

Challenges Annual Forum 2024



SHAPING THE NEXT GENERATION OF PEACE OPERATIONS

3-4 December, Berlin

This year's Challenges Annual Forum will gather partners and key stakeholders to discuss how to strengthen international peace and security and lay the foundation for the next generation of peace operations. The in-person event is co-hosted by the Challenges Forum's German partner Center for International Peace Operations (ZIF). It will take place in Berlin on 3-4 December 2024.

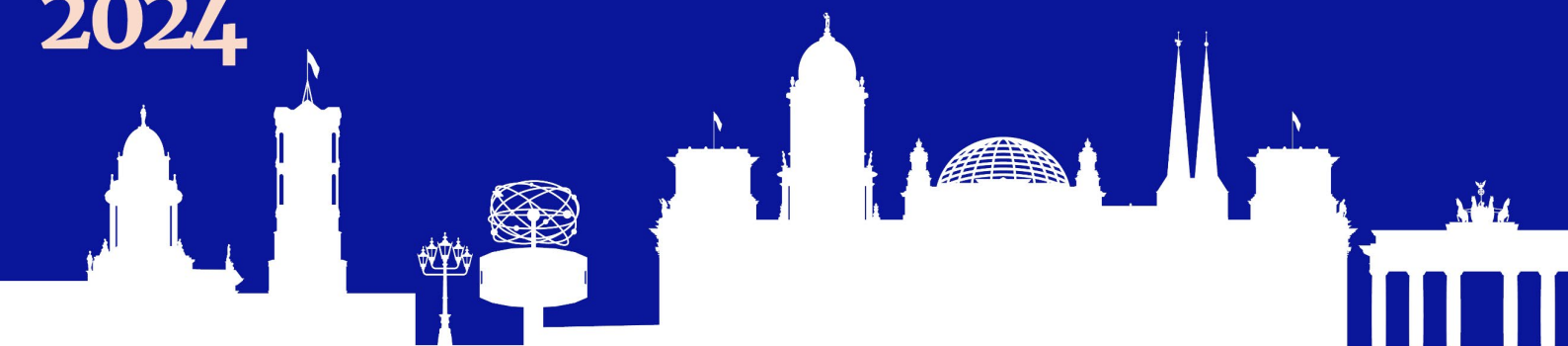
In the wake of the Summit of the Future and ahead of the Peacekeeping Ministerial in Berlin in May 2025, the Challenges Annual Forum (CAF24) provides a **unique and timely opportunity** for policymakers, practitioners, scholars and civil society representatives to discuss how to tackle the evolving challenges of global peace and security and to **shape the next generation of peace operations**. Participants can expect a dynamic programme featuring high-level speakers, expert panels, and group discussions. The forum also offers opportunities for informal networking with peers.

As highlighted by the Pact for the Future, **UN peace operations remain indispensable** for the maintenance of international peace and security. But in a world of escalating conflicts and human suffering, peace operations also need to **urgently adapt** to better respond to existing challenges and new realities. In addition to refashioning the tools and practices, peace operations must also be backed by the **necessary political and operational prerequisites for success**. Moreover, in a more complex global landscape, peace operations need to forge essential and **inclusive partnerships** to successfully work towards sustainable peace.

Overcoming barriers to effective adaptation

For over two decades, a number of reviews, including the Brahimi Report (2000), the HIPPO Report (2015), the New Agenda for Peace (2023) and most recently the Pact for the Future (2024), have provided recommendations and remedies for more effective, flexible and integrated peace operations — many of which are yet to be implemented.

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To move forward with these proposals and ensure that peace operations adapt to existing challenges and new realities, it is key to take stock of what is hindering progress and to identify how to move ahead.

During CAF24, three **innovation labs** will tackle known barriers in critical areas of peace operations and allow participants to develop innovative and concrete proposals on how to overcome them.

1) Sustainable Political Solutions for Successful Peace Operations

The primacy of politics remains a central tenet of peace operations, yet missions often fail to advance political solutions to conflict. This session will explore what barriers prevent peace operations from crafting political strategies and discuss how to increase their political impact.

2) Operationalising Adaptable and Effective Peace Operations

For peace operations to be more adaptable and effective, it is essential to address the structural and operational barriers to more modular and fluid approaches along the continuum. This session will discuss incentives for organisational change, the role of leadership and the space for innovative approaches as essential steps towards overcoming barriers for more responsive peace operations.

3) Enhancing Integration and Strategic Coherence in Peacebuilding

Peacebuilding requires peace operations to promote integration and coherence with host countries, UN Country Teams and other partners. Yet peacebuilding gains can often not be sustained after the departure of peace operations. This session will explore barriers to effective integration and discuss how peace operations can better support nationally owned peacebuilding efforts, whilst maximising the benefits of a stronger Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus.

Looking Ahead

CAF24 aims to generate innovative, concrete and actionable recommendations and support ongoing processes such as the Peacekeeping Ministerial in May 2025 and the review of all forms of UN peace operations.