



Challenges Forum

International Forum for the
Challenges of Peace Operations

Operational Plan for 2024

The Challenges Forum is a global dialogue platform, consisting of organizations from 24 countries. Our partnership's mission is to use its convening mandate, to generate innovative ideas and promote results for more effective peace operations.

The Challenges Forum strategy 2024-2028 gives the overall objectives for the partnership's work in the coming five years. It can be seen as an operationalisation of the Challenges Forum Partnership Framework, while taking into consideration current and emerging peace operations realities and trends.

This operational plan contributes to the realisation of the partnership's strategy, by steering the annual work carried out by the Challenges Forum International Secretariat (CFIS) for 2024. It determines priorities and main initiatives, based on the input from the partnership as well as the resources and capacities within the secretariat.

Challenges Forum Main Priorities 2024

- The UN Summit of the Future aims to deliver a Pact for the Future, helping to achieve the two main goals of accelerating efforts to meet our existing international commitments, and respond to emerging challenges, while restoring trust in multilateralism. Building on the Challenges Forum's collective input to the New Agenda for Peace, the partnership will continue supporting the process towards the Summit of the Future, including the Pact for the Future.
- The Challenges Annual Forum (CAF) is the partnership's flagship event, bringing current and cutting-edge initiatives on peace operations to the forefront, including strategic and operational reforms. This year's CAF24 will further explore innovations and enlarging of the toolbox, while taking into consideration the increased geopolitical competition, and exploring the potential of continued regionalisation of peace operations. This year's forum aims to create tangible key takeaways and recommendations, for the development of international peace operations.
- The Challenges Forum Strategy 2024-2028 serves as an overall guidance of the partnership's direction for the coming five years. It will take into consideration the current and emerging realities and trends of future peace operations. This year's discussions around relevant approaches and thematic focus will be part of the operationalisation of the strategy. A light monitoring and evaluation system will also be developed, to follow up on the implementation of the strategic objectives.
- Effective and inclusive mission leadership and mission management are crucial success factors of international peace operations. Hence, mission leaders need to be supported, prepared and resourced prior to taking up their assignments. The Challenges Forum will expand its focused support to UN mission leadership by promoting the mission leadership digital tool (launched in 2023), including a French version. During the year, further experience-based support, based on a previous inventory of current mission leadership preparations and training, will also be taken forward in this regard.
- Close collaboration with scholars and experts in the field of international peace operations is key to the Challenges Forum. Among other things, this will be taken forward through events promoting several research briefs on international peace operations, in collaboration with relevant partners.

Main activities for 2024

The Partnership's endeavour towards more effective peace operations is a long-term commitment. As defined in the Challenges Forum Strategy 2024-2028, the partnership will conduce towards this ambition through two strategic objectives. The following pages give a more detailed description of the main annual activities, that can contribute to reaching the strategic objectives.

The activities should be seen as the main priorities for the secretariat's work and focus in 2024, while continuously adapting to a changing world, unforeseen events and input from the partners.

Strategic Objective 1: The Challenges Forum recommendations are taken into consideration in relevant internal and external processes regarding the development of future international peace operations, including with strengthened regional partnerships.

Challenges Forum Contributions – Activities and outputs

1.1 Collective input to the process leading up to the Summit of the Future

Building on the key recommendations and conclusions from the CAF23 and the Challenges Forum's input last year to the Secretary-General's Policy Brief, the New Agenda for Peace, CFIS and the partnership will contribute key inputs into the process of developing the Pact for the Future, towards September's Summit of the Future.

1.2 Challenges Annual Forum 2024

CFIS will undergo the planning and implementation process, together with the co-hosting partner, leading-up to this year's Challenges Annual Forum, CAF24.

1.3 Dialogue platforms

CFIS will conduct seminars and webinars (IRL and virtual), collaborating with international experts and key actors on relevant themes and trends in international peace operations. This includes, among other events, the Stockholm Forum on Peace and Development in May and launching of several Research Briefs in collaboration with the Folke Bernadotte Academy and the Swedish Defence University.

1.4 Strong partnership and collaboration

To ensure that the Challenges Forum is useful, it is key that the Partnership remains strong and engaged. CFIS will engage in collaborative action, including appointing a new advisory committee, POAC. The secretariat will also be engaging

in dialogue with potential new partners, which are deemed to meet the criteria of the Partnership Framework. In addition, efforts will be made to foster stronger engagement and cooperation with relevant regional organisations and actors, such as AU, EU and others.

1.5 Communication

Strengthen the interest and impact of Challenges Forum's activities and recommendations through strategic communication, including social media presence. CFIS will also make efforts to maintain and further develop our website, social media, use of moving media, virtual platforms, and other communication channels.

Strategic Objective 2: The Challenges Forum creates opportunities for more effective mission leadership in international peace operations, by providing platforms for exchange of knowledge, experiences, and best practices.

Challenges Forum Contributions – Activities and outputs

2.1 Digital Toolkit for Mission Leadership

CFIS will move forward with further developing and promoting the digital mission leadership tool (based on the *Considerations* study), as a leadership instrument for UN senior mission leaders. This includes making the digital tool readily available to users, including participants at UN Senior Mission Leaders courses, national deploying mechanisms, training centers and research institutions. One main activity this year is to launch a French version of the tool missionleadership.challengesforum.org.

2.2 Targeted Knowledge Building and Experience-Based Leadership Support

In collaboration with partners and key stakeholders, CFIS will develop additional targeted leadership support. The aspiration is for the Challenges Forum to provide much-needed support to mission leaders, deploying mechanisms and training centres through workshops. As an independent platform, the Challenges Forum is deemed suitable to conduct this work. During the year, CFIS will launch the first part of the project with current and former leaders in international peace operations. The activities will furthermore support the digital toolkit with additional material.

Evaluation

The key results from our activities and progress towards our partnership's overall strategic objectives, will be presented in the Challenges Forum Operational report 2024.