

27 April 2010

To: ICPRA Members

From: Greg O'Connor, Chairman

Reporting to Copenhagen Meeting: International Policing

Background

1. Representatives of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) have confirmed their involvement in this year's ICPRA meeting, to be held in Copenhagen in May.
2. UN attendance at Copenhagen represents a key opportunity to advance ICPRA's strategic organisational goals. The opportunity exists to lay the foundations for ongoing and fruitful engagement. Conversely, if the opportunity is not taken, there is the risk that it may become increasingly difficult to re-engage the UN in any meaningful way.
3. I refer you to my paper of 22 March 2010, which expands on these points in greater detail. In particular I draw your attention to the recommendation in that paper that all delegates to the Copenhagen meeting **prepare and circulate in advance** a brief paper on international policing from their organisation's perspective. Doing so will ensure we are all well informed and prepared to engage with the UNDP representatives in a meaningful and mutually enlightening way.

Contents of reports

4. In preparing their report, ICPRA members should have regard to the interests being represented by the UNDP participants, and tailor their issues and comments accordingly. In particular, a focus on the areas of mutually shared priority (including Afghanistan, Iraq, Kosovo, Haiti and Timor Leste) would help establish common ground.
5. It may be of assistance in preparing your reports to follow the outline described below. I envisage reports of between 2 and 10 pages in total length, depending on the extent of a member organisation's involvement in international deployments.
6. I would envisage sharing these reports with the UNDP personnel as conference papers pertaining to the session in which they are involved. As such, in making relevant observations about practices of home police services, or other nations' personnel, a degree of diplomacy may be advisable.

Proposed report outline

Overview of involvement in international deployments

- Briefly outline recent and current international deployments.
- Under whose auspices was the deployment undertaken (e.g., UN, Europol, bilateral/regional agreement)
- Describe the scale (numbers of personnel) and duration of deployments.
- Describe the nature of the work performed: e.g., patrol/restoration/maintenance of order policing; training of local police; technical skills transfer/capability development; etc.

Strategic impacts of deployments

- What trends in demands are apparent – what are the expectations of the future?
- What pressures have deployments placed on delivery of local police services?
- What organisational changes have occurred/are occurring in home police forces as a result – e.g., establishment of specialist international policing divisions or career paths.

Observations from an Association/Union perspective on international experience to date

- Difficulties/problems facing members deployed internationally: e.g. pre-deployment training adequacy; theatre familiarisation/orientation; mission clarity; safety and security; rules of engagement; command and control; continuity of contract terms and conditions; post-deployment psychological support.
- Observations on any issues associated with other personnel jointly deployed or also contributing to a mission – e.g., their suitability to a mission, adequacy of skills/discipline.
- Observations on what could usefully be done to improve the effectiveness of missions from the sponsor's (i.e. UN) point of view: what are the roadblocks to success, and what can be done to address them?

Potential for future cooperation

7. **Separately from the report**, but also ahead of the Copenhagen meeting, it would be useful for members to give some thought as to what skills could potentially be made available by ICPRA members to the UNDP agenda (e.g., in developing democratic police associations in fragile countries), in what form (e.g. expert personnel in theatre, training conducted in home country, knowledge transfer through provision of written/published resources), and under what conditions (e.g. secondment to UN, financial support). These will likely be issues for group discussion involving UNDP representatives; however it may not be in members' interests to commit early ideas to the formal record of the meeting as contained in the conference papers.