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Peacekeeping and Peacebuilding Strategies

At its core the United Nations (UN) was formed to keep peace after World War II, namely by avoiding or at least abating World War III. Since October 24th, 1945, the UN has promoted the cause and cases of peacekeeping throughout the world. It is arguably the United Nations' only real objective, and all the other facets of its mission are subsidiaries of that goal. Through the UN, States have a platform to engage in open dialogue and can resolve conflicts prior to escalation, humanitarian aid is disbursed to individuals around the world to prevent civilizations from descending into chaos, establishing universal rule of law and promoting collaboration so that humanity's collective challenges can be viewed as non-zero-sum games.

In its first active missions, United Nations Peacekeeping began in 1948 to monitor and observe a ceasefire between the newly formed state of Israel and its Arab neighbors, forming the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO).¹ In 1949, another group of unarmed UN observers were deployed to monitor a ceasefire between India and newly formed Pakistan, forming the United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP).² Although both UNTSO and UNMOGIP exist as current missions today, the nature of the United Nations peacekeeping and peacemaking strategies have had to evolve to adapt to new and often shifting dynamics. Unlike the original missions, modern peacekeepers are armed and must do far more than monitor a truce between two state actors. Today's missions require that we not only aim to keep peace, but to build it between warring parties, and make it in hostile environments.

¹ "UNITED NATIONS TRUCE SUPERVISION ORGANIZATION." *UNTSO*, untso.unmissions.org/.

² "UNMOGIP Mandate - United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan." *United Nations*, United Nations, www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/missions/unmogip/mandate.shtml.

Introduction to the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations, Committee 34

Much like the size and scope of global peace, the world of UN Peacekeeping is composed of a daunting network of diplomats, bureaucrats and members in the field. UN Committee 34 (C34) was formed in 1965 via General Assembly Resolution 2006 to create holistic annual reviews of the peacekeeping process. C34 provides recommendations based on their observations and qualitative and quantitative analysis which are global in scope. “It reports to the General Assembly on its work through the Fourth Committee (Special Political and Decolonization) and is comprised of 147 Member States, mostly past or current contributors to peacekeeping operations. 14 other Member States, intergovernmental organizations and entities, including the African Union, the European Community, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the International Criminal Police Organization (Interpol), participate as observers.”³

As of August 31st, 2017, seventy-one peacekeeping operations have occurred since 1948, with fifteen missions that are currently engaged. Over 94,000 uniformed personnel collaborate with approximately 15,000 civilian personnel across the globe in pursuit of peacekeeping missions which take place primarily in underdeveloped and developing states. Although each mission may carry a different mandate or be authorized with different tools the goal is always the same, to promote, create or sustain peace until a positive peace may be formed between the affected parties.

Security Council mandates also reflect the broader normative debates shaping the international environment. In this regard, there are a number of cross-cutting, thematic tasks that are regularly assigned to United Nations peacekeeping operations on the basis

³“General Assembly and Peacekeeping.” *United Nations*, United Nations, www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/ctte/CTTEE.htm.

of the following landmark Security Council resolutions: Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women, peace and security; 2) Security Council resolution 1612 (2005) on children and armed conflict; 3) Security Council resolution 1674 (2006) on the protection of civilians in armed conflict.⁴

Studies by C34 are instrumental to the development of innovative approaches, occasionally prompting Security Council resolutions like the ones posted above. The systematic use of rape as a weapon of war and destabilizing impact on the stability of states must be taken seriously. The use of children as agents of war can create a generation worth of killers, poisoning a state's future. Studying the protection of civilians in armed conflict and reexamining its impact over time led to the creation of Responsibility to Protect (R2P).

Peacekeeping, Peacebuilding and Peace Enforcement

UN peacekeeping and peacebuilding operates under three interrelated and mutually reinforcing principles:

1). Consent of the parties involved: Since the UN operates as a third party it must strive to not become part of an active conflict, but instead seek to act as an intermediary element that brokers peace. The consent is of the governing bodies involved, as such cooperation and collaboration are not always guaranteed at the local level. The consenting parties must allow the UN to operate politically and physically for their mission to be successful.

