



Multidimensional Peace Operations Course 2020: Opening Remarks of H.E. Philipp Stalder, Ambassador of Switzerland



Ambassador Philipp Stalder, delivering his opening remarks © KAIPTC

Commandant KAIPTC, Major General Francis Ofori
Director Training, Colonel Paul Tanye-Kulono
Course Director, Major Federico Leonardi
Course Participants
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen

It is a great pleasure for me to be with you this morning. I thank the Commandant for the very kind invitation to come to the Centre, and personally welcome you to the Multidimensional Peace Operations Course (MPOC).

This course is a very special one – because of you and because of COVID-19. In our meeting with the Commandant before, I expressed my satisfaction with the joint forces and little preparation time it has taken to organize this course.

It is one of the pillar courses which we organize since many years for Ghanaian and international participants at the KAIPTC. The course should allow you to have fruitful and productive sessions and interactions between you and your instructors.

Allow me now to say a few words about the course itself and the origin of international peace keeping operations in the world.

The United Nations which was founded in October 1945 in the aftermath of two World Wars and was dedicated to *"succeed generations from the scourge of war"*. Since then, the UN (and the same is valid for the AU) has been called upon to prevent disputes from escalating into war, to persuade opposing parties to use the conference table rather than the force of arms and to help restore peace when conflict breaks out.

Over the decades, the UN has helped to contain or end numerous conflicts, in many cases through the deployment of Peace Operations. Peace Operations are based on the principle of impartial presence to ease tensions between hostile parties and create space for political negotiations. They can bridge the gap between the cessation of hostilities and a durable peace.

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 1990s. They evolved from the traditional model of military operations to the multidimensional model, consisting of a range of components. These include the military, civilian police, political and civil affairs, rule of law, human rights, humanitarian assistance, reconstruction, public information, gender, and others.

More than two generations after the first UN Peacekeeping Mission in 1948, the size and scope of Peace Operations have expanded dramatically. Multidimensional peace operations cannot be rolled out at will, and there is no "one-size-fits-all" model. To succeed, they 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.

There are voices who claim that Peace Operations are neither efficient nor effective, and therefore a waste of resources. But what do Peace Operations consist of? They consist of human beings exactly like you and me. So it is our very own responsibility to do everything

in our power to make Peace Operations a success. And to provide training and capacity to the 'human factor'!

When it comes to peace operations, Switzerland participates in the efforts of the international community, and – despite or because we are a neutral country - we are actively involved in numerous operations around the world. The Swiss Armed Forces deploys around 300 officers, non-commissioned officers, privates and civilian staff members, serving in numerous Missions.

Switzerland is proud to support these activities and is proud to support KAIPTC. Three of our staff officers are currently serving at the Centre, and we are financing three Swiss Courses at KAIPTC every year

Dear participants, let me conclude by wishing you all a successful, enriching and interactive time. I thank you for your attention and, with the consent of the Commandant, I am honored to declare the Multidimensional Peace Operations Course 2020 as formally opened.

Links:

Website: www.eda.admin.ch/accra

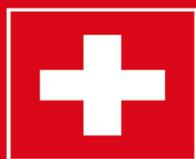
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Switzerland.

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