

## Operational Plan for 2023

This operational plan steers the annual work of the Challenges Forum International Secretariat (CFIS). It determines priorities and main initiatives, based on the input from the partnership. The operational plan contributes to the realisation of the Challenges Forum Strategy – the overall framework for the Partnership’s work ahead – while taking trends, opportunities, and risks into consideration<sup>1</sup>.

As the world is facing a growing number of armed conflicts, increasing violence and unevenly distributed risks, more needs to be done to ensure peace and security for the global population. Not least on the African continent, which is currently the arena for more than half of the world’s ongoing conflicts. In addition, there are several parallel crises that are increasing the risks for new and more complex conflicts.

It is against this backdrop that the Challenges Forum will have a particular focus on providing support to the UN Secretary-General's *New Agenda for Peace* and the process leading up to the Summit of the Future. Hence, this year’s operational plan is aiming to support peace operations processes beyond the end of 2023.

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<sup>1</sup> The jointly adopted Challenges Forum Strategy 2019-2023 states that CFIS should provide an annual Operational Plan, which aims to contribute to the achievement of the strategic objectives.

## Challenges Forum Main Priorities 2023

- International peace operations are facing a multitude of challenges; therefore the Challenges Forum supports the UN Secretary General's plan to reinvigorate the multilateral peace and security agenda and will contribute with collective reflections to the New Agenda for Peace (NAP). The partnership will throughout the year continue to engage in key issues suggested for the agenda, leading up to the Summit of the Future (scheduled for 2024). This will require innovative thinking on adapting the UN to new challenges facing missions in the field. A reality that additionally requires a continued focus on important issues such as climate security, mis- and disinformation, regional partnerships, and digital transformation.
- The Challenges Annual Forum remains our partnership's flagship event. This year, CAF23 will be our main platform for gathering partners to collectively reflect on specific aspects of the Future of Peace operations, with the aim of creating new recommendations for the development of international peace operations.
- Senior Leaders in UN Peace Operations are affected by challenges at HQ and in the field, with greater demands on mission leadership. The Challenges Forum will continue its focus on leadership and contribute to the discussion by promoting toolkits and organising dialogue platforms.
- The Challenges Forum will continue its close collaboration with scholars and experts in the field of international peace operations. Among other things, the partnership will present and discuss five thematic research briefs on relevant topics pertaining to peace operations.
- In close consultation with the partnership, the CFIS will also start developing a new Challenges Forum strategy.

## Outputs for 2023

The Challenges Forum's mission is to be a global partnership that uses its convening power to generate innovative ideas and promote results for more effective peace operations.

As defined in the Challenges Forum strategy, the Partnership should contribute to the mission through four strategic objectives (or outcomes).

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## Detailed outline of main activities<sup>2</sup>

### Strategic Objective 1: Effective implementation of the development and reform of UN peace operations and related regional partnerships

#### **Challenges Forum Contributions – Outputs for 2023**

##### **1.1. Building on key recommendations and conclusions from Challenges Annual Forum**

Planning of events on future peace operations and the New Agenda for Peace (NAP) with the UN (DPO and DPPA) at ISA Conference (March, Montreal, Canada) and the ACUNS annual meeting (June, Washington D.C. USA).

##### **1.2. Challenges Annual Forum 2023**

Planning and implementation of CAF23, together with co-hosting partner, focusing on the most pertinent issues from the Partnership's contribution to the New Agenda for Peace.

##### **1.3. Dialogue platforms (IRL and virtual)**

Covering different themes and trends in peace operations, such as Mis- and Disinformation, complementarity between peacekeeping operations and political missions. Including Stockholm Forum and Aswan Forum.

### Strategic Objective 2: UN and regional partners have more effective mission leadership and strategic and operational management capacity

#### **Challenges Forum Contributions – Outputs for 2023**

##### **2.1. Digital toolkit for Mission Leadership**

Launching the digital tool and outreach to the UN and regional organisations (AU/EU) promoting the use of the digital toolkit for *Considerations for UN Mission Leadership*.

##### **2.2. Workshops and dialogue platforms on future leadership in UN Peace Operations**

Organising, with current and former leaders, as well as with the UN and Challenges Partners, a series of dialogues on the main challenges for the leadership in the field.

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<sup>2</sup> The following pages give a more detailed description of the main activities (outputs) that should steer the work of the Challenges Forum International Secretariat and contribute to achieving our strategy's four strategic objectives. The activities should be seen as main priorities for the secretariat's work and focus, while continuously adapting to a changing world and unforeseen events.

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## **Strategic Objective 3: The Challenges Forum Partnership is fostering an inclusive and creative approach to change management by engaging in collaborative action**

### ***Challenges Forum Contributions – Outputs for 2023***

**3.1 Continued engagement with the Challenges Forum partners as well as working on identifying potential new partners to broaden the geographical area and scope of the compete partnership**

#### **3.2 Further developing Partnerships with regional organizations**

Maintaining and increasing the focus on the cooperation with regional and subregional organization with a primarily focus on AU, ECOWAS, etc. and EU and in some aspects with other security arrangements.

#### **3.1. New Strategy for the Challenges Forum Partnership 2024 - 2028**

Initiating the process of developing a new Strategy for Challenges Forum, in close consultation with the partnership.

## **Strategic Objective 4: The CF Partnership has increased its influence on UN, regional organisations, and Member States regarding peace operations policy and practice**

### ***Challenges Forum Contributions – Outputs for 2023***

**4.1. Strengthen interest for the Challenges Forum's activities and recommendations**  
Strategic communication, including social media activities and bilateral outreach.

**4.2. Create commitment and engagement for the Challenges Annual Forum 2023**  
Strategic communication, including social media activities and bilateral outreach.

#### **4.3. Maintain and further develop the partnerships' digital channels and virtual platforms**

Optimizing platforms for communication and hybrid meetings, including change of website platform.

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