2). Impartiality: The UN seeks to create peace and act against those who inhibit or prohibit its progress, however it must do so while attempting to have no other vested interest in

⁴ Langholtz, Ph.D., Harvey J. *Principles and Guidelines for UN Peacekeeping Operations*. Peace Operations Training Institute, defenseetsecuriteinternationale.files.wordpress.com/2013/10/pag_en-120130.pdf.

the situation. It is imperative that peacekeeping efforts maintain good relations with the involved parties so that they may broker a deal and promote peace. Playing favorites or picking sides jeopardizes the immediate mission and undercuts the credibility of UN peacekeeping overall.

3). Non-use of force except in self-defense and defense of the mandate: With authorization from the Security Council some missions may utilize “robust peacekeeping”, authorizing peacekeepers to “‘use all necessary means’ to deter forceful attempts to disrupt the political process, protect civilians under imminent threat of physical attack, and/or assist the national authorities in maintaining law and order.”⁵ Robust peacekeeping is the tactical use of force with both the consent of the host nation (or the parties to the conflict including non-state actors or factions) and authorization from the Security Council.

The underlying causes that lead to instability are addressed through the UN’s seventeen Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This set of interconnected and interdependent goals lays the groundwork for the long-term stability and success of Member States in a hope to prevent crisis from arising in the first place. Although it is not a wholly inclusive list, nearly every SDG, or more correctly the lack thereof, is in itself a source of conflict that has or has strong potential to lead to escalated conflict. Goal 6: “Clean Water and Sanitation” is directly tied to stability and peace in many of the fifteen active UN peacekeeping missions. By far the scarcest resource in densely populated desert environments is and will forever be water. The SDGs can act as a road map to pinpointing the most vital element of a region’s inability to independently attain peace. Regardless if all other SDGs were met in sub-Saharan Africa but access to reliable clean water was not, the region could never foreseeably be secure and stable.

There are essentially two types of crisis, nonviolent and violent. Non-violent crisis is

⁵“Principles of UN Peacekeeping. United Nations Peacekeeping.” *United Nations*, United Nations, www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/operations/principles.shtml.

typically the consequence of a natural disaster, the collapse of institutional or political leadership, or the lack natural resources (often a combination of those factors). Of course, violent crisis may arise out of a non-violent crisis or be escalated by the events of a non-violent crisis. As the climate around the globe continues to change we are likely to see more stress placed on already distressed populations, and the incidents of conflict to secure resources increased.

Peacekeeping efforts are in place to help states implement and pursue the SDGs, which at their core address not only short and mid-term solutions (food, water, rule of law, stable institutions, gender equality), but also long-term solutions that slow or combat the growth of climate change (building sustainable cities and communities, responsible consumption and production). Peacekeeping, Peacebuilding and Peace Enforcement actions are only implemented to bring states to the point where they may actively and securely pursue SDGs.

Peacekeeping operations generally operate under the following mandates:

- Deploy to prevent the outbreak of conflict or the spillover of conflict across borders;
- Stabilize conflict situations after a ceasefire, to create an environment for the parties to reach a lasting peace agreement;
- Assist in implementing comprehensive peace agreements;
- Lead states or territories through a transition to stable government, based on democratic principles, good governance and economic development.⁶

Haiti is a prime example of how non-violent crisis has turned to violent crisis, and nearly full

⁶ "Mandates and the Legal Basis for Peacekeeping. United Nations Peacekeeping." *United Nations*, United Nations, www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/operations/pkmandates.shtml.

circle back towards stability through the efforts of peacekeeping. Haiti has suffered repeated natural disasters (namely hurricanes) which have destroyed homes, disrupted lives and dissolved its institutions over time. The recent mission in Haiti (the United Nations Mission for Justice Support in Haiti - MINUJUSTH) was created by Security Council resolution 2350 in April of 2017 after the conclusion of its original mission (the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti - MINUSTAH) expired. Haiti's experience has been that of an unstable state being stretched to its limits through non-violent crisis (hurricanes), which have exacerbated the preexisting instability. With the collapse of institutional stability people have had to fend for themselves. Although the most obvious needs within the mission are tangible (food, water, shelter), the mission statement is centered around creating conditions that allow for those everyday necessities to be distributed and developed in the nation peacefully, rather than creating another source of conflict. The current mission has a just a six-month mandate to assist with security sector reform and other rule of law-related activities. "MINUJUSTH will assist the Government of Haiti to further develop the Haitian National Police (HNP); to strengthen Haiti's rule of law institutions, including the justice and prisons; and to promote and protect human rights - all with a view to improving the everyday lives of the Haitian people."⁷ MINUJUSTH is staffed with formed police units and individual police officers, not "blue helmets", which reflects its mission priorities.

