Matter Experts for the CIS Planning Course



# CIS Planning Training Participation by Gender



# CIS Planning Training Participation by Mission

UNSOS	MINUSCA	MONUSCO	
	3		3
		MINURSO	UNISFA
4	UNMISS		
	3	2	2

# Micro-Unmanned Aerial Systems (MUAS) Training Courses

# **Remote Pilot Training Course**

The Remote Pilot Training Course focused on equipping peacekeepers with the skills to operate micro-unmanned aerial systems effectively.

- Course Structure: A comprehensive two-week programme combining theoretical instruction with practical flight training sessions.
- Technology Used: State-of-the-art microdrones equipped with high-resolution cameras and real-time data transmission capabilities.
- Participant Outcomes: UNCAP trained 120 remote pilots, enhancing surveillance and reconnaissance capacities in field missions. Participants reported increased confidence in operating MUAS and integrating drone data into mission planning.



The MUAS training provided me with invaluable skills that have already made a difference in our surveillance operations.

Patrick Kabangu Bintu UNSOS

# Training of Trainers (TOT) Course

The TOT course was designed to build internal capacity by training experienced personnel to become instructors in MUAS operations.

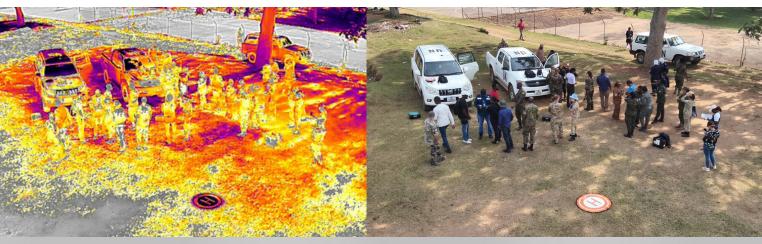
- Purpose and Benefits: By creating a pool of qualified trainers, UNCAP ensures the sustainability and scalability of its MUAS programmes.
- Long-Term Capacity Building: This initiative promotes self-reliance and accelerates the dissemination of MUAS expertise across UN peace operations.

The TOT course prepared 50 trainers who can now conduct MUAS training within their respective missions or countries.

# **Training Statistics**

- Total Participants: 120
- Gender Breakdown: 93.33% male, 6.67% female
- Nationalities Represented: 33 countries across Africa, Asia, Europe, the Americas, and the Middle East
- Demographics: Participants ranged from junior officers to senior mission leaders, with diverse backgrounds in military, police, and civilian roles.

77-



(Left to Right) A Thermal and Regular Aerial Photo of MUAS Participants and Trainers at the MUAS Training Field

# **UNCAP 2024 Training Data**

4733
Total Certifications

2286
Unique Trainees

109
Distinct Nationalities

402 Women Trained

Overview of UNCAP 2024 Training Data





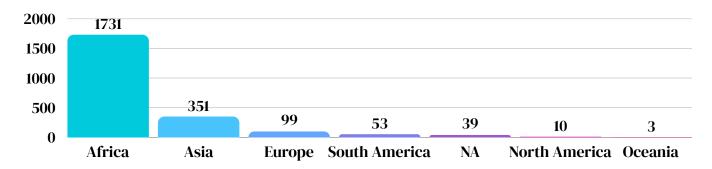


Training Participation by Staff Category

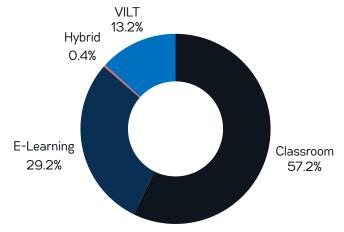




**Enrolments by Gender 2024** 



**Training Participation by Continent** 



Training Participation by Training Method

#### **Unique Trainees**

This refers to the individual count of trainees in the UNCAP dataset, ensuring that each trainee is counted only once. For example, if a trainee attends multiple UNCAP training sessions, they are still counted as one unique trainee.

#### **Distinct Nationalities**

This term represents the number of different nationalities present in the UNCAP dataset. It counts each nationality only once, regardless of how many trainees belong to each nationality.

#### **Total Certifications**

This is the sum of all UNCAP certifications earned by trainees in the dataset. It includes every certification, even if a trainee has earned multiple certifications.

# **UNCAP E-Learning Courses**









# **Technology Training Portal**

The <u>UN Technology Training Portal</u> provides specialised technology training for uniformed and civilian field personnel involved in UN operations. It offers courses in Enterprise Technology Services, Field Technology Solutions, IT Operational Management, and more. Key courses include training on the Unite FRIM Foundation, Unite Aware Foundation and advanced courses, Modular Command Centre, Modular Power Pack, and Modular Technology Centre.

This portal is a collaborative initiative supported by various member states and is focused on enhancing skills in ICT and technology use within peace operations.

## **Unite Aware**

The primary goal of the Unite Aware course is to enhance situational awareness and peacekeepers' capability through effective use of the Unite Aware platform. This training is crucial for improving data analytics, reporting, and security among the peacekeepers.

The virtual courses are aimed at a broad audience, including staff officer, military, police, and civilian personnel. Efforts were made to include diverse groups, like security personnel who support both civilian and uniformed staff.

# Technology Training Portal 2024 Training Data

											Na	tiona	lity		
1021	338	86				76					All				
Total Certifications	al Certifications Unique Trainees D		tinct Nationalities Women Trained												
Year		202	4												Total
Course Name		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total	
Bases des Opération Radio				1								2		3	3
Basics of Radio Operations		1	4	2	2	1	1	2			1	3	1	18	18
Modular Power Pack (MPP) - Civilian Staff			2											3	3
Unite Aware Foundation - Civilian Staff			11	5	5	7	6	14	12	10	7	15	4	102	102
Unite Aware Foundation - Uniformed Personnel			14	27	12	20	6	33	19	26	31	31	13	245	245
Unite Aware Maps Advanced - Civilian Staff			1		1	1		2			1	1	2	12	12
Unite Aware Maps Advanced - Uniformed Personnel			1	7	2	5		2	5	4	6	4	5	42	42
Unite Aware Patrol Plans A	dvanced - Uniformed Personnel	3	3	7	2	7		8	10	13	4	3	5	65	65
Unite Aware Patrol Plans Advanced Version 2.0 - Civilian Staff				2	1	2				1	1		2	9	9
Unite Aware Patrol Plans Beginner - Uniformed Personnel			2	17	5	7	- 1	27	10	22	25	6	5	132	132
Unite Aware Patrol Plans Beginner Version 2.0 - Civilian Staff			1	2		2	1	2	2	3	4	1	2	21	21
Unite Aware Sage Advanced - Civilian Staff		- 1	1	2	1		2	1	1	2			4	15	15
Unite Aware Sage Advanced - Uniformed Personnel			2	5	2	3	4	5	7	5	6		6	45	45
Unite Aware Sage Beginner	r - Civilian Staff		1	2	1	2	4	8	4	1	3	2	4	32	32
Unite Aware Sage Beginner - Uniformed Personnel		6	7	14	4	6	1	23	12	14	15	8	7	117	117
Unite Aware Visualization (Maps) Beginner - Civilian Staff			2	3		5	- 1	7	3	2	2	5	2	32	32
Unite Aware Visualization (Maps) Beginner - Uniformed Personnel		5	6	15	8	5		22	10	20	26	5	6	128	128
Total			58	111	46	73	27	156	95	123	132	86	68	1021	1021

# Virtual Instructor-Led Training (VILT) Capability

Since its commissioning in 2023, the Virtual Instructor-Led Training (VILT) Capability has been utilised in delivering UNCAP's training programmes, enabling seamless learning experiences across diverse geographical locations and operational needs. The upgrade of the VILT platforms to the X2O Media OneRoom system further enhanced the academy's training delivery.

