

Role of United Nations in Peace Keeping: An Analytical Study

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Abstract

World peace is an ideal of freedom, peace, and happiness among and within all nations and people. World peace is an idea of planetary non-violence by which nations willingly cooperate, either voluntarily or by virtue of a system of governance that prevents warfare. United nation has key role to keep peace in the countries torn by conflict create the conditions for lasting peace. The main theme of the research paper is to analyze the mechanism of the institutions to keep peace. The research focuses on the objectivity of the organizations involved in this process. The study disuses that at what extent the peacekeepers monitor and observe peace process in post conflict- areas. In this analytical framework and paradigm the research work enhances the objective.

Keywords: Role of the United Nations Department of Peacekeeping operations, Dynamic Instrument, Blue Berets.

Introduction

The Department of Peacekeeping Operations plays the key role in peacekeeping by United Nations. It is a unique and dynamic instrument developed by the organization as a way to help countries torn by conflict creates the conditions for lasting peace. (United Nations Peacekeeping)¹.

Peacekeepers monitor and observe peace processes in post-conflict areas and assist ex-combatants in implementing the peace agreements they may have signed. Such assistance comes in many forms, including confidence-building measures, power-sharing arrangement, electoral support, strengthening the rule of law, and economic and social development. Accordingly UN peacekeepers (often referred to as Blue Berets because of their light blue berets or helmets) can include soldiers, police officers, and civilian personnel.

The term World Peace is sometimes used to refer to a cessation of all hostility amongst all humanity. World peace could be crossing boundaries via human rights, animal rights, technology, education, engineering, medicine, diplomats and an end to all forms of fighting. Since 1945, the United Nations and the 5 permanent members of its Security Council (the US, Russia, China, France, and the UK) have worked to resolve conflicts without war or declarations of war. However, nations have entered numerous military conflicts since that time.

The United Nations Charter gives the United Nations Security Council the power and responsibility to take collective action to maintain international peace and security. Most of the these operations are established and implemented by the United Nations itself, with troops serving under UN operational control. In these cases, peacekeepers remains members of their respective armed forces, and do not constitute an independent "UN army" as the UN does not have such a force. In cases where UN involvement is not possible, the Council authorizes regional organizations such as the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), The Economic Community of West African States, or coalitions of willing countries to undertake peacekeeping or peace-enforcement tasks.

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Formation

Herve Ladsous has served as the head of the Department of Peace keeping Operations (DEPCO) since 2 Sep 2011. United Nations Peacekeeping as was issued in 2008. Operations: Principles and Guideline.2. (DEPCO Doctrine). Once a peace treaty has been negotiated, the parties involved might ask the United Nations for a peacekeeping force to oversee various elements of the agreed upon plan.

If the Security Council approves the creation of a mission, then the Department of Peacekeeping Operations begins planning for the necessary elements. At this point, the senior leadership team is selected. The department seeks contributions from the member nations. While the peacekeeping force is being assembled, a variety of diplomatic activities are being undertaken by UN staff. The exact size and strength of the forces must be agreed to by the government of the nation whose territory the conflict is on. The rules of engagement must be developed and approved by both the parties' involved and the Security Council. These give the specific mandate and scope of the mission e.g. when may the peacekeepers, if armed, use force, and where may they go within the host nation. When all agreements are in place, the required personnel are assembled, and final approval has been given by the Security Council, the peacekeepers are deployed to the region in question.

All member states are legally obliged to pay their share of peacekeeping costs under a complex formula that they themselves have established

Structure

A United Nations peacekeeping mission has three power centers.

1. The first is the Special Representative of the Secretary General, the official leader of the mission. This person is responsible for all political and diplomatic activity, overseeing relations with both the parties to the peace treaty and the UN member-states in general. They are often a senior member of the Secretariat.

2. The second is the Force Commander, who is responsible for the military forces deployed. They are a senior officer of their nation's armed services, and are often from the nation committing the highest number of troops to the project.

Finally, the Chief Administrative Officer oversees supplies and logistics, and coordinates the procurement of any supplies needed.

Role

United Nations peacekeeping was initially developed during the Cold War as a means of resolving conflicts between states by deploying unarmed or lightly armed military personnel from a number of countries, under UN command, to areas where warring parties were in need of a neutral party to observe the peace process. Peacekeepers could be called in when the major international powers (the five permanent members of the Security Council) tasked the UN with bringing closure to conflicts threatening regional stability and international peace and security. There have been 63 UN peacekeeping operations since 1948, with sixteen operations ongoing. The first peacekeeping mission was launched in 1948. The United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO) was sent to the newly created State of Israel, where a conflict between the Israelis and the Arab states over the creation of Israel had just reached a ceasefire. A year later, the United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP) was authorized to monitor relations between the two nations, which were split off from each other following the United Kingdom's decolonization of the Indian subcontinent.