Peacebuilding missions attempt to foster cooperation and reconciliation between sides via third party arbitration, using political tools such as dialogue, trade and enforcement on the ground. As expressed by Laurent Goetschel of Swisspeace in his perspective called *The Light*

⁷"UNITED NATIONS MISSION FOR JUSTICE SUPPORT IN HAITI." *MINUJUSTH*, minujsth.unmissions.org/en.

Footprint Approach to Peacekeeping, “Parties to a conflict should resolve the conflicts themselves, because they will also be the ones out there who must manage their relations once the violence will have stopped.”⁸

The mandates typically used within peacebuilding activities are:

- Disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of ex-combatants;
- Mine action;
- Security sector reform and other rule of law-related activities;
- Protection and promotion of human rights;
- Electoral assistance;
- Support for the restoration and extension of State authority;
- Promotion of social and economic recovery and development.

Peace Enforcement operations may be implemented when there is no other alternative than the tactical and controlled use of force. These missions are implemented during instances of genocide, ethnic cleansing, war crimes and crimes against humanity. Responsibility to Protect (R2P) is at its core a question of how to protect non-combatants from mass atrocities, but carries with it questions about the nature of State sovereignty, human rights as well as local, regional and global security. As such no one committee is entirely able to address R2P concerns alone, but must work within the context of the Security Council, General Assembly, the International Commission on Intervention and State Sovereignty (ICISS), Human Rights Council and Secretary General to achieve the mission of saving human lives.

⁸ Goetschel, Laurent, director. *The Light Footprint Approach to Peacekeeping*. Youtube, www.youtube.com/watch?v=NRH1500lrQo.

Future Challenges

The pace of globalization has been exponentially expedited by modern transportation and the flow of information from platforms that allow access to the world wide web, namely communication technologies. Consider that the advent of the printing press in 1440 C.E by Johannes Gutenberg acted as a catalyst, or precursor, to the many reformations and revolutions that occurred between 1440 C.E and today. The logistical capacity to create and disperse ideas that underlay the foundations of ideologies around western Europe were disrupted and no longer solely in the hands of those who held power, but could be challenged daily by something far more powerful - paper and ink.

The revolutions of the mind through education were the microcosms of revolution which would topple the control of the Roman Catholic Church initiated by the protestant reformation and several hundred years of bloody conflict as it attempted to maintain control. Today we live just a few decades after the creation of a vastly more powerful medium which will undoubtedly continue to cause individuals to question their governments and ways of life. As older and more conservative view points are challenged it is not just predictable, but probable that those who exert power will attempt to maintain it by any means necessary. The internet is arguably the greatest creation within the last five hundred years; however, it is also a malleable tool that allows terrorist groups to recruit members, governments the capacity to spy on others (including their own citizens), and the circulation of propaganda and misinformation to be spread at the fastest pace in human history.

Global warming and climate change are already and will continue to disrupt the global balance of power. It is unlikely that an altered environment will topple existing powerful states, although we have already begun to witness the desperate conditions of the world's least fortunate

get worse due to climate change. Food, and namely water, security will be key issues over the next centuries as states must continue to find clean sources of potable water. Consider the circumstances if the Mekong River were to dry up or become non-potable due to pollution – this single river supplies Tibet, China, Burma, Laos, Cambodia, Thailand and Vietnam with drinkable water and its associated benefits and resources. Who controls, or owns a river? Is it the country of origin (China) or all their benefactors? If that source somehow became scarce, control of the resource would likely be determined by the most powerful state farthest upstream.

Conclusion

Conflict is no longer an interaction between two or more warring state actors. Non-state actors may be tribes, terrorist groups, religious or ethnic minorities or any other group of people which holds some form of political or physical influence but is not the dominant power. When engaging in a peace enforcement mission against ISIS, there is a clear target even though they are a non-state actor, but when intervening in most other scenarios it is incredibly difficult to differentiate between multiple tribes' languages and sub-cultures, let alone foster peaceful resolution to disputes which may reach back many centuries. Frustrated and vulnerable people may lash out even at those who are attempting to help them.