In 2024 VILT was used to deliver several key training courses, including:

- CIS Planning Course: Conducted as a hybrid course, the VILT platform facilitated real-time interaction between remote participants and instructors, ensuring inclusivity for those unable to attend in person.
- Virtual Training for Trainers: Partnering with BeSkiller, this course leveraged VILT to provide interactive sessions focused on improving trainers' virtual teaching capabilities.
- Unite Aware Tier II Courses: The platform was extensively used to deliver advanced training on situational awareness and operational planning, ensuring real-time engagement with participants deployed across peacekeeping missions.

The introduction and use of VILT in 2024 demonstrated tangible benefits. Over 60 per cent of UNCAP's training programmes incorporated virtual components. As VILT capabilities continue to evolve, UNCAP remains committed to leveraging this technology.



Training Sessions using the Virtual Instructor Led Capability (VILT)



# 2024 Virtual Training Data

627

**Total Certifications** 

558

**Unique Trainees** 

66

**Distinct Nationalities** 

107

Women Trained

#### **UNCAP Virtual Training**

Virtual training refers to UNCAP training programs conducted online rather than in a physical classroom. It is not self-paced. This includes trainings delivered through digital platforms, such as VILT, Zoom, Microsoft Teams, or specialized training software in real time.

# **In-Mission Trainings**

The following courses were delivered in the field missions by the UNCAP Mobile Training Team (MTT) and mission Field Technology Section (FTS) trainers in 2024:

### MONUSCO (Goma)

As part of mission training support, UNCAP sent UAS MTT from the RSCE to MONUSCO, Goma for the Micro-UAS Remote Pilot Course.

A total of 14 trainees were certified, comprising of 2 women and 12 men. 6 of the trainees were military personnel while 8 were civilians.

The MUAS remote pilot course provided to personnel in MONUSCO has proven to be a critical asset in addressing the mission's operational challenges. MONUSCO operates in one of the most complex environments, where maintaining situational awareness and ensuring the safety of personnel are paramount.

By equipping MONUSCO personnel with MUAS training, peacekeepers gain the ability to analyze live feeds, improving decision-making during operations. This capability enhances the mission's ability to respond promptly to emerging threats and evolving scenarios.

The MUAS training ensured that MONUSCO personnel, including local staff, are equipped with the technical expertise to operate and maintain MUAS technology. By building internal capacity, the mission reduces reliance on external resources and fosters sustainability.



MUAS Remote Pilot Course Training in MONUSCO







#### **UNISFA**

The UNCAP MTT also supported UNISFA during the MUAS Remote Pilot Course held in Abyei.

A total of 18 male peacekeepers comprising of 11 civilians and 7 military personnel were certified, as pilots at the end of the 2 weeks course.

Just like MONUSCO, UNISFA operates in the politically sensitive and geographically challenging Abyei region, which requires advanced tools for effective monitoring and peacekeeping.

By equipping UNISFA personnel with drone technology, the mission can gather real-time intelligence on population movements, security threats, and environmental changes. This enhances decision-making and the ability to respond promptly to dynamic field conditions and threats.

#### **MINUSCA**

In MINUSCA, a total of 533 certifications were awarded for trainings completed in the C4ISR and communication systems course categories.

This includes both virtual and in-person trainings. A total of 498 military, 33 police and 2 civilians completed the virtual trainings, while 107 military and 29 police officers attended in person trainings. Overall, peacekeepers from Bangladesh and Pakistan recorded the highest number of participation.

Training local and international personnel in advanced technologies has ensured sustainability, knowledge transfer and long-term impact on MINUSCA's operational success.



# **In-Mission Training**

#### **UNSOS**

Training activities in UNSOS for the year 2024 shows that over 2953 personnel were trained across police, military, and civilian components. Only 409 (13.85%) of trainees were female while 2544 (86.15%) were male. Ghana, Kenya and Uganda recorded the highest number of member state participation.

ATMIS (African Union Transition Mission in Somalia) recorded 2595 enrollments, accounting for the vast majority of training efforts under UNSOS. The overwhelming participation from ATMIS personnel highlights the direct support UNSOS is providing to African Union peacekeeping forces operating in Somalia.



2953
Total Certifications

1311 Unique Trainees 30
Distinct Nationalities

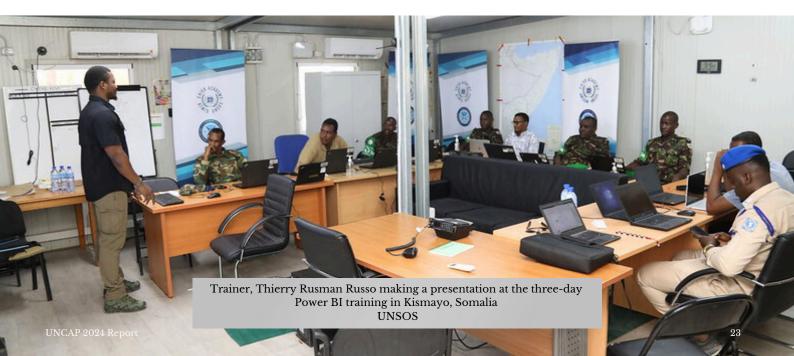
178 Women Trained

**In-Mission Training Data - UNSOS** 











# **Operational Highlights**

In 2024, UNCAP continued to expand its capacity through a range of non-academic activities that complemented its training programmes. These initiatives enhanced the academy's internal capacity, strengthened partnerships with key stakeholders, and introduced innovations to its virtual and in-person training frameworks. Below is a detailed account of these activities and their impact.

# Training Needs Assessment (TNA) in Four Missions

The TNA was the first activity of the year 2024 for UNCAP, serving as a foundational step in aligning training programmes with the evolving demands of UN peacekeeping missions. The TNA aimed to evaluate current training impact, identify gaps, and recommend improvements to enhance course delivery and effectiveness.

Between January 22 and February 9, 2024, UNCAP conducted an in-person assessment across four peacekeeping missions:

- United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA)
- United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO)
- United Nations Support Office in Somalia (UNSOS)
- United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP)

This effort involved 54 stakeholder interviews across military, police, and civilian components, ensuring a holistic evaluation of training needs. The process also incorporated feedback from previous training sessions, mission leadership, and course graduates to guide strategic enhancements.



UNCAP Team with telecommunication engineer John Wynne (left) and Police Officer, Jonathan Griffin on a site visit to Sector 4/UNFICYP



TNA Interview Session with Chief FTS MONUSCO, Mrs. Francia Peralta



Interviews with Berhanu Hailemariam (left) and Enkh-Erdene Enkhtur, FTS-GIS Unit in Abyei/UNISFA



The **key outcomes of the TNA** included:

Alignment of Training with Operational Needs: Adjustments were proposed to ensure that Command, Control, Communication, Computer (C4), Intelligence, Surveillance, Reconnaissance (ISR) training remains relevant and impactful.

Integration of Advanced Technologies: The assessment recommended incorporating data analytics into Micro-UAS (MUAS) training and increasing Virtual Instructor-Led Training (VILT) to expand accessibility.

Enhanced Training Selection and Coordination: A need for better participant selection processes and stronger inter-agency coordination was identified to ensure mission personnel receive the most applicable training.

Redesign of Key Courses: Based on mission demands, UNCAP committed to revamping the curriculum for three major training programmes:

- a. Unite Aware (situational awareness and information-sharing tools)
- b. Micro-UAS Training (unmanned aerial systems for reconnaissance and security)
- c. Women's Outreach Course (enhancing gender inclusivity in peacekeeping)

Strengthening Training Follow-Up: The TNA report emphasized the need for post-training evaluations and skills application monitoring, ensuring sustained impact in the field.

