

# [Largest gathering of defence ministers dedicated to UN peacekeeping to kick off in Vancouver](#)

13 November 2017 – It is extremely critical that “major gaps” in equipment and staff needed to maintain United Nations peacekeeping operations are filled “in the shortest possible time possible” Atul Khare, the Under-Secretary-General for Field Support, said ahead of a major gathering of global defence ministers in Canada.

On the eve of the second [UN Peacekeeping Defence Ministerial Conference](#), taking place on Tuesday and Wednesday in Vancouver, British Columbia, Mr. Khare said: “We are trying to make do. We are trying to do the best that we can; we are trying many innovations.”

The Conference, hosted by Canada, is the largest gathering of defence ministers dedicated to [UN peacekeeping](#). It aims to:

- measure the progress made since the 2016 UN Peacekeeping Defence Ministerial Conference;
- encourage new pledges from Member States, particularly in areas where the UN faces gaps, such as rapid deployment, helicopters and francophone units;
- advance peacekeeping reform through the efforts of Member States and the UN to improve the UN’s capacity to better plan and perform peacekeeping operations; and
- foster pragmatic and innovative solutions to make peacekeeping operations more effective, by building on the ‘3Ps’ — pledges, planning, performance – with a new focus on partnerships.

“This meeting is critical to our work. We have now indications that about 80 countries – which is quite a large number – are likely to attend at ministerial level [...] This is a very good indication of the importance which countries attach to this meeting,” said Mr. Khare.

In an exclusive interview with *UN News*, the senior official talks more about the importance of the meeting to UN peacekeeping, and what his expectations are for the outcome.

**VIDEO:** Under-Secretary-General Atul Khare calls for international support as ways to improve and make peacekeeping operations more effective.

**AUDIO:** Under-Secretary-General Atul Khare says that it is extremely critical to fill major gaps in UN peacekeeping.

*UN News will be in Vancouver, British Columbia, covering the Conference and*

its associated events. Follow [@UN\\_News\\_Centre](#) to stay up to date on news and highlights.