After the conclusion of World War II the balance of world power had shifted and the “winners of WWII” became the P5 (permanent members of the SC). Then, a great ideological divide called the Cold War split world order between two primary actors, the U.S and the U.S.S.R. In this bi-polar world, smaller or less powerful states could make clear cut decisions about whose side they were on or to “go it alone.” The U.S.S.R collapsed in the late 1980's and the world experienced a unipolar period of American dominance. Unable to fulfill such a role the

balance of world power is now apparently shifting back to its pre-World War I/II pattern of multipolar existence. If the United Nations' ultimate goal of preventing World War III becomes a failure, it is all but guaranteed that all other efforts towards peacekeeping will as well, so it is imperative that C34 closely examines past and current peacekeeping operations to identify mistakes and successes that can be utilized for future missions.

Questions to Consider

1. What do we do when states refuse UN peacekeeping teams/missions?
2. Can or should state sovereignty ever be challenged, called into question or delegitimize?
3. Is a peace that must be enforced through the use of external force really peace?
4. What factors, preconditions or actions must be present for states and people groups to form lasting positive peace?
5. Bench marks - how do we measure progress or success?

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Personnel, Conduct, Discipline, Cooperation and Mitigating the Negative Outcomes

The Committee 34, henceforth known as C34 in this writing, is a unique body within the United Nations system. Established in 1965, by General Assembly Resolution 2006, C34 was given the mandate of conducting an annual comprehensive review of all issues relating to peacekeeping. It is comprised of 147 vote-holding Member States, all past or current contributors to peacekeeping operations, and 17 other non-voting Member States or other international organizations such as, the European Union, the African Union, Interpol, and the ICRC.

C34 has been given the prerogative to conduct periodic reviews and evaluate the performance of UN peacekeeping operations throughout the globe. Based upon these reviews, C34 must then provide recommendations for their improvement. These recommendations play a pivotal role in strengthening the UN's overall mandate. The information therein is extremely important, not only to the General Assembly, but to the Security Council, the Departments of Peacekeeping and Field Support (DFS), and individual Member States as well. Moreover, C34 writes reports rather than drafts resolutions and operates under the *consensus model*, which seeks to achieve the best possible outcomes for the entirety of the United Nations and its Member States. It is highly encouraged that delegates at MUNFW operate in the same regard.

Background

The term 'peacekeeping' describes a specific type of military action used by Member States as a tool in the United Nations' collective security arrangement. However, an important

distinction between peacekeeping or peacebuilding and other forms of conflict management must be made. Peacekeeping is founded upon the idea of *consent of involved parties*. This means that the process itself relies heavily upon *all* involved parties, especially the host state, to maintain and preserve peace with very minimal use of military force.

Customarily, the Security Council (SC) authorizes peacekeeping operations through an adopted resolution. This is, very frequently, based upon the recommendations of C34. However, there has been precedent in the past wherein the General Assembly (GA) has mandated peacekeeping missions. Accordingly, where the SC authorizes and determines the mission's mandate, size, and the mission's tasks in the field, the GA approves the budget for the mission. Organizational aspects of the mission are handled through the Secretariat, via the Department for Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO).

Ultimately, peacekeeping/peacebuilding operations can be initiated throughout various phases of conflict. As such, each mission is invariably unique with an individualized set of goals. For example, a mission can be tailored to engage in conflict prevention for potential conflicts, conflict management during ongoing conflicts, or post-conflict peacebuilding. Thus, most modern peacekeeping missions are designed to serve a multitude of different functions. These functions include, but are not limited to, confidence and transparency building via conflict observer status, partitioning of involved parties as an interposition force, the maintaining of order in failed states or in post-conflict states, and to assist in the re-establishment of normal state functions (i.e. disarmament protocols, fighter reintegration, demining, reestablishment of rule of law, etc.) In this context, C34 is tasked with reviewing all aforementioned UN actions.

History

Since 1948, the UN has mandated 71 peacekeeping operations. As of today, there are 16 peacekeeping operations around the globe, consisting of 95,544 uniformed personnel contributed from 127 Member States, 15,153 civilian personnel, and 1,597 UN volunteers. This equates to 112,294 total personnel serving in peacekeeping/peacebuilding operations around the world. Mindful of these numbers, which have only increased since its inception, C34 emerged out of the need to review and formalize the concept of peacekeeping, as early missions lacked clearly defined goals or the much-needed institutional anchor to the United Nations itself.