The 2024 TNA marked a significant step in UNCAP's mission to modernize and optimize its training programmes, ensuring they remain adaptable to peacekeeping challenges and evolving security landscapes. The insights gained from this initiative will guide UNCAP's training strategy, enhancing the capabilities of military, police, and civilian peacekeeping personnel in support of global peace and security efforts.



# UNCAP M-UAS Workshop in Valencia

UNCAP hosted a Micro-UAS workshop from 03 to 06 June 2024 at the United Nations Global Service Centre (UNGSC) in Valencia, Spain. This four-day workshop was a key non-academic initiative aimed at strengthening UNCAP's operational capacity, improving mission effectiveness, and enhancing partnerships. The workshop served as a platform to:

- Enhance Data Management & Imagery Interpretation: Strengthening UAS operators' capabilities in peacekeeping missions.
- Address Operational Challenges: Identifying and resolving difficulties in M-UAS deployment across missions.
- Introduce Latest Technologies:
  - Automatic drone control and mapping mission planners.
  - LiDAR technology for digital twin applications.
  - Drone forensics programmes for security and intelligence gathering.
  - Counter-UAS programmes to mitigate aerial threats.
  - M-UAS Training Simulators for skill development.
- Standardize Training and Certification: Refining the UAS Operator and Trainer of Trainers (ToT) syllabi and aligning assessment standards across missions.
- Expand Strategic Partnerships: Engaging with key stakeholders, including UN agencies, peacekeeping missions, and Member States.

# Strategic Partnerships and Contributions

The workshop featured significant engagement from Member States, with France, Spain, and Luxembourg showcasing their UAS capabilities and providing valuable insights into their operational frameworks. This exchange of knowledge and expertise was instrumental in broadening the understanding of diverse UAS applications in peacekeeping missions.

Luxembourg's Civil Aviation Authority played a pivotal role by facilitating European A2 License Certification opportunities for UNCAP trainers. This certification is crucial for ensuring that operators meet the stringent EU standards required for UAS operations.

A key discussion point was when UN Triangular Partnership Programme (TPP) explored collaboration to integrate M-UAS into predeployment training for Troop and Police Contributing Countries (TCCs/PCCs). This initiative aims to enhance the preparedness and effectiveness of peacekeeping personnel.

Additionally, the workshop introduced a new prototype for the UNCAP Database & Flight Logs. This innovative tool is designed to track pilot certifications and mission deployments, providing a comprehensive overview of UAS activities and enhancing operational transparency and accountability.



A display of Advanced Technology Drones used for Trainings



Photos from the Round Table M-UAS Workshop in Valencia

## Mission Highlights

The workshop also highlighted key missions and their unique experiences with UAS operations:

- UNSOS (Somalia): Representatives presented on the operationalization of UAS in both combat and humanitarian operations, showcasing how these technologies are being effectively utilized in diverse scenarios.
- MONUSCO (DRC): The discussion focused on the geographic challenges faced in the Democratic Republic of Congo and emphasized the need for mission-wide control of M-UAS deployments to ensure coordinated and efficient operations.
- MINUSCA (Central African Republic): Insights were shared on the effectiveness of training programmes and ongoing capacitybuilding efforts, highlighting the progress and future plans for enhancing UAS capabilities within the mission.

These mission highlights provided valuable realworld examples of UAS applications, contributing to a deeper understanding of their impact and potential in peacekeeping operations.

## **Key Outcomes & Recommendations**

#### **Policy & Training Enhancements:**

- Standardisation: Efforts were made to standardise entry prerequisites and assessment benchmarks for M-UAS courses, ensuring consistency and quality across training programmes and entities.
- SOPs: The establishment of mission-level Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) was discussed to ensure compliance and effectiveness in UAS operations.
- Annual Assessments: There was a commitment to increase annual visits to assess the impact of UAS technology on peacekeeping operations, providing valuable feedback for continuous improvement.

#### **Technology Integration:**

- Training Simulators: The adoption of M-UAS training simulators was highlighted as a means to improve learning outcomes and pilot retention.
- Counter-UAS Training: Development of counter-UAS training modules was emphasized to address emerging security threats and enhance operational readiness.

#### Sustainability & Future Growth:

- Partnership Expansion: The workshop celebrated the expansion of UNCAP's partnership network, with Spain joining as a formal training partner.
- Annual Training: Implementation of annual currency training for UAS operators and trainers was planned to maintain high standards of proficiency.
- Certification Database: Exploration of a UNwide certification database was proposed to improve tracking and management of remote pilot certifications.

The outcomes of the UNCAP M-UAS Workshop 2024 will significantly influence future training, standardization, and operational deployment of M-UAS in UN missions. These advancements will ensure a stronger, more agile, and technologically equipped peacekeeping force, ready to meet the challenges of modern peacekeeping operations.

# Delegation Visits and Strategic Engagement

UNCAP hosted multiple diplomatic engagements in 2024, including courtesy visits from representatives of the Government of Canada, Japan and the Netherlands, at the RSCE. These visits provided an opportunity to showcase UNCAP's capabilities, review operational frameworks, and discuss strategic alignments between the UN and Member States.

# Courtesy Visit from the Japanese Ambassador to Uganda

The Japanese Ambassador to Uganda, H.E. Takuya Sasayama visited the "VILT Capability" and the "Operational Centre Simulated Training Environment" (OPSCEN-STE) at the RSCE, and learned of their impact on capacity building of UN Peacekeepers.

The VILT Capability allows for flexible, remote learning experiences that simulate traditional classroom settings, while the use of advanced simulation technology in OPSCEN-STE helps in building competencies and reflecting on operational challenges, ultimately leading to better performance in the field.

The RSCE Director, Mr. Paulin Djomo, and Ms. Florence Keter, Programme Manager for United Nations C4ISR Academy for Peace Operations (UNCAP), proudly showcased these state of-theart facilities.

Japan, as a donor to UNCAP, plays a significant role in supporting these initiatives. Ambassador Sasayama's visit highlighted Japan's commitment to enhancing peacekeeping training through technological advancements and capacity building.



The Director RSCE, Mr Paulin Djomo with Ambassador Takuya Sasayama at the UNCAP Technology Centre



The Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Mr. Claude-Michel Cimbert at the UNCAP Technology Centre

# Canada's Commitment to Peacekeeping

UNCAP also hosted Mr. Claude-Michel Cimbert from the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and Ms. Ashley Chen from the High Commission of Canada in Nairobi. This visit reaffirmed the strong partnership between Canada and the United Nations in promoting peace, security and gender equality.

Received by the Deputy Director of RSCE, Mrs. Nalini Contreras, and the Chief Regional Field Technology Service, Mr. Emmanuel Ngor, the meeting focused on Canada's commitment to supporting peacekeeping operations through training and financial contributions. Discussions highlighted the success of various training programs funded by Canada, including the Women's Outreach Course (WOC) and Micro-Unmanned Aerial Systems (MUAS) training.

Canada has been a steadfast supporter of UNCAP, advancing gender equality and technological innovation in peacekeeping. UNCAP remains committed to supporting initiatives that empower women and strengthen peacekeeping efforts globally.



Ms. Ashley Chen from the High Commission of Canada in Nairobi, at the UNCAP Technology Centre



UNCAP Subject Matter Expert, Bedan Muroki showing members of the Military Staff Committee how the MUAS Simulation software works.

# C-34 Committee's Visit to the Regional Service Centre Entebbe

On November 28-29, 2024, the C-34 (Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations) visited the Regional Service Centre Entebbe (RSCE) to gain insights into its operations and contributions to UN peacekeeping missions. The visit was meticulously organized, featuring a series of briefings, tours, and meetings with key RSCE personnel.