The Korean War ends with the Korean Armistice Agreement in 1953. The UN forces remained along the south side of demilitarized zone until 1967, when American and South Korean forces took over.

The United Nations responded to Suez Crisis of 1956. Canadian Secretary of State for external Affairs Lester Bowles Pearson suggested that the United Nations station a peacekeeping force in the Suez in order to ensure that the ceasefire was honored by both sides. (Lester B.Pearson.1957) 3.

Pearson won the Nobel Peace Prize for this work and he is today considered a father of modern peacekeeping. In 1988, the Nobel Peace Prize was awarded to the United Nations peacekeeping forces. The press released that the forces “represent the manifest will of the community of nations” and have made a decisive contribution to the resolution of conflict around the world.

In the end of Cold War the Security Council established larger and more complex UN peacekeeping missions, often to help implement comprehensive peace agreements between protagonists in intra-state conflicts and civil wars. Peacekeeping also involves in non-military elements, such as elections. The UN Department of Peace keeping Operations was created in 1992 to support this increased demand for such missions. In El Salvador and Mozambique, peacekeeping provided ways to achieve self-sustaining peace. The failures most notably the 1994 Rwandan Genocide and the 1995 massacre in Srebrenica and Bosnia and Herzegovina led to a period of retrenchment and self-examination in UN peacekeeping. The United Nations Peacekeeping Commission works to implement stable peace through some of the same civic functions that peacekeepers also work on, such as elections. The Commission currently works with six countries, all in Africa. (United Nations Peacekeeping)4.

Since 1948, close to 130 nations have contributed military and civilian police personnel to peace operations. It is estimated that up to one million soldiers, police officers and civilians have served under the UN flag in the last 56 years. As of March 2008, 113 countries were contributing a total 88,862 military observers, police, and troops. (Contributors to UN peacekeeping operations)5.

In addition to military and police personnel, 5,187 international civilian personnel, 2,031 UN Volunteers and 12, 036 local civilian personnel worked in UN peacekeeping missions.6.(Background Note)

In April 2008, 2,468 people from over 100 countries have been killed while serving on peacekeeping missions. Many of those came from India, Canada, and Ghana. About 4.5% of the troops and civilian police deployed in UN peacekeeping missions come from the European Union and less than one percent from the United States (Peacekeeping Fact Sheet).

Missions under United Nations Peace Keeping Force

About 55 missions have been completed under United Nations Peacekeeping force. Some important missions are;

- 1996-1964 (ONUC) United Nations Operation in the Congo.
- 1988-1991(UNAVEM 1) United Nations Angola Verification Mission 1.
- 1989-1990 (UNTAG) United Nations Transition Assistance Group.
- 1992-1994 (ONUMOZ) United Nations Operation in Mozambique.
- 1992-1993(UNOSOM 1) United Nations Operation in Somalia 1.
- 1993-1994 (UNOMUR) United Nations Observer Uganda-Rwanda.
- 1993-1995 (UNASOG) United Nations Aouzou Strip Observer Group.
- 1995-1997 (UNAVEM) United Nations Angola Verification Mission III.
- 1998-2000 (MINURCA) United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic.
- 1999-2005 UNAMSIL) United Nations Mission in Sierra Leon
- 2000-2008 (UNMEE) United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea.
- 2007-2010 (MINURCAT) Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad.

- 2005-2011 (UNMIS) United Nations Mission in the Sudan) (list of the UN peace keeping Missions) 8.

Conclusion

It is concluded in the end that World peace is an idea of planetary non-violence by which nations willingly cooperate, either voluntarily or by virtue of a system of governance that prevents warfare, the term is sometimes used to refer to a cessation of all hostility amongst all humanity. For example, World peace could be crossing boundaries via human rights, animal rights, technology, education, engineering, medicine, diplomats and an end to all forms of fighting. World peace is achievable when there is no longer conflict over resources. For example Oil is one such resource and conflict over the supply of oil is well known.

World peace is sometimes claimed to be the inevitable result of a certain political ideology. According to former U.S. president George W Bush, "The March of democracy will lead to world peace." (George Bush) 8

Leon Trotsky, a Marxist theorist, assumed that the world revolution would lead to a communist world peace (Leon Trotsky) 9. The United Nations Charter gives the UN Security Council the Power to and responsibility to take collective action to maintain international peace and security. Peace keeping force is playing active role but some suggestions are here;

- There should be rapid action Force.
- The UN peacekeeping capacity should be enhance.
- The technocratic aspects of the reform process should be continued. This includes an increase in personnel, the harmonization of the conditions of service of field and headquarters staff, the development of guidelines and standard operating procedures, and improving the partnership arrangement between the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DEPKO).

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