

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**

**CONCERNING**

**THE STEERING COMMITTEE**  
**FOR**  
**THE MULTINATIONAL UNITED NATIONS STAND-BY FORCES**  
**HIGH READINESS BRIGADE**

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SECTION ONE  
PURPOSE AND SCOPE

- 1.1 In accordance with the Letter of Intent concerning co-operation on the Multinational United Nations Stand-by Forces High Readiness Brigade (SHIRBRIG), initially signed in Denmark on the 15<sup>th</sup> of December 1996, the undersigned nations, on the basis of the provisions set out in this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), have decided to establish the Steering Committee for the SHIRBRIG (SC/SHIRBRIG), which is the executive body for oversight and policy guidance of the SHIRBRIG and the associated Planning Element (PLANELM). The terms of co-operation in the SHIRBRIG and in the PLANELM are set out in separate MOUs.

1.2 This MOU does not create any legally binding obligations upon the undersigned nations.

## SECTION TWO DEFINITIONS

2.1 **SHIRBRIG** means the Multinational United Nations Stand-by Forces High Readiness Brigade, which is the pre-established (Non-standing), multinational brigade at high readiness, composed of contributions to the United Nations Stand-by Arrangements System, providing a rapid deployment capability for deployments of up to 6 months duration in peacekeeping operations mandated by the United Nations Security Council under Chapter VI of the Charter of the United Nations, including humanitarian tasks.

2.2 **PLANELM** means the multinational Planning Element, which is the permanent part of the SHIRBRIG staff. The PLANELM is established to support the SHIRBRIG by performing pre-deployment functions and then, on deployment, to become the nucleus of the deployed SHIRBRIG staff.

## SECTION THREE REPRESENTATION

3.1 The following applies to representation at the SC/SHIRBRIG:

- a. **Representatives** are nominated by the undersigned nations.
- b. **Participants** are the Representatives nominated by those undersigned nations which have also signed the MOU concerning the PLANELM and the MOU concerning the SHIRBRIG.

3.2 Each Representative may be advised by national experts, who may take part in any discussions at the SC/SHIRBRIG or in subordinate meetings.

3.3 The following nations may become observers to the SC/SHIRBRIG meetings:

- a. Nations which have signed the letter of Intent concerning co-operation on the SHIRBRIG, initially signed in Denmark on the 15<sup>th</sup> of December 1996.
- b. Nations participating in the Working Group on a Multinational UN Stand-by Forces High Readiness Brigade which have not signed the Letter of Intent concerning co-operation on the SHIRBRIG, initially signed in Denmark on the 15<sup>th</sup> of December 1996.
- c. Nations invited by consensus among Representatives.

## SECTION FOUR PROCEDURES

4.1 From the date on which this MOU comes into effect, the Chairmanship of the SC/SHIRBRIG will rotate annually among the Participants. The order of rotation will be in alphabetical order.

4.2 The SC/SHIRBRIG will determine its own organisation and internal rules whilst abiding by the following general principles:

- a. The SC/SHIRBRIG will meet regularly at such intervals as necessary to carry out its responsibilities and as soon as possible in response to a specific request by any Representative or by the Chairman.
- b. All decisions for the PLANELM and the SHIRBRIG will be agreed by consensus among Participants.

4.3 The SC/SHIRBRIG may, as necessary, establish subordinate ad-hoc working groups for the detailed consideration of specific areas.

## SECTION FIVE LANGUAGE

5.1 The official language of the SC/SHIRBRIG is English.

## SECTION SIX ROLE AND TASKS OF THE SC/SHIRBRIG

6.1 The role of the SC/SHIRBRIG is one of force generation. Decisions regarding force employment will be dealt with between nations in co-operation with the United Nations through established diplomatic procedures.

The task of the SC/SHIRBRIG is to direct and supervise the establishment and operation of the PLANELM, including its funding, administration, and personnel establishment. This direction and supervision will be accomplished by the Representatives and Participants as set out below and implemented through the Brigade Commander.