For UNCAP, the C-34 Group's visit was a significant opportunity to showcase the academy's vital role in supporting UN peacekeeping missions and enhancing operational efficiency through advanced technology training.

# Military Staff Committee Field Trip to DRC and Uganda

In April 2024, the United Nations Security Council's Military Staff Committee conducted a significant assessment mission to MONUSCO and RSCE in Uganda. The field trip provided valuable insights into the operational effectiveness and challenges of MONUSCO and the support structures in place at RSCE and UNCAP.

This visit highlighted the critical role of international cooperation and support in maintaining peace and security in conflict-affected areas. The ongoing efforts to improve coordination, technology integration, and gender equality in peacekeeping operations were reaffirmed through this mission.



A photo of the Military Staff Committee who visited the Regional Service Centre Entebbe



# African Union (AU) Visit

UNCAP played a supportive role in the AU/UN Triangular Partnership Programme (TPP) Workshop held from October 1–4, 2024, at the RSCE. This workshop facilitated collaboration among the AU, TPP, UNCAP, and other key stakeholders to address training and operational gaps in AU Peace Support Operations. Key activities included:

C4ISR Capability Demonstrations: UNCAP showcased its capabilities, including virtual training environments and operational planning tools.

Scenario Development: Discussions began on tailoring UNCAP's courses to meet AU-specific needs, paving the way for AU-tailored training programmes. Outcomes from the workshop will materialize is 2025.



A Group Photo of TPP, AU and UN Delegates, During the Workshop in Entebbe

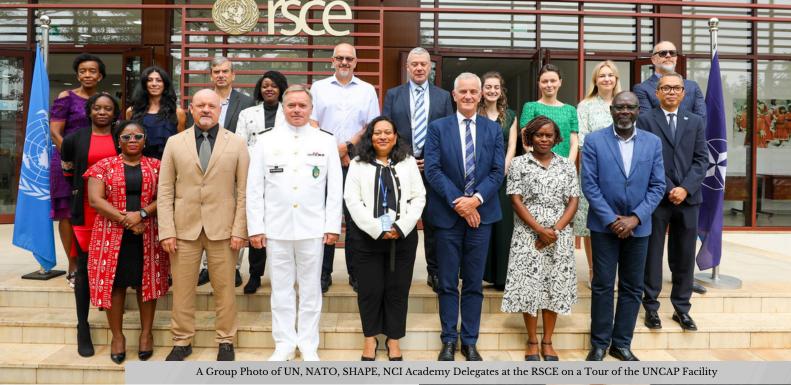


# SHAPE and NATO Delegation Visit to UNCAP

In May 2024, a high-profile delegation from NATO's NCI Academy and Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe (SHAPE) visited the RSCE to see the UNCAP facility in Uganda. The delegation, composed of key representatives from SHAPE's Partnership Directorate and NCI Academy subject matter experts, engaged in an extensive assessment of UNCAP's training programmes, reviewed ongoing course developments, and provided strategic insights to enhance collaboration between NATO and the UN.

The visit also served as a strategic dialogue platform, with SHAPE and NATO representatives engaging UN and UNCAP leadership on the long-term vision of their collaboration. Discussions centered on sustaining NATO's involvement in UNCAP's training evolution, exploring areas where NATO could provide additional technical expertise and resources beyond 2024. NATO reaffirmed its commitment to providing technical expertise, training resources, and potential funding for future initiatives.





# **NATO DCB Closing Ceremony**

The NATO Defense Capacity Building (DCB) programme closing ceremony, held in November 2024, was a landmark event celebrating the partnership between NATO and UNCAP. The ceremony highlighted:

- Achievements: The successful integration of NATO resources into UNCAP's training modules, including the provision of technical expertise and financial support for operational upgrades.
- Keynote Addresses: Leaders from NATO and UNCAP emphasized the importance of continued collaboration to address global peacekeeping challenges.
- Future Commitments: Discussions centered on sustaining the momentum of the DCB project through new joint initiatives.

This ceremony served as a platform to recognize the shared achievements and outline a roadmap for future collaboration.



(L-R) UN Resident Coordinator Office in Uganda, Ms Susan Ngongi discussing with Mr Piers Cazalet (NATO HQ Director)



(L-R)- Rear Admiral Bruåsdal (SHAPE PD DCOS), Mr Piers Cazalet (NATO HQ Director), Ms Theodora Adekunle (Deputy Team Lead-DCB NATO),
Dr Garry Hargreaves (Director of the NCI Academy)



# UNCAP Mentorship and Coaching Programme

As part of its ongoing efforts to enhance organizational effectiveness and team cohesion, UNCAP conducted an extensive mentorship and coaching programme in August 2024. This initiative was aimed at strengthening interpersonal relationships among staff, improving team collaboration, and fostering leadership within operational units in the academy. The coaching programme was supported by the NCI Academy and a life coach consultant, as part of the NATO DCB package.

The primary goal was to strengthen collaboration between various UNCAP stakeholders resulting in more efficient and effective teamwork. To achieve this, two distinct team-building interventions were conducted:

- 1. Master Facilitator Team Workshop (21-23 August 2024) – Focused on UNCAP trainers and staff.
- Senior Stakeholder Team Workshop (28-30 August 2024) – Engaged key decision-makers from UNCAP HQ, OICT/OSD, RSCE, and UNGSC.

Both sessions took place offsite in Kampala, Uganda, allowing participants to engage in immersive, strategic discussions away from their regular operational environment. The following outcomes were achieved.

Developing a Unified Team Culture: The workshop successfully strengthened trust, collaboration, and interpersonal connections among UNCAP teams. It encouraged open communication and mutual understanding between the internal UNCAP team, the training team, and higher management fostering a more cohesive and supportive work environment.

Clarifying Roles and Responsibilities: Participants gained clarity on the distinct functions of UNCAP's core team, external facilitators, and strategic partners. This improved coordination between UNCAP field operations, headquarters, and supporting agencies, ensuring that everyone was aligned and working towards common goals.

Strategic Planning and Future Vision: The workshop provided a platform for participants to align on UNCAP's vision for the next 1-3 years, reinforcing its role in digital peacekeeping training. It also strengthened the understanding of stakeholder expectations and external influences on UNCAP's growth, setting a clear direction for the future.



Photos from the UNCAP Team Building Facilitated by Jacqui Fairbrass (NATO - TrafalgarPD Consultant)

Operational Effectiveness and Innovation: Teams engaged in Systemic Team Coaching methodologies to enhance their daily workflows. They developed a Development Improvement Plan (DIP) to track progress on identified challenges and explored new ways of working, leveraging coaching tools for innovation in course delivery.

#### Psychological Safety and Leadership

**Development:** The workshop built a culture where staff and leaders felt empowered to share ideas, raise concerns, and contribute to UNCAP's continuous improvement. It also enhanced conflict resolution strategies and promoted personal growth among team members, fostering a supportive and dynamic work environment.

The outcomes will significantly influence the organization's future strategies and operations, ensuring a more effective and unified team.

# Practical Workshop on Quality Management, Training Development and the NCI Academy Business Model

In October 2024, the visit of the UNCAP delegates The exchange of expertise and best practices during to the NCI Academy in Oeiras, Portugal, was a significant event that facilitated extensive knowledge sharing and collaboration. During this visit, the team engaged in a practical workshop focused on Quality Management, Training Development, and the NCI Academy Business Model. This workshop aimed to elevate the standards of education and training services provided by both organizations.

the workshop was invaluable. It allowed both parties to gain deeper insights into effective quality management strategies and innovative training development techniques.

