



Opening Remarks By
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(IAPTC)
To the Opening Ceremony of the 24th Annual Conference of the IAPTC
“Innovative Capacity Building for Effective Peace Operations”
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(as prepared for delivery)

Honorable Members of the Executive Committee,
Distinguished Members of the IAPTC,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good morning to you all and welcome to the beautiful city of Auckland, host of the 24th Annual Conference of the International Association of Peacekeeping Training Centers (IAPTC); the largest and single most important gathering of the global peacekeeping training community.

During its 24 years of existence, the IAPTC has been an important instrument for advancing global efforts to improve peacekeeping performance. Its contribution, and that of its member institutions and individuals, to building capacities and preparing peacekeepers for complex missions, is as important today as ever.

Allow me at the outset to thank our dear friends and colleagues at the New Zealand Defense Forces, the New Zealand Police, the New Zealand Ministry of Defense and the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, for their generous hospitality and impeccable organization of this year’s conference.

I would also like to take this opportunity to salute the dedication, professionalism and hard work of the distinguished members of the Executive Committee, whom I kindly ask to stand as I call their names, to be recognized:



1. Col. Helen Cooper - **the Host and President Designate.**
Thank you Helen for your leadership. You are three days away from a big prize that will fill you with joy. I know that, because I have been there.
2. Gen (Rtd.) Hernan Flores Ayala of Peru - **the Host Designate** and Col. Jaime Aleman of Peru – **the Host Designate Lead Planner**
3. Mr. Jonas Alberoth - **Chair of the Consolidated Development Committee.**
It is so good to have you with us Jonas. This, and the 23 preceding conferences, would not have been possible without you.
4. Col. (Rtd.) Roberto Gil – **the Military Chair**
5. Brig. Gen. (Rtd.) Hester Adriana Paneras - **the Police Chair**
6. Dr. Lotte Vermeij - **the Civilian Chair**
7. Insp. Camilla Unsgaard - **the Pedagogical Chair**
8. Mr. Mark Pedersen - **UN Representative**
9. Ms. Sarah Abdelgelil - **the IAPTC Secretariat**

I would also like to acknowledge the tireless efforts of the entire New Zealand organizational team, led by my dear friend Colonel Syd. Syd, it is been an honor to know you and a pleasure to work with you.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

This year's conference comes at a critical juncture for peacekeeping. **On one hand**, it marks the 70th anniversary of UN peacekeeping.

70 years is indeed an impressive milestone. Think about it. If anything, it proves that UN peacekeeping continues to be one of the most effective tools for the maintenance of international peace and security.

On the other hand, however, peacekeeping - this invention of the United Nations, as the late Secretary General Dr. Boutros Ghali used to call it - has changed and will continue to. Today, and for the foreseeable future I am afraid, the majority of our peacekeepers serve in complex environments, characterized by asymmetric threats,



large-scale humanitarian crises, and ongoing violence, for which they must be equipped and prepared.

Finally, peacekeeping is coming under increasing pressure, with a growing gap between operational realities and political expectations, made all the more steeper by the increasing pressure, sometimes realistic, other times not, for peacekeeping missions to do more with less; to achieve better outcomes with less resources.

And while this might sound like a reasonable demand, it must be rationalized by considering the alternative. In his Agenda for Peace, more than 25 years ago and at a time of equally tectonic twists and turns on the global stage, Dr. Boutros Ghali opined that, and I quote, “the contrast between the costs of United Nations peacekeeping and the costs of the alternative, war - between the demands of the Organization and the means provided to meet them - would be farcical were the consequences not so damaging to global stability and to the credibility of the Organization”.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In the face of those challenges, major initiatives are already underway to enhance the effectiveness of peacekeeping operations, at the UN, but also elsewhere. These include the ongoing reviews of eight UN peacekeeping operations, and the UN Secretary General’s Action for Peacekeeping (A4P) initiative, which have already resulted in a Declaration of Shared Commitments, one that calls for a “quantum leap in our collective engagement” to make peacekeeping fit for the future.

An important consequence of these developments is the renewed focus on enhancing training and readiness of peacekeepers to meet the operational realities on the ground.

For this reason, the focus of this year’s conference “*Innovative Capacity Building for Effective Peace Operations*,” could not be timelier. Over the next few days, you will have this unique opportunity to interact with some of the best and brightest minds in the international peacekeeping community.



Ladies and Gentlemen,

This year's conference is unique in many respects. Following up on the 23rd annual Conference in Cairo, Egypt and based in no small part on the positive feedback we have received from many of you, we have continued to fully integrate pedagogical aspects in every topic of discussion. We have gone a step further by organizing Knowledge Cafés for the first time, providing an opportunity for IAPTC members to exchange knowledge and share views on innovation in pedagogical aspects of peacekeeping, in an interactive and visual manner.

Moreover, and while maintaining our all-of-mission approach to the development of the agenda, we have placed a renewed focus on the role of the police and civilian components in peacekeeping.

We have also gone out of our way to create more and more opportunities for interacting between the members, with the hope of exploring avenues for collaboration between peacekeeping training centers from around the world.

In doing this, we aim to consolidate the position of the IAPTC annual conference as the most important get together of the global peacekeeping training community, and the most sought-after event for those seeking new and innovative ideas to support our collective efforts to improve peacekeeping performance.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Our gathering today is a clear demonstration of our steadfast commitment to make a change in the field of peacekeeping training.

I look forward to a successful Conference and to the opportunity of interacting and learning from all of you.



It is now my distinct pleasure to announce the official opening of the 24th Annual Conference of the IAPTC.

I thank you.