6.2 The Representatives will develop policies and guidance necessary to enable the effective functioning and employment of the SHIRBRIG in the following areas:

- Exercises and training. The members of the SC/SHIRBRIG will address these issues with their respective national authorities.
- Troop contributions, organisation, interoperability and possible constellation of forces
- Administration and co-ordination of national indications of troop contributions eligible for the SHIRBRIG.
- Employment policy including guidelines for the Use of Force and Rules of Engagement.
- Logistic support, movement and transport requirements, and capacities.

6.3 In accordance with the MOU concerning the PLANELM, the Participants will, inter alia, be responsible for the following areas concerning the PLANELM:

- Oversight of performance, funding, manning and support of the PLANELM, including approval of the budget. If considered necessary, the SC/SHIRBRIG will summon reports from the PLANELM.
- Obligations and questions arising out of the status of the PLANELM and its personnel.
- Consideration and resolution of issues related to the administration and the budget.
- Approval of any financial activity above the established financial limit set by the approved budget.
- Examination of the actual PLANELM budget spending against the approved budget for shared funding.
- Revision of the Terms of Reference for the Commander/SHIRBRIG (COMSHIRBRIG), the Second in Command (2IC/SHIRBRIG) and for the Chief of Staff/SHIRBRIG (COS/SHIRBRIG) (Head of the PLANELM).
- Submission of recommendations on the review, amendment etc. of the MOU concerning the PLANELM.

6.3 In accordance with the MOU concerning the SHIRBRIG, the Participants and the Representatives which have signed the MOU concerning the SHIRBRIG will, inter alia, be responsible for the following areas concerning the SHIRBRIG:

- Submission of recommendations on the review, amendments etc. of the MOU concerning the SHIRBRIG.

## SECTION SEVEN COSTS

7.1 Costs related to meetings of the SC/SHIRBRIG, except travel, hotel and living costs, will be covered by the host of the meeting.

## SECTION EIGHT FINAL PROVISIONS

8.1 This MOU may be signed at any time by those nations which have signed the Letter of Intent concerning the co-operation on the SHIRBRIG, initially signed in Denmark on the 15<sup>th</sup> of December 1996.

This MOU will have effect from the date of signature. This MOU will remain in effect as long as either the MOU on the PLANELM or the MOU on the SHIRBRIG are in effect.

8.2 This MOU may be amended at any time by consensus of all the undersigned nations; such amendments will be in writing.

8.3 Any of the undersigned nations may withdraw from this MOU by providing a written notice to the Minister of Defence of Denmark 12 months in advance.

8.4 Any dispute regarding the interpretation or application of this MOU will be resolved among the undersigned nations.

**MADE IN ONE ORIGINAL IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE. THIS ORIGINAL WILL BE HELD BY THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE OF DENMARK, WHO WILL TRANSMIT A CERTIFIED COPY TO ALL THE OTHER UNDERSIGNED.**

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE OF AUSTRIA

Dr. Werner Fasslabend          DATED 15.05.97

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE OF CANADA

Mr. Douglas Young          DATED 23.07.97

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE OF DENMARK

Mr. Hans Hækkerup          DATED 09.03.97

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE OF POLAND

Mr. Stanislaw Dobrzanski      DATED 06.05.97

FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE KINGDOM OF SWEDEN

Mr. Björn von Sydow, Minister of Defence          DATED 26.05.97

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE OF NORWAY

Mr. Joergen Kosmo          DATED 26.05.97

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE OF THE NETHERLANDS

Mr. Joris Voorhoeve          DATED 17.11.97

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE OF  
THE ARGENTINE REPUBLIC

Mr. Jorge Dominguez      DATED 13.02.98

THE MINISTER OF STATE AND DEFENCE  
OF ROMANIA

Mr. Victor Babiuc      DATED 09.06.98

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE OF SPAIN

Mr. Eduardo Serra Rexach      DATED 10.06.98