The NCI Academy shared its successful business model, which has been instrumental in delivering high-quality educational services, providing a blueprint for potential improvements within UNCAP.



Photos from the Workshop on Quality Management and Training Development at the NCI Academy in Oeiras, Portugal

The workshop also served to strengthen the partnership between UNCAP and the NCI Academy. By working closely together, both organizations are now better equipped to enhance their training programmes, ensuring they meet the highest standards of excellence.

This collaboration not only benefits the immediate stakeholders but also contributes to the broader goal of advancing peacekeeping training and operations globally.

Overall, the visit was a significant step towards achieving higher standards in education and training services, fostering a robust and mutually beneficial partnership between UNCAP and the NCI Academy.





A Group Photo of NCI Academy Staff lead by Col Pedro Borges (Dean of Academics) and UNCAP Subject Matter Experts in Oeiras, Portugal

# Virtual Training of Trainers by BeSkiller

In collaboration with BeSkiller, the NCI Academy offered UNCAP a virtual training of trainers programme to equip instructors with advanced virtual teaching techniques.

The training emphasized content creation, and the use of immersive tools to engage participants effectively. This initiative elevated the capabilities of UNCAP's training personnel and strengthened its ability to deliver high-quality virtual courses.

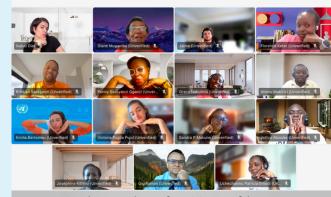
# VILT Upgrade and Transition Plan

A major milestone in 2024 was the upgrade of UNCAP's Virtual Instructor-Led Training (VILT) system to the X2O Media OneRoom platform. This advanced platform introduced hybrid learning capabilities and enhanced the interactivity of virtual sessions.

Key features of the upgrade includes:

- Session Recording and Replay: Training sessions can be recorded in high-quality MP4 format, preserving the content for future review, continuous learning, and posttraining evaluations. The upgrade also increased the number of participants per-session from 76 to 120.
- Advanced Analytics: Advanced operator tools, including session management, attention tracking, and content uploads, ensure smooth training facilitation. For participants, intuitive interfaces and real-time notifications enhance usability and engagement.

A series of sessions were conducted to familiarize instructors and technical staff with the new platform's functionalities.



Virtual Group Photo of Participants of the TOT



Photos from the VILT - X2O Training of Trainers and Operators







# Support and Partnerships

UNCAP's 2024 activities have been significantly strengthened by contributions and partnerships with governments and international agencies, notably the ongoing support from Canada, Japan, France, Denmark, Germany, India and Uganda and NATO, which have played a critical role in advancing the academy's mission.

# Support from Japan

Since 2015, Japan has been a supportive partner of UNCAP, providing continuous financial support, equipment donations, and technical expertise. In 2024, Japan's contributions enabled the successful completion of 4 courses: the 12th edition of WOC, MUAS remote pilot and ToT courses and the first CIS planning for staff officers course. Japan's support has funded 55 trainees (24 male and 31 female participants) from developing nations to receive training in critical C4ISR competencies.

# Support from France

The government of France through the French army's sixty-first artillery regiment still provides crucial technical support in the area of drone and unmanned aerial systems (UAS) training. In 2024, France contributed two expert trainers for the Micro-Unmanned Aerial System (MUAS) remote pilot and Training of Trainers courses, enhancing the academy's capacity to prepare trainers and peacekeepers within peacekeeping missions.

The trainings held in Entebbe-Uganda, and certified a total of 20 trainees (17 male and 3 female participants). Each trainee is issued a flight log and encouraged to practice post training to maintain a certain number of flight hours which validates the certification.

# Support from Canada

The Government of Canada fully funded the 13th edition of WOC, the 7th edition of the MUAS ToT and the 8th edition of the MUAS remote pilot courses.

Canada also co-funded the 12th edition of WOC, the 6th edition of MUAS TOT and the 7th edition of MUAS RPC. In total, Canada's support enabled the certification of 60 participants composing of 17 males and 43 females of which 38 are military, 6 police and 16 are civilian peacekeeping personnel from 34 member states.

Canada has consistently supported UNCAP trainings aimed at enhancing the capabilities of female peacekeepers and promoting gender equality in peacekeeping operations

# Support from Uganda

The technical agreement between the Government of the Republic of Uganda and the UN was signed on November 5, 2024. This agreement signifies strengthened collaboration between Uganda and the UN, focusing on enhancing the capabilities and effectiveness of peace operations through dedicated training and support initiatives in Uganda.

The agreement follows Uganda's support for the "Partnership for Technology in Peacekeeping" initiative and includes provisions for the use of facilities and logistical support for training events. The agreement is valid for three years, with the possibility of extension by mutual consent.

### Support from Denmark

Funding from the Government of Denmark has continued to boost peacekeeping capabilities through comprehensive training programmes in the missions and the Regional Service Centre, Entebbe (RSCE).

In 2024, six trainings held at the RSCE and one training held in UNISFA were funded by Denmark. The trainings include; CIS Technical Instructor Course, C4ISR Technology Orientation for Staff Officers, UN PKO Spectrum Management, UN Peacekeeping ICT Security Fundamentals and Micro-UAS Remote Pilot Course for UNISFA at Abyei. A total of 73 participants composing of 62 male and 11 female benefited from these trainings.

### Support from Germany

UNCAP has gained support from the Federal Republic of Germany through the financing of five Modular Command Centre (MCCs) utilized across 5 UN missions. These MCCs are integral for operational support, maintained by the ICT teams and underscore Germany's commitment to enhancing field presence effectiveness.

### Support from India

In August 2021, the Government of the Republic of India indicated support for the UN peace operations through the PTP initiative. UNCAP through collaboration with the Centre for United Nations Peacekeeping (CUNPK) can host training events in New Delhi, India or in the RSCE, Uganda.

The 7th and 8th editions of the Women's Outreach Course was also financed by the government of India, and produced 27 graduates. This partnership is valid for 5 years

# Support from Spain and Luxembourg

UNCAP hosted an inaugural MUAS workshop in Valencia, Spain, bringing together different stakeholders in the UAS space across various UN entities to discuss the future of M-UAS trainings. This event received significant support from the Governments of Spain and Luxembourg.



M-UAS Remote Pilot Course practical sessions at Merryland High School Kigungu Campus Entebbe, Training Ground. Credit: UN Photo/Patricia Emodi

# Support from Morocco and Belgium

The technical support from Morocco and Belgium has had a significant impact on the effectiveness of the UNCAP Women's Outreach Course. By providing expert trainers and specialized training programmes, these governments have helped to:

- Enhance the Skills and Capabilities of Female Peacekeepers: The comprehensive training programmes ensure that female peacekeepers are well-prepared to handle the diverse challenges of peacekeeping missions.
- Promote Gender Equality in Peacekeeping: The focus on gender-sensitive approaches and leadership development helps to promote gender equality within peacekeeping operations, ensuring that women can contribute fully and effectively.

Their contributions ensure that the UNCAP Women's Outreach Course is comprehensive, effective, and impactful, ultimately contributing to more successful and inclusive peacekeeping missions.

### Support from the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)

The NATO Defence Capacity Building (DCB) project has played a crucial role in supporting UNCAP by providing comprehensive training, practical assistance, and strategic advice. This collaboration has enhanced the operational capabilities of peacekeeping personnel, contributing to more effective and resilient peace operations.

Through the DCB project, NATO continues to support global peace and security by building the defence capacities of its partners.

