

Pakistani general appointed force commander of UN mission in Western Sahara



- Zia ur Rehman to succeed Xiaojun Wang of China
- Islamabad has provided more than 200,000 troops for 46 peacekeeping initiatives since the 1960s, Foreign Office says

ISLAMABAD: UN Secretary-General António Guterres has appointed a senior Pakistani military official, Major General Zia Ur Rehman as the force commander for a mission in Western Sahara, a statement released on Thursday read.

Major General Rehman succeeds Major General Xiaojun Wang of China, whose tour of duty ended on February 17. “The Secretary General is grateful to Major General Wang for his exemplary service and contribution to the work of MINURSO [Mission for the organization of a Referendum in Western Sahara],” it added.

Major General Rehman has 30 years of experience in national and international military leadership, including as the commander of the military formations on operations and, at the staff and war college levels.

According to the UN Information Center, Major General Rehman

has also served as the Senior National Representative in the United States Central Command Headquarters (CENTCOM), in Florida, from 2015 to 2016.

“Most recently, Major General Rehman served as the Commander of an Infantry Brigade from 2016 to 2017 and of an Infantry Division from 2017,” the statement read.

According to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Pakistan is leading the way in terms of contributing troops for the UN’s peacekeeping missions. Thus far, it has provided “over 200,000 troops in 46 peacekeeping missions since the 1960s, with 156 of our bravest giving the ultimate sacrifice for the cause of peace.”