After the end of the Second World War, States placed considerable focus upon maintaining international peace and security. Where the League of Nations had failed, the United Nations was designed to rectify. Although a UN force was enshrined in the Charter, designed as a system of collective security, it ultimately failed to prevent or mitigate the effects of the Cold War. Nevertheless, it can be argued that the UN was successful in mitigating the many crises that broke out after the war's end. It was in this post-war world that the term 'peacekeeping' began to become more defined.

Multiple examples of the UN attempts to deal with crises can be found throughout its history. For example, in 1946, the UN authorized the use military observers in the Balkans as a means to uphold and restore peace. Early missions, such as this, were ad-hoc and constituted of only a very small amount of personnel – not more than a dozen military observers. Building upon these actions, the SC then established the first UN-led peacekeeping operation in 1949: the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO).

It was at this point that the concept of peacekeeping transformed; where it was originally a marginal force with limited personnel, it then became something larger and more proactive. This led to the establishment of the UN Emergency Force (UNEF 1) in 1956, to settle the crisis

in the Sinai Peninsula. As per its design, the SC was looked to for direction during the onset of the conflict. However, the U.K. and France vetoed any resolutions drafted to mitigate the conflict, due to their immediate involvement in the situation. In a rare act of cooperation, even for today's standards, the U.S. and the then former Soviet Union called upon the GA's rarely used, "Uniting for Peace Resolution" as a means to overcome the stalemate and pacify the conflict. Consequently, the GA adopted resolution 998 on October 30, 1956, which established the UNEF 1. Its goal: to secure and supervise the cessation of hostilities, to ensure the withdrawal of all involved parties, and to serve as a buffer between the Egyptian and Israeli forces in the Sinai. In this rare act, the GA challenged the SC as the primary organ in the UN to mandate peacekeeping operations. Nevertheless, as we have seen, this proved to be an extremely rare act of cooperation and ultimately, did not affect the primary role the SC plays on matters pertaining to international peace and security. Today, the SC is still viewed as the principle UN organ to mandate peacekeeping operations. Important to note, with a mandate to "secure and supervise the cessation of hostilities along the Suez Canal" and a staff of 6,000 military personnel at its peak, the UNEF 1 marked an expansion of the concept and scale of peacekeeping operations.

This trend, of larger and more vigorous peacekeeping operations would continue under a 1961 SC mandate to establish the United Nations Operation in the Congo (ONOC), presently known as the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The mandate of the ONOC was robust and included goals such as the maintenance of rule of law and to facilitate the restoration and maintenance of the territorial integrity of the Congo. By all accounts, at its peak in 1961, the ONOC could be considered a legitimate fighting force with a military staff of over 19,000 soldiers.

Ultimately, history viewed both missions as mostly successful in pacifying their respective conflicts. However, early missions such as these lacked a clearly defined operational foundation, both within the UN Charter and in the working mechanisms of the UN itself. This is most evident in the question of the GA's role to mandate such missions. Both missions were very expensive and brought forth the question of how such operations should be budgeted. Within the GA itself, Member States argued whether peacekeeping expenses constituted "expenses of the organization" as related to Article 17 of the Charter. Ultimately, they could not come to consensus and asked the International Court of Justice (ICJ) to give an advisory opinion on the matter. The ICJ found, according to Article 65 of the *Statute of International Court of Justice*, that the aforementioned operations did in fact fall under Article 17. Furthermore, the ICJ found that the GA was authorized to mandate peacekeeping operations.

Although the question of whether or not peacekeeping missions should be budgeted through the regular budget approved by the GA was solved, the broader question of how the financing of peacekeeping should be organized and implemented in a more formalized manner in the UN System, remained unsolved. Consequently, the GA adopted resolution 2006 (XIX) on the "Comprehensive Review of the Whole Question of Peacekeeping Operations in all their Aspects" during the 19th session on February 18, 1965 – thereby creating the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations (C-34).

C34's inception marks the beginning of modern peacekeeping, as we know it today. It was the first instance wherein the UN took the necessary steps to ensure that peacekeeping was a acknowledged function of the UN and that its activities were funded by the UN's budget. In the early days of its existence, the committee was predominately focused on two topics: the development of basis tenants and guidelines for peacekeeping operations and, consequently, the

questions of how to define and fund said operations. As no consensus was met before the end of the Cold War, an interim funding formula was developed. It was then, in 1990, that C34 decided to implement the interim formula indefinitely. Moreover, it was in the same session that the committee decided that the budgeting and financing of the C34 should be transferred to the General Assembly Fourth Committee. C34 has since worked to strengthen and review its functioning and organizational goals in following sessions, but these attempts have not always been met with solidified changes. An example of which would be within C34's annual 1992 report, wherein the committee agreed on a set of principles of peacekeeping missions, but was ultimately never adopted.