### Other Key Partners

Beyond the above mentioned partnerships, various countries have contributed resources, personnel, and strategic guidance, enabling UNCAP to broaden its course offerings and extend its global reach. These partnerships underscore the international community's shared commitment to strengthening UN peacekeeping operations through advanced C4ISR capabilities.



A photo of UNCAP Subject Matter Experts from MINUSCA, Jagdish Kumar, UNISFA, Salahuddin Zafor and UNMISS, Col Natsagdorj Ognoon

### Missions, Service Centres, and Other UN Integrated **Training Service Support**

UNCAP has benefited immensely from the support and partnerships of various missions, service centres, and UN integrated training services. These collaborations have been crucial in enhancing the training programmes and operational capabilities of peacekeeping personnel. Here's an expanded look at these partnerships:

### Missions

- MONUSCO (United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo): MONUSCO has been a key partner in providing finance, subject matter experts (SMEs), practical training environments and sharing operational insights. Their experience in handling complex peacekeeping challenges has been invaluable in shaping UNCAP's training modules.
- MINUSCA (United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic): MINUSCA has contributed by sharing best practices and lessons learned from their operations. This has helped in refining the training content to address real-world challenges faced by peacekeepers.
- UNISFA (United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei): UNISFA has supported UNCAP by offering insights into the unique security dynamics of the Abyei region during the training needs assessment held in January 2024

Their contributions have been essential in developing training programmes that address the specific needs and challenges of peacekeeping in volatile and disputed areas. UNISFA also supports UNCAP with trainers and SMEs.

- UNMISS (United Nations Mission in South Sudan): UNMISS has provided valuable support by sharing their experiences in managing peacekeeping operations in South Sudan. Their insights into conflict resolution and community engagement through technology have been instrumental in enhancing the training programmes at UNCAP.
- UNIFIL (United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon): UNIFIL has contributed to UNCAP by offering subject matter expertise in spectrum management . Their experience in the integration of advanced technologies for surveillance systems and real-time intelligence gathering techniques has been crucial in developing specialized training modules for peacekeepers.
- UNSOS (United Nations Support Office in Somalia): UNSOS has provided logistical support and expertise in integrating technology into peacekeeping operations. Their contributions have been critical in developing training programmes that incorporate modern technological tools and techniques.

#### Department of Operational Support (DOS):

The DOS provides overarching support and guidance for UNCAP's training initiatives. They ensure that training programmes align with UN policies and standards, and they facilitate the integration of new technologies and methodologies into the training curriculum.

The DOS also supports the development of standardized training materials and assessment criteria, ensuring consistency and quality across all training programmes.

### Office of Information and Communications Technology (OICT):

The OICT supports the integration of advanced technologies into UNCAP's training programmes. This includes the development of training simulators, data management systems, and other technological tools that enhance the effectiveness of training.

The OICT collaborates with UNCAP to explore innovative solutions and technologies that can be incorporated into peacekeeping operations.

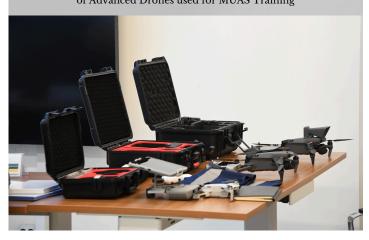


Practical Session of the MUAS Workshop in Valencia and showcase of Advanced Drones used for MUAS Training





Practical Session of the MUAS Training in Entebbe and showcase of Advanced Drones used for MUAS Training



#### **United Nations Global Service Centre (UNGSC):**

Located in Valencia, Spain, and Brindisi, Italy, the UNGSC has been a cornerstone in providing UAS technical support and infrastructure for UNCAP's training programmes. They offer state-of-the-art facilities and technological resources that enhance the quality of UAS trainings.

The UNGSC also plays a pivotal role in developing and maintaining the UAS training database and flight logs, ensuring that training records and policies are standardized and up-to-date.

### United Nations Regional Service Centre in Entebbe (RSCE):

The RSCE in Uganda provides logistical and administrative support for training events. They offer facilities and resources that are essential for conducting practical training sessions, including those involving MUAS.

The RSCE also facilitates coordination with local authorities and ensures that training activities comply with regional regulations and standards.





### Technological Advancements and Innovations, Research and Development Initiatives

# Integration of New Technologies in C4ISR Peacekeeping Training

In 2024, UNCAP continued to modernize its curriculum by integrating a range of cutting-edge technologies into its training modules and operations, equipping peacekeepers with the tools and skills needed for advanced operational effectiveness. These technologies, including high range drone technology, data management systems, advanced virtual training platforms and industry standard ICT security measures, have transformed the academy's training approach.

- Drones and Remote Surveillance: UNCAP's MUAS course integrated advanced drones like the Mavic 3 Enterprise (Mavic 3E) and Mavic 3 Thermal (Mavic 3T) drone technology to train peacekeepers in aerial surveillance, reconnaissance, and remote piloting. The curriculum was also enhanced to include CGI simulations to provide critical insights for mission planning and threat assessment.
- Advanced Data Analysis: Over the past year, UNCAP has significantly enhanced its data management system, transitioning to advanced database management tools that support relational databases and enable more interactive and dynamic data exploration.

These improvements have strengthened UNCAP's ability to analyse training data in greater depth and implement more robust monitoring and evaluation frameworks. The upgraded system allows for faster data retrieval and enhanced data visualization capabilities, providing clearer insights for decision-making.

Additionally, UNCAP is automating data collection and maintenance processes to ensure real-time, up-to-date data availability by mid-2025. This transformation is a major step toward optimizing training impact assessment and strategic planning.

• ICT Security Training: Recognizing the importance of information security, UNCAP developed specialized ICT security modules. These courses educated participants on securing communication channels, detecting ICT security threats, and mitigating risks associated with data breaches in mission-critical operations.

These technologies have not only enhanced operational training but also provided peace-keepers with practical experience in handling real-time, technology-driven challenges.

 Advances Virtual Training with X2OMedia OneRoom Upgrade: The X2OMedia OneRoom platform integrates multimedia elements with high-quality visual and audio capabilities to create a dynamic learning experience. New key features of the VILT X2OMedia OneRoom platform include:

#### 1. High-Quality Multimedia Integration:

Equipped with intelligent multi-camera setups and directional audio, the VILT OneRoom platform ensures seamless communication and collaboration. Participants benefit from high-definition visuals and clear sound regardless of their bandwidth, bringing a sense of realism to the virtual environment.



#### 2. Enhanced Collaboration Tools:

The platform's Large Format Touch Display and Confidence Monitor allow for shared annotations, interactive whiteboarding, and real-time feedback. Tools such as polls, breakout groups, and screen sharing enable collaborative learning tailored to peacekeeping operations.

#### 3. Scalability and Flexibility:

The platform's design supports hybrid solutions for face-to-face and online learners to learn in the same interactive environment, making it scalable to meet the growing training needs of UNCAP; up to 120 participants can attend a session. As more Member States contribute personnel to UN operations, the X2OMedia OneRoom can accommodate the growing number of trainees without compromising the quality of education. This scalability ensures that UNCAP can maintain consistent training standards across international lines, vital for cohesive and effective peacekeeping efforts.

Features like huddle rooms for breakout discussions and adaptive stream quality cater to diverse user requirements.

#### 4. Operator and Participant Support:

Advanced operator tools, including session management, attention tracking, and content uploads, ensure smooth training facilitation. For participants, intuitive interfaces and real-time notifications enhance usability and engagement.

#### 5. Session Recording and Replay:

Training sessions can be recorded in high-quality MP4 format, preserving the content for future review, continuous learning, and post-training evaluations.

With high-quality multimedia capabilities and scalability, this upgrade strengthens UNCAP's commitment to preparing peacekeepers for complex operational environments.





