



CHALLENGES FORUM STRATEGY 2024-2028

About the Challenges Forum

The International Forum for the Challenges of Peace Operations – Challenges Forum – is a global partnership of more than 50 organizations in 24 countries. It is a strategic and dynamic platform for constructive dialogue among leading policymakers, practitioners and academics aiming to shape the debate on key issues and developments concerning the full range of peace operations.

Challenges Forum is given overall guidance by the Partners' Meeting, which functions as an international steering committee. The Folke Bernadotte Academy's (FBA) Director-General is the chairperson. Daily operations are led by the Challenges Forum International Secretariat (CFIS), which is hosted by FBA, the Swedish Agency for Peace, Security and Development.

Challenges Forum Strategy 2024-2028

The purpose of the Challenges Forum Strategy is to serve as an overall guidance of 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.

The world is facing intensified geopolitical rivalries, and the number of armed conflicts is growing. The core values and aspirations of the UN are under pressure, and in some cases directly undermined. In several operational settings, there is no peace to keep, and in others, the relations between host states and deployed peace operations are deteriorating. Many of today's conflicts are driven by regional instabilities and transnational threats, and regional and sub-regional bodies are getting an increasingly important role in maintaining peace and security.

The Challenges Forum partnership is of the belief the declining number of international peace operations, in combination with new forms of conflicts and the trend towards peace operations being mounted by regional organizations, calls for a need to complement and innovate the multilateral peace operations toolbox and approaches.



Vision

Global peace and security through strong multilateral partnerships and more effective peace operations.

Mission

Challenges Forum is a global partnership that uses its convening mandate to generate innovative ideas and promote results for more effective peace operations.

Strategic objectives

During 2024-2028, the Challenges Forum will contribute to the partnerships' overarching goals of more effective peace operations, through two strategic objectives.

The fundamental and decisive prerequisite for reaching these two objectives, is an active and inclusive engagement by the Challenges Forum partners in our joint efforts and initiatives.

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.

Theory of change: By engaging partners, the UN and other key actors in a continuous multi-disciplinary and forward-thinking dialogue, the Challenges Forum can produce relevant recommendations to develop peace operations, based on proven experience combined with new ideas. The recommendations' potential to gain impact is enhanced by engaging influential key stakeholders with access to relevant processes, towards the development of more effective peace operations and multilateral partnerships.



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.

Theory of change: By providing opportunities for mission leaders and specialist organizations to learn from others' in-depth experiences, they can strengthen their capacity to carry out their assignments in accordance with their mandates. A continuous and adaptive learning, through different perspectives, is central to navigating the complex and changing environment that mission leaders face in their diverse roles. This is an effective way for external partnerships and actors, to promote successful mandate implementation.

Activities and outputs

The Challenges Forum Strategy gives overall guidance for the Partnership's work in the coming five years. However, in order to assure that our activities are relevant and strategic, the partnership's ongoing work is adapted to the changing international peace and security agenda and operational environments, by taking trends, opportunities, and risks into consideration. The details of these activities are described in the annual Operational Plan.

Guiding principles and approaches of the Challenges Forum

- To convene an impartial and informal space for in-depth and sincere dialogue, to share knowledge and experiences, and generate innovative ideas towards more effective peace operations.
- To contribute to the development of peace operations, while mainstreaming crosscutting important perspectives such as climate-related security risks, technical development, mis- and disinformation and youth participation.
- To contribute to more gender responsive peace operations, through the Women, Peace, and Security agenda.
- To be an inclusive global platform with a broad and balanced representation, facilitating bridges between different key actors, dimensions, and approaches, such as:
 - Civilian – military – police components;
 - UN – regional organizations – host countries;
 - Theory – policy – practice.



Implementation of strategy

The Challenges Partners are committed to the implementation of the 2024-2028 strategy by engaging in the partnership's dialogues and activities. The host of the Challenges Forum International Secretariat (CFIS) – the Folke Bernadotte Academy – is equally committed to creating the necessary conditions for CFIS to support the Partners in implementing the Challenges Forum Strategy 2024-2028.

Monitoring and evaluation

CFIS will develop a light monitoring mechanism of the activities, including indicators, to facilitate a transparent evaluation of the strategy. The follow-up of the strategy implementation will be described in the Annual Operational Report, presenting the current year's key results and progresses towards the strategic objectives.

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It consists of organizations from 24 countries: Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Canada, China, Egypt, Ethiopia, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Japan, Jordan, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Russia, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States of America, Uruguay, WFUNA



Challenges Forum