In recent history, C34 has broadened the scope of its deliberations due to the increase in the number and depth of peacekeeping operations since the 1990s. Since then, C34 has given important recommendations in different fields, including: issues of the training of peacekeepers, the encouragement of regional organizations, NGOs, and other arrangements to support UN peacekeeping missions, and enhancing regional peacekeeping capacities (i.e. rapid deployment ability and the safety and security of peacekeeping personnel) in the area of operation.

Peacekeeping and Peacebuilding Mandate

Since its inception in 1965, the GA has requested a new report from C34 each year. Subsequent resolutions consistently outlined the mandate of C34 to “conduct a comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects,” review the “implementation of its previous proposals,” and to “consider any new proposals so as to enhance the capacity of the United Nations to fulfill its responsibilities on the field.” To put it plainly.

C34 is the only UN body that has a comprehensive review and guidance mandate for all UN peacekeeping operations.

As many would come to expect, the interpretation and application of this mandate has changed over time. As previously mentioned, for example, during the Cold War the review of peacekeeping was limited to financial issues and the development of basic peacekeeping guidelines. However, since the 1990s, C34 has broadened its topics of concern substantially to include a more accurate reflection of *all aspects* of peacekeeping, excluding budgetary concerns – of course. These aspects include: the safety and security of peacekeepers, conduct and discipline, strategies for complex peacekeeping operations, cooperation with regional arrangements, the enhancement of African peacekeeping capacities, and best practices and the development of stronger UN field support arrangements.

Peacekeeping and Peacebuilding Strategies

As a body of the General Assembly, any new ideas for potential action are initiated from individual Member States. Before these ideas or concepts are brought before C34, informal discussions between Member States and the UN Secretariat take place and concept papers are shared. If it can be seen that Member States are receptive to the idea, it is then brought before C34 in formal session. Concurrently, the Secretariat, at the behest of Member States, is requested to deliver a report on the possible impact of the respective idea - this includes its financial implications as well. Only after an idea gains approval by consensus, does C34 implement the idea in its annual report section on proposals, recommendations, and conclusions. This report is then presented before GA Fourth Committee and ultimately adopted by the GA itself. It then is immediately referred to the GA Fifth Committee for budgetary considerations.

A great example of this process was in C34's 1989 annual report. The report included a concept to compile a registry that contained information on the availability of troops for peacekeeping operations. Ultimately, this led to fruitful discussions between the Secretariat and Member States throughout the 1990s. In the end, it led to an agreement in 2002 which created the concept of "strategic deployment stocks" (SDS) of troops, which were designed to ease the rapid deployment of today's peacekeeping missions.

As both the primary initiator of new peacekeeping programs and the primary reviewing organ for existing programs, much of the work done by C34 is heavily relied upon by other UN peacekeeping organs, such as the DPKO and the Peacebuilding Commission. Often, DPKO and other peacekeeping organs will work directly with C34 to address best practices.

Currently, C34 is focused on strengthening regional peacekeeping capacities, further developing strategies for more complex operations to account for the protection of civilian populations, including gender specific protections, the continued strengthening of African regional arrangements, and the concurrent and ongoing efforts to improve the training of peacekeeping personnel. Moreover, all of these topics include elements to reinforce strategies to help maintain the rule of law, establish disarmament protocols, and assist with the demobilization and reintegration of former fighters.

Conclusion

In the end, the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations is the United Nation's primary organ for peacekeeping operations in all their aspects. Once endorsed by the GA, its annual report becomes a vital component of the peacekeeping/peacebuilding process. It provides legitimacy for the peacekeeping personnel and affirms the collective support of all Member

States. Importantly, C34 is a crucial body for Member States to initiate reforms aimed at the overall improvement of peacekeeping methods, the training of peacekeepers, the equipment they carry, and further cooperation with regional arrangements.

Questions to Consider

1. Has your State ever had a UN sanctioned peacekeeping operation within its borders? If so, how has that affected your Nation's outlook on peacekeeping as a whole?
2. What steps has your State taken to strengthen or mitigate peacekeeping operations around the globe?
3. In what ways can C34 address root issues of conflict as a means to mitigate any potential need for a peacekeeping operation?

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