### Gender and Inclusivity Initiatives



### Women's Participation and Leadership

UNCAP's commitment to gender equality and inclusivity in peace operations remained a central focus in 2024. Through targeted programmes, inclusive policies, and a multicultural approach to training, the academy continues to lead in empowering women and fostering diversity within C4ISR roles. This target is further enhanced through the generous financial contributions from member states including, Canada, Denmark, Japan and India.

In 2024, UNCAP achieved substantial progress in promoting women's participation and leadership across its programmes:

• Overall Representation: Women comprised 24% of all programme representations, a significant increase from previous years, demonstrating the

academy's dedication to achieving gender balance in peacekeeping.

- Leadership Roles: Women were encouraged to take on leadership positions within training cohorts, serving as team leads and project coordinators during exercises. This approach not only empowered female participants but also provided valuable leadership experience directly relevant to field missions.
- Faculty and Trainers: UNCAP increased the number of female instructors and mentors, with 19% of its instructors now being women. This inclusive approach provides role models for trainees and underscores the importance of female leadership within the academy.

# Diversity and Inclusion in UNCAP Programmes

UNCAP promotes a culture of inclusivity by actively encouraging diversity among its participants and incorporating multicultural perspectives into its curriculum:

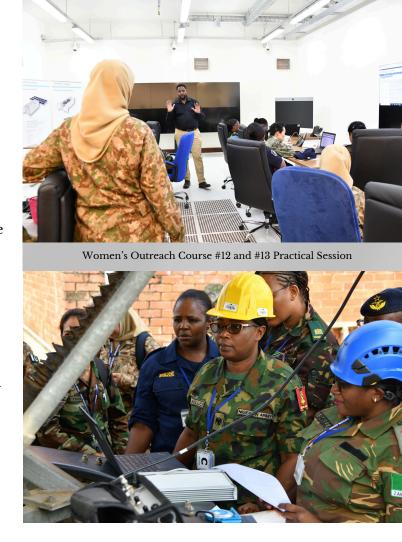
- Multicultural Engagement: Training modules are designed to reflect diverse cultural contexts, allowing participants from different backgrounds to contribute unique perspectives. This approach fosters cross-cultural understanding and strengthens the ability of peacekeepers to work effectively in multinational teams.
- Inclusive Language and Content: Course materials and communication protocols are crafted to be culturally sensitive, and instructors undergo inclusivity training to ensure respectful and open engagement.
- Participant Demographics: The academy welcomed participants from 109 countries in 2024, creating a dynamic and multicultural learning environment that reflects the diversity of UN peacekeeping missions.



Trainer, Major Hind Jirari, addressing WOC #12 Participants



Group Photo of WOC #12 Participants, Trainers and RSCE Management



### Progress on Gender-Specific Goals

UNCAP has made meaningful strides toward achieving its gender equality objectives for 2024:

- Increased Female Representation: UNCAP has increased its target for female representation in staffing by hiring a female ICT project support consultant, further enhancing gender diversity within its technical team. This strategic move brings valuable expertise and perspectives to the ICT projects, fostering a more inclusive and innovative work environment.
- Leadership Development: Through the Women's Outreach Course, UNCAP has developed female leaders who are now actively contributing to peacekeeping operations. Female graduates have gone on to take leadership roles in field missions, creating a ripple effect that promotes gender equality within peacekeeping ranks.
- Gender Policy Compliance: The academy adheres to UN gender policies and actively monitors its progress on gender-related targets, ensuring accountability and continuous improvement.



Trainer, Sergent-chef Nadege Daigle supporting the joint exercise between the MUAS and WOC #13



Trainer, Ms Penny Ssekyanzi Gganzi making a presentation to the C-34 Committee

## Overview of Women's Outreach Courses

The Women's Outreach Course (WOC) is a flagship initiative designed to empower women in peacekeeping roles:

- Objectives and Curriculum: WOC provides targeted training in leadership, C4ISR technologies, and conflict resolution, equipping women with skills to excel in peacekeeping roles. The course also includes modules on gender awareness, personal security, and strategic communication.
- Success Metrics: Since inception, WOC has trained 301 women, with participants representing 73 distinct nationalities. This year's programme not only met but exceeded enrolment targets, illustrating strong demand and interest in women-centred training.
- Impact on Career Growth: WOC graduates report increased confidence and readiness to take on more complex roles within peacekeeping missions. Many have secured leadership positions within their home missions or advanced to higher C4ISR roles within the UN.

# Promoting Gender Equality in Peacekeeping Training

UNCAP has implemented several policies and practices to support gender equality within its training programmes:

- Gender-Balanced Engagements: UNCAP actively recruits female instructors, and mentors, ensuring gender representation at every level.
- Mentorship and Support Networks: The academy facilitates mentorship opportunities where female trainees are paired with experienced women in peacekeeping, fostering a supportive environment and providing guidance for career development.
- Equal Access to Resources: UNCAP ensures that women have equal access to resources, training opportunities, and career advancement paths. All courses are designed to be fully inclusive, with adjustments made to accommodate diverse learning needs and backgrounds.



Women's Outreach Course #13 Practical Session



### Key Outcomes and Future Plans for Inclusivity

In 2024, UNCAP achieved significant milestones in gender and inclusivity initiatives:

Strengthened Female Leadership Pipeline:

During the WOC, participants had a chance to interact with women leaders like current Deputy Military Adviser at the United Nations Headquarters, Brigadier General Maureen O'Brien. By prioritizing female leadership development, UNCAP has created a steady pipeline of women leaders within peacekeeping roles, which strengthens the broader UN mission to promote gender equality.

• Enhanced Multicultural Cohesion: With participants from diverse backgrounds, the academy has strengthened its ability to create peacekeepers who are adaptable, culturally aware, and capable of thriving in multicultural teams. The inclusion of a gender component to the WOC curriculum further affirms the mandate.

Looking forward, UNCAP has set the following goals to further enhance inclusivity:

Increased Outreach to Underrepresented Regions: UNCAP aims to increase outreach to regions with

UNCAP aims to increase outreach to regions with historically lower female participation, providing additional support to ensure women from all backgrounds have access to training.

Research on Inclusivity in Peacekeeping: UNCAP will initiate research projects that explore the impact of inclusivity on peacekeeping effectiveness, using data and findings to further refine its inclusivity strategies.

UNCAP's continued commitment to gender equality and inclusivity positions it as a leader in preparing a diverse, skilled, and representative peacekeeping workforce. By empowering women and promoting multicultural engagement, the academy plays a critical role in shaping the future of peace operations.







### **Financial Brief**

### Financial Sustainability Efforts

In 2024, UNCAP maintained a stable financial position, supported by contributions from Member States. This financial stability allowed the academy to expand its training programmes, enhance facilities, and integrate advanced technologies which helped balance operational needs with strategic growth. The total budget for 2024 was allocated strategically to meet both current training needs and long-term goals. UNCAP has implemented several measures to ensure financial sustainability, including:

Strengthening Partnerships: By cultivating longterm relationships with Member States and intergovernmental organizations, UNCAP has created a steady funding base for operational programmes.

Expansion of Online and Remote Training Options: Developing online modules reduces costs associated with in-person training and allows the academy to reach a broader audience without incurring additional logistic or travel expenses.

### **Future Financial Needs**

To support ongoing innovation and programme expansion, UNCAP has identified the following future funding needs:

Investment in Future-Oriented Technologies: As new technologies continue to emerge, additional funds will be needed to integrate tools like autonomous systems, AR/VR, and adaptive learning mechanisms into the training curriculum.

Facility Expansion and Maintenance: With growing enrolment, further investment in training facility expansion will be necessary to meet demand.

