



**KAIPTC**  
...where peace begins

**Opening Remarks by**

**The Ambassador of Switzerland – H.E. Mr. Philipp Stalder**

**Multidimensional Peace Operations (MDPO) Course 2021**

**28 June 2021, 0930 hrs.**

*Deputy Commandant of the KAIPTC, Major General Francis Ofori*

*Director Training – Colonel Paul Tanye-Kulono;*

*Course Director – Lieutenant Colonel Ralf Luensmann;*

*Distinguished Guests, and Participants;*

*Ladies and Gentlemen*

It is a great pleasure for me to be with you this morning. I thank the Commandant for his kind invitation to come to KAIPTC, and personally welcome you to the Multidimensional Peace Operations Course 2021.

Looking at the tables, I see the flags of Nigeria, Cameroon, Benin, Liberia, Sierra Leone and Ghana. I am glad that despite the pandemic, you have arrived safely from different corners of Africa and Ghana and that the course can be held with this considerable international participation. What also pleases me is that half of the participants are women!

Women have more and more become an important part of the peacekeeping family - making peace support operations more effective!

Let me quote former US Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton: “When women participate in the economy, everyone benefits. When women participate in peace-making and peace-keeping, we are all safer and more secure. And when women participate in politics of their nations they can make a difference.”

Allow me now to say a few words about multidimensional peace support operations and the course itself.

Initially developed to deal with inter-State conflict, Peace Operations have increasingly been used in intra-state conflicts and civil wars, which are often characterized by multiple armed factions with differing political objectives and fractured lines of command. This changing environment has led to an evolution in the structure of peace operations, particularly since the 90s. They evolved from the traditional model of military operations to the multidimensional model. Today's multidimensional peacekeeping operations are called upon not only to maintain peace and security, but also to facilitate the political process, protect civilians, assist in the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of former combatants; support the organization of elections, protect and promote human rights and assist in restoring the rule of law.

A number of peacekeeping operations are still based on the “traditional” model of a military operation deployed in support of a political activity, for example UNTSO (United Nations Truce Supervision Organization) in the Middle East, or the UN missions in Cyprus, Western Sahara and Kashmir.

Let us now consider a modern-day Peace Support operations, for example, the MINUSMA, the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali. The Security Council decided in his resolution 2164 of 25 June 2014 explicitly that this Mission should focus on duties, such as ensuring security, stabilization and protection of civilians; supporting national political dialogue and reconciliation; and assisting the reestablishment of State authority, the rebuilding of the security sector, and the promotion and protection of human rights in that country.

Ladies and Gentlemen, with no doubt, this is the future of peace support!

More than two generations after the first UN Peacekeeping Mission in the Middle East in 1948, the size and scope of Peace Operations has therefore expanded dramatically. Success is never guaranteed, and there is no “one-size-fits-all” model. To succeed, current Multidimensional Peace Operations must have clear mandates and adequate resources, and must be tailored to fit the political, regional and other realities of the country or territory in question. Most importantly, they must respond to the desires and aspirations of the local population.

How to master are these Herculean tasks? This we can only accomplished with united efforts! That is why members of the military, police, judiciary, civilians, members of government institutions and NGOs sit together in this room to learn and exchange ideas.

This course is designed to provide you with the knowledge and skills required to plan, coordinate and implement multidimensional peace operations at the operational level to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of every component involved in peace operations.

Let me again summarize and emphasize your main tasks in your future mission: Protection of civilians, active conflict prevention, reduction of violence, strengthening of security and empowerment of national authorities to take on these tasks.

When it comes to peace operations, Switzerland participates in the efforts of the international community. For example international peace support is one of the three tasks of the Swiss Armed Forces. Currently approximately 280 men and women from the rank of private to major general are serving for the cause of peace in 19 countries, in contingents as the SWISSCOY in Kosovo, as UN Military Experts in Mission and as Humanitarian Deminers in the Middle East, Africa and Asia or supporting training institutions such as KAIPTC or the L'école de maintien de la paix Alioune Blondin Beye in Mali.

Three Swiss officers are currently seconded to the Centre, and we are financing three courses every year.

Switzerland is proud to support these activities and is proud to cooperate with KAIPTC, as the Center plays an important role in the overall African security architecture as one of the few centers of excellence for training.

In our commitment to global peace and security, Ghana and Switzerland have both applied for non-permanent seats on the UN Security Council. Ghana for the 2022-24 period and Switzerland for the 2023-24 period.

Last month, Ghana received the highest number of votes compared to the four other member states elected for the next two years, cementing Ghana's high standing in the community of nations. Congratulations!

Ghana's excellent result at the election reflects the strength of its international profile and its commitment to peace and security. I would like to assure you of my country's full support for your mandate. Ghana's commitment to conflict prevention, post conflict reconstruction and multilateralism resonates strongly with our areas of interest. They will also be focus areas of our own bid for a non-permanent seat on the UN Security Council in 2023-2024. I am thus very pleased with our agreement of mutual support for the successive candidacies of our countries. I am confident that we will have a fruitful cooperation in 2023 if Switzerland succeeds to secure a seat on the Council.

Let us now hope that in 2023 our two nations will work together in the Security Council for humanity, sustainable development, multilateralism, innovation, and peace.

Let me thus conclude by wishing you all a very successful and interesting learning experience here at the Center over the next two weeks, and thank you again for your commitment.

I am pleased to herewith declare the course officially open.

Thank you very much for the attention.