Since 2015, the overall rate of women in United Nations peace operations has only increased 4.2% to 5%. At the current pace, it will take decades to reach levels outlined in Security Council resolution 2242.

Based on the idea that financial wherewithal should not be an impediment to advancing gender equality, the UN and Canada have collaborated to design a fund to support and incentivize the increased meaningful participation of uniformed women in UN peace operations. This Fund seeks to accelerate progress towards achieving UN targets to increase the proportion of women serving in uniformed military and police roles, as stated in the Department of Peace Operation's Uniformed Gender Parity Strategy.

The primary recipients of the fund are troop- and police-contributing countries (T/PCCs), while UN organizations that wish to implement and test innovations will have secondary access.

**Funding Approach**

1. **Flexible Project Funding**
   
   Allows T/PCCs and/or UN organizations to access financial assistance to support evidence-based activities and the deployment of trained and qualified uniformed women, over the short and long term.

2. **Premiums for Gender-Strong Units**
   
   Financial premiums to T/PCCs for the deployment of gender-strong units, which may serve as an incentive to rapidly, responsibly and sustainably increase the meaningful deployment of trained and qualified uniformed women to UN peace operations.

**What is a Gender-Strong Unit?**

A gender-strong unit is defined as a military unit or FPU that includes substantial representation of women overall and in positions of authority, has provided gender-equity training to all unit members, and has adequate equipment and other materiel to ensure parity of deployment conditions for women and men peacekeepers.

**Monitoring, Reporting and Evaluation**

All projects must include robust internal monitoring and reporting procedures. The Fund’s mandate to provide innovative solutions requires a comprehensive evaluation of its efforts. In recognition of the need to move from incremental to transformational change, the Fund will adapt based on results reported in order to remain flexible in its approach.

**Risk Mitigation**

Specific risk and mitigation strategies will be developed by applicants for each project that is funded, as part of the proposal submission process. While the risks outlined will be specific to each project, as a criterion for consideration, each proposal should explicitly address the safety and security of all women military or police personnel who are to be assisted through the proposal.
GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENT

Steering Committee
Co-Chaired by UN Women and Canada

Fund Secretariat
Hosted by UN Women

Technical Committee

Recipient Organizations
- Primarily, the Fund offers assistance and incentives for T/PCCs. T/PCCs may wish to apply to the fund in coordination with CSOs and/or UN organizations
- Secondarily, the Fund can support projects submitted by UN organizations which are designed to implement and test innovations. UN organizations may wish to apply to the fund in coordination with CSOs and/or T/PCCs

Administrative Agent
(UNDP MPTF Office)

Examples of Possible Funding Proposals
- Training and mentorship programs for commanders and senior personnel
- Investment in infrastructure needed for more women to deploy to a mission
- National-level recruitment campaign to attract more women into service
- Targeted training to elevate the skills of women personnel who may deploy

Eligibility Criteria for Funding
- Currently a UN T/PCC or serious intent to become one
- Demonstrates a high-level of commitment through a public letter of intent
- Meets requirements of UN risk policies
- Agrees to complete a barrier assessment and to allow the Fund Secretariat to access and publicize data from this assessment through an anonymized report

Additional Considerations for Selection
- Compliance with requirements
- Impact and strategic relevance
- Sustainability and extension
- Innovative solutions and approaches
- Engagement with women stakeholders through project development
- Cost effectiveness
- Project management and risk analysis
- Monitoring, reporting and evaluation

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