Background

Demand for peacekeepers is at a record high. The complexity of today’s missions and the fluidity of operational environments require specialized capabilities and highly qualified personnel to perform their duties according to international standards.

Egypt is a major troop- and police-contributing country (TCC/PCC) to United Nations (UN) peacekeeping missions: It is the 7th largest contributor overall, the 3rd largest contributor of police, and the 2nd largest contributor of military experts. Egypt is also a major contributor to doctrinal and policy development through its role as the Rapporteur of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations (C34), and more recently as a member of the UN Security Council (UNSC) (2016-2017).

In Africa, Egypt is a major contributor to the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA), including the African Standby Force (ASF) and the African Capability for Immediate Response to Crises (ACIRC). It was also a member of the African Union (AU) Peace and Security Council (PSC) (2016-2019).

Going hand-in-hand with the above is Egypt’s contribution to training and capacity building through the Cairo International Center for Conflict Resolution, Peacekeeping and Peacebuilding (CCCPA).

Pre-Deployment Training for Egyptian Peacekeepers

CCCPA cooperates with the Egyptian Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Defense and Interior, to provide core pre-deployment training for Egyptian peacekeepers. Since 2014, CCCPA has trained 13,080 Egyptian peacekeepers, deployed to 7 missions in the continent. Training curricula are based on the UN Core Pre-deployment Training Materials (CPTM) and tailored as the need arises to the specific mandate of the mission. CCCPA offers specialized training to Egyptian, African and Arab peacekeepers such as Mapping Exercises; Command Post Exercises; Field Training Exercises; Military Observers Trainings; International Humanitarian Law and International Human Rights Law; Dialogue, Negotiation and Mediation; Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR); and Preventing Sexual Exploitation and Abuse in Peacekeeping Missions.

Senior Mission Leaders and Training of Trainers

In 2014, and in cooperation with the AU Peace Support Operations Division (PSOD), CCCPA hosted the 9th AU Senior Mission Leaders Training (AUSML). The AUSML is an annual training that aims to prepare senior civilian, police and military mission leaders for possible deployment to AU Peace Support Operations (PSOs). This was the second time that CCCPA hosts the training, having previously hosted the 4th AUSML in May 2009.

In cooperation with the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPO) and the Integrated Training Service (ITS), CCCPA hosted the 21st UN Senior Mission Leaders (SML) Training Course in May-June 2015 (in Cairo). The course—considered the most prestigious UN peacekeeping training—aims to prepare newly appointed and potential senior mission leaders to undertake their roles and responsibilities in peacekeeping operations. This was the first time the UNSML was organized in North Africa, and the second time in the Arab world.

In line with CCCPA’s approach to building lasting capacities, the Center partnered with DPO/ITS to conduct a Training of Trainers Pilot Course on the UN Revised Core Pre-Deployment Training Materials (CPTM). The training brought together 34 peacekeeping trainers from 24 countries in October 2016 (in Cairo).
National Planners

CCCPA hosted the UN National Planners Course (UN-NPC) in March 2018, in line with the pledges announced by Egypt during the 4th UN Peacekeeping Defense Ministerial Conference, held in November 2017 in Canada. The course was conducted in collaboration with ITS, and brought together 30 participants from 22 current and emerging troop- and police-contributing countries. It aimed to provide national planners appointed to lead or execute tasks concerned with the preparation, deployment, maintenance, and rotation of contingents for UN Peacekeeping Operations with updated information on the UN administrative and technical procedures.

Training of the North African Regional Capability

CCCPA is the sole provider of training for the North African Regional Capability (NARC) of the African Standby Force (ASF).

Research and Convening

In addition to its independent research on the wide spectrum of peacekeeping issues, CCCPA—together with 40 leading research institutes, think tanks and academics—is currently a member of the Effectiveness of Peace Operations Network (EPON). The network was launched in 2016 to assess the effectiveness of peace operations. In 2018, CCCPA contributed to two filed researches on the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) and the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA).

CCCPA is also involved in the development of operational guidance for peacekeeping missions. A recent example in that regard is the booklet developed by the Center on “Preventing Sexual Exploitation and Abuse in Peacekeeping Operations”. The booklet (issued in Arabic, English and French) is distributed to peacekeepers during their pre-deployment training.

Since 2014, the Cairo Center has been actively involved in global and regional debates about reforming peacekeeping. In 2014, and in partnership with the UN Peacebuilding Support Office (UNPBC), CCCPA organized a regional workshop, titled “Regional Aspects of Peacebuilding: Identifying Gaps, Challenges and Opportunities”. The workshop’s outcome report was distributed as an official UNSC and General Assembly document (A/69/654-S/2014/882). In 2015, CCCPA hosted the “Arab Consultations of the High-Level Independent Panel on Peace Operations (HIPPO)”. The event produced concrete recommendations and action points that were included in the final HIPPO Report.

In 2018, the Government of Egypt and CCCPA organized a High-Level Regional Conference on "Enhancing the Performance of Peacekeeping Operations: From Mandate to Exit", on 18-19 November. The conference provided a unique platform for officials from top troop- and police-contributing countries (T/PCCs) from Africa and the Arab World to share their views on strengthening UN peacekeeping, with other actors and stakeholder, including UN Security Council members, host nations, financial contributors, international and regional organizations as well as leading international research and training centers, scholars, experts, and practitioners.

Building on the findings and recommendations of the Cairo conference, and guided by key policy documents, including most notably the Presidential Statement S/PRST/2017/27 of December 2017, "The Cairo Roadmap on Enhancing the Performance of Peacekeeping Operations: From Mandate to Exit" was developed. The Roadmap provides concrete recommendations and action points for the implementation of the “Action for Peacekeeping (A4P)" and the Shared Commitments on Peacekeeping Operations. Following up on the Roadmap, three consultative meetings were organized in December 2018, February and March 2019 respectively, by CCCPA in cooperation with the Permanent Mission of the Arab Republic of Egypt to the United Nations in New York. The events took stock of the progress achieved in enhancing the performance and effectiveness of peacekeeping operations, and the contribution of the Cairo Roadmap towards turning shared political commitments into a practical, integrated, and mutually reinforcing implementation framework.

International Cooperation

CCCPA is a partner in major global and regional peacekeeping associations, as well as a member of leading global research networks dealing with issues of peacekeeping and peacebuilding:

IAPTC: CCCPA is a member and former President of the International Association of Peacekeeping Training Centers (IAPTC). In 2017, CCCPA hosted the IAPTC 23rd Annual Conference, in collaboration with the Egyptian Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Defense, and Interior. This was the first time for the conference to be held in the Middle East, and the first since 2008 to be organized in Africa.

In addition, since January 2017, CCCPA has assumed the role of the Secretariat of the Association for five years (2017-2022).

APSTA: CCCPA is a member and past president of the African Peace Support Trainers Association (APSTA).

IDDRTG: CCCPA is the co-chair of the Integrated Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Training Group (IDDRTG).

Challenges Forum: CCCPA is a member of the International Forum for the Challenges of Peace Operations. It hosted the Forum’s annual conference and partners meeting in 2012.

NATO-PTEC: CCCPA is an active member in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) - Partnership Training and Education Centers (PTECs), established in 1999.

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