

CANADA, ARGENTINA, AUSTRALIA, GERMANY, MONGOLIA, NEW ZEALAND, NETHERLANDS, NORWAY, SWEDEN, AND THE UNITED KINGDOM

GENDER-RESPONSIVE IMPROVEMENTS TO THE CONTINGENT OWNED EQUIPMENT MANUAL

1. ISSUE PAPER THEME: Other / Cross-cutting

2. SUMMARY / BACKGROUND

Increasing the meaningful participation and number of uniformed women deployed to UN peace operations has been a stated priority of the United Nations since 2000, with UN Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000) and subsequent Resolutions 2242 (2015), 2439 (2018), 2538 (2020). This is also a shared goal of Action for Peacekeeping + (2021), the Secretary-General's System-Wide Gender Parity Strategy (2017) and the Department of Peace Operations' Uniformed Gender Parity Strategy (2019), the latter of which includes recommendations and targets to create more enabling environments within peacekeeping missions.

These foundational documents recognize that a crucial component of achieving gender parity and improved representation in peacekeeping requires that mission contexts are responsive and adaptable to the safety and inclusion of women personnel. This effort requires interventions by Member States, peacekeeping missions, and the UN system over cross-cutting issues. Member States have a valuable opportunity to ensure that the Contingent Owned Equipment (COE) Manual better reflects the needs of women personnel in peacekeeping units who, according to the Uniformed Gender Parity Strategy targets, should make up 25% of Staff Officers / Military Observers, 15% of Contingent Troops, 20% of Formed Police Units, and 30% of Individual Police Officers by 2028.¹

The detailed proposals below cover many different areas of peacekeeping missions, from conduct to accommodations and health. They represent a modest starting point for the many necessary changes needed to successfully increase the meaningful participation of women in all areas and levels of UN peacekeeping. These proposals ultimately seek to improve the COE Manual by integrating a gender-responsive lens that benefits both women *and* men peacekeepers in all their diversity.

3. DETAILED PROPOSAL

See below for detailed proposal.

¹ United Nations Uniformed Gender Parity Strategy, 2019.

4. PROPOSED MANUAL TEXT

Page	Chapter	Annex	Para	Current Text	New Text (Red)
72	3	C	9	<p>9. Medical support and security are essential at all times; therefore, a troop/police contributor cannot be partially self-sustaining in the medical self-sustainment subcategories. Level 1 medical care is a troop/police contributor responsibility; however, each level 1 facility is to provide medical support and care to all United Nations personnel permanently or temporarily in its area of responsibility. As a matter of principle, this occasional level 1 care should be provided in an emergency with no fee. A troop/police contributor may, however, choose to seek reimbursement for services rendered, and therefore there is a requirement to document and register emergency services provided. All United Nations medical facilities are responsible for emergency medical services for all United Nations personnel in their area of responsibility. Except in emergencies, specialists and level 2 and 3 facilities can request a referral from a level 1 facility before accepting a patient.</p>	<p>9. Medical support and security are essential at all times; therefore, a troop/police contributor cannot be partially self-sustaining in the medical self-sustainment subcategories. Level 1 medical care is a troop/police contributor responsibility; however, each level 1 facility is to provide medical support and care to all United Nations personnel permanently or temporarily in its area of responsibility. As a matter of principle, this occasional level 1 care should be provided in an emergency with no fee. A troop/police contributor may, however, choose to seek reimbursement for services rendered, and therefore there is a requirement to document and register emergency services provided. All United Nations medical facilities are responsible for emergency medical services for all United Nations personnel in their area of responsibility. Except in emergencies, specialists and level 2 and 3 facilities can request a referral from a level 1 facility before accepting a patient. Efforts should be made to ensure streamlined access to essential services and medications and specific medical needs of women peacekeepers, including the provision of menstrual and other gynecological products, medications, and emergency contraception.</p>
73	3	C	16	<p>16. All United Nations level 2 and 3 medical facilities must be equipped and staffed to receive and treat all United Nations personnel regardless of gender, religion or culture, preserving the dignity and individuality of all patients.</p>	<p>16. All United Nations level 2 and 3 medical facilities must be equipped and staffed to receive and treat all United Nations personnel regardless of gender, sexual orientation, race, disability, religion or culture, preserving the dignity and individuality of all patients.</p>
84	3	C	Appendix 4	<p>Treatment capability 13. Treatment of common/minor illness</p>	<p>Treatment capability 13. Treatment of common/minor illness, including menstrual products and other gynecological products or medications 14. Contraception, including emergency contraception</p>
86	3	C	Appendix 4	<p>C. Pharmacy</p>	<p>C. Pharmacy Contraception Menstrual products Other products or medications for common gynecological conditions (e.g., yeast infection, urinary tract infection, bladder infection, bacterial vaginosis)</p>
87	3	C	Appendix 5	<p>Treatment capability</p>	<p>Treatment capability 6. Administration of sexual assault forensic kits</p>

89	3	C	Appendix 5.1	C. Pharmacy	C. Pharmacy Contraception Menstrual products Sexual assault forensic kit Other products or medications for common gynecological condition
97	3	C	Appendix 6.1	C. Pharmacy	C. Pharmacy Contraception Menstrual products Sexual assault forensic kit Other products or medications for common gynecological conditions
114	3	C	Appendix 12	Treatment capability Equipment Requirement	Treatment capability 3. Contraception, including emergency contraception Common gynecological and reproductive system diseases Equipment Requirement Menstrual products Other products or medications for common gynecological conditions
115	3	C	Appendix 12.1	Item	Item iv. Menstrual products Quantity Adequate