UNCAP's financial strategy reflects a balanced approach to managing current operational needs while preparing for future growth. By ensuring financial sustainability and securing diverse funding sources, the academy is well positioned to continue its mission of developing a capable and inclusive peacekeeping workforce.





# Adaptation Strategies for Future Improvements

In 2024, UNCAP identified valuable lessons and implemented mitigation measures to strengthen future operations:

Facility and Resource Optimization: To maximize capacity, the academy restructured training schedules and offered staggered programme dates. Additionally, online modules were introduced for theoretical portions of the curriculum, easing the demand on physical facilities.

Need for Scalable Infrastructure: The high demand for training underscored the need for scalable facilities and resource planning. Moving forward, UNCAP plans to further develop online modules to expand access.

Value of Multilingual and Multicultural Support Cross-cultural understanding and language inclusivity were found to be critical for participant engagement and learning out-comes. The academy plans to increase its language support offerings.

#### **Capacity Building Expansion**

To address these challenges of security risks and travel restrictions, UNCAP is enhancing hybrid training models, expanding Train-the-Trainer programmes, and strengthening collaboration with UN Headquarters and regional centres. These efforts aim to sustain capacity-building initiatives despite the unpredictable operational environments of peacekeeping missions.

These adaptations not only helped UNCAP overcome immediate challenges but also laid the groundwork for more resilient and flexible operations in the future.



UNCAP Subject Matter Experts in a Workshop on Course Content Development (CCD I & II) Facilitated by Remi Tremblay (NCI Academy)



Trainer, Dr. Massimiliano Del Nista (NCI Academy) engaging UNCAP Subject Matter Experts in a Workshop on Spectrum Management Content Development





### Acknowledgment and Recognition

UNCAP's successes in 2024 were made possible by the collective efforts, support, and dedication of numerous individuals, organizations, and partners. This section recognizes their invaluable contributions, without which the academy's accomplishments would not have been possible.

Appreciation for Staff, Partners, Contributors, Trainers, and Supporting Partners

Staff, Support Staff and Management: UNCAP has a dedicated management, staff and support staff from within the RSCE, the missions and UN headquarters, whose tireless work in curriculum development, administration, and student support has been instrumental in delivering high quality training to peacekeepers worldwide. Their commitment to excellence and innovation continues to drive the academy's mission forward.

Trainers and Subject Matter Experts: Special appreciation goes to the trainers and subject matter experts from MONUSCO, UNMISS, MINUSCA, UNSOS, UNISFA, UNIFIL, RSCE, UNGSC and ITS/CPT, who bring their expertise and experience to each programme. From C4ISR technologies to leadership and inclusivity trainings, their insights, patience, and guidance have shaped the next generation of peacekeeping professionals.

Collaborating Partners and Agencies: UNCAP's partnerships with other UN institutions, member states, and international organizations have enriched its programmes and broadened its reach. Their shared vision for global peace and security strengthens the impact of UNCAP's training and operations.

Academic Collaborators: UNCAP extends its gratitude to the NCI Academy and other UN academic institutions whose contributions of equipment, technology, and research insights have elevated the quality of training programmes. Their collaborations have allowed UNCAP to remain at the cutting edge of C4ISR peacekeeping training.



Group Photo of NCI Academy Team, UNCAP Trainers and RSCE Colleagues



(L to R) Dr Garry Hargreaves (Director of the NCI Academy) and Mr. Emmanuel Ngor (Chief, Regional Field Technology Service)



(L to R) Mr. David Brazier (UNCAP Programme Manager HQ) and Dr Garry Hargreaves (Director of the NCI Academy)





### Looking Forward: 2025 and Beyond

UNCAP's strategic planning for the coming years focuses on advancing its mission to equip peacekeepers with the skills, technology, and inclusivity required for effective modern peace operations. With a roadmap for 2025-2027, UNCAP is committed to growing its impact through innovation, expanded training offerings, and stronger partnerships.

# 2025-2027 Strategic Planning and Goals

The strategic plan for 2025-2027 emphasizes four core objectives:

Deepening Technological Integration: Expand and enhance training programmes by integrating emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence, machine learning, and adaptive learning, ensuring peacekeepers remain at the forefront of operational technology.

Strengthening Inclusivity and Gender Equity: Further increase female representation and gender equity within all C4ISR training programmes, striving for balanced participation and leadership opportunities for women in peacekeeping roles.

Enhancing Field-Ready Training: Increase the focus on practical, scenario-based learning to prepare trainees for real-world applications, ensuring peacekeepers have the operational readiness required for complex environments.

Expanding Global Collaboration: Develop new partnerships with member states and international agencies to bolster resource support, introduce innovative technologies, and expand UNCAP's reach to underrepresented regions.



# Anticipated Technological and Operational Developments/Upcoming Programmes and New Initiatives

To keep pace with technological advancements and operational needs, UNCAP anticipates integrating the following developments into its training programmes:

Artificial Intelligence and Predictive Analytics: UNCAP will introduce AI-based tools for data analysis, pattern recognition, and predictive analytics, training peacekeepers to make data-driven decisions and anticipate operational threats.

Blockchain for Secure Data Transmission: Blockchain technology will be integrated into training to demonstrate secure data-sharing practices, especially in mission-critical contexts. Peacekeepers will learn to leverage blockchain for secure and transparent communication.

AR/VR Training Modules: Augmented and virtual reality tools will be implemented for immersive scenario-based training, allowing peacekeepers to practice real-world responses in a safe and controlled virtual environment.

Sustainability and Green Technology: UNCAP will incorporate sustainable practices into its operations and training, emphasizing ecofriendly technology use, energy efficient practices, and environmental protection in peacekeeping missions.







### **Annexes**

### Reference Reports

- 1. TNA Report 2024: Findings from the Training Needs Assessment in MONUSCO, UNSOS, UNISFA & UNFICYP
- 2. <u>UNCAP M-UAS Workshop Report</u>: Summary of outcomes from the Valencia M-UAS training workshop
- 3. UNCAP 2024 Operational Training Calendar
- 4. UNCAP Course Catalogue
- 5. UNCAP Annual Activity Reports 2021/2022/2023
- 6. UN Security Council presidential statement on peacekeeping and technology

### List of Data Sets

- 1. WOC Training Data by Yearly Participation
- 2. CIS Planning Training Participation by Gender
- 3. CIS Planning Training Participation by Mission
- 4. UNCAP 2024 Training Data
- 5. <u>Technology Training Portal 2024 Training Data</u>
- 6. 2024 Virtual Training Data
- 7. In-Mission Training Data UNSOS

#### **CONTACTS**

United Nations Secretariat
Ms. Tata Velayo
Acting Director Operations Support Division (OSD)
Department of Operational Support
Office of Information & Communications Technology (OICT)
United Nations Secretariat, New York

Emmanuel Ngor Chief, Regional Field Technology Service United Nations Regional Service Centre – Entebbe (RSCE)

Mr. David Brazier Programme Manager UN C4ISR Academy for Peace Operations (UNCAP) United Nations Headquarters, New York

Ms. Florence Keter Telecommunications Officer UN C4ISR Academy for Peace Operations (UNCAP) Regional Field Technology Service, Regional Service Centre Entebbe (RSCE), Uganda

United Nations C4ISR Academy for Peace Operations UNCAP Training Centre Regional Service Centre Entebbe, Uganda

#### Contact Us

Website: <a href="https://operationalsupport.un.org/en/united-nations-c4isr-academy-peace-operations">https://operationalsupport.un.org/en/united-nations-c4isr-academy-peace-operations</a>

★:UNC4ISRAcademy@un.orgE@UNC4ISR\_Academy

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