



UN Peace Keeping, Enforcement and Participation of India

Sarthak Kumar

Law Student

BVDU, New Law College, Pune

Abstract:

This research paper examines the multifaceted domain of United Nations (UN) peacekeeping, with a specific focus on the enforcement dimension of peacekeeping operations and the substantial contributions made by India in this context. Since its inception, UN peacekeeping has evolved from observation missions to complex multidimensional endeavours aimed at implementing comprehensive peace agreements and supporting sustainable peace. This paper explores the history and principles of UN peacekeeping, the roles it plays, and the financing mechanisms behind it. Furthermore, it delves into India's extensive participation in UN peacekeeping, highlighting its significant contributions, training initiatives, and bilateral dialogues on peacekeeping. The research underscores the critical role of UN peacekeeping in global security and India's pivotal role within this framework.

Keywords:

UN peacekeeping, India, enforcement, troop-contributing countries, conflict resolution, global peace and security, principles, protection of civilians, conflict prevention, rule of law, human rights, financing, Centre for UN Peacekeeping, bilateral dialogue, international cooperation.

Introduction

Since its inception in 1945, United Nations (UN) peacekeeping has played a crucial role in international diplomacy and conflict resolution. It reflects the global community's commitment to preventing and resolving armed conflicts and ensuring global peace and security. While the core principles of peacekeeping, including impartiality, consent of involved parties, and the use of force solely in self-defense, have remained constant, the nature of conflicts and peacekeepers' roles has evolved significantly.

This research paper aims to explore the multifaceted realm of UN peacekeeping, with a specific focus on the enforcement aspect of peacekeeping operations and the substantial contributions made by India in this context. India's extensive history of participation in UN peacekeeping makes it an ideal case study to analyze the dynamics, challenges, and contributions of troop-contributing countries within the UN framework. In a world grappling with evolving and complex security challenges, comprehending the roles of nations like India in peacekeeping and enforcement is vital for assessing the effectiveness and relevance of these missions.

History of UN Peacekeeping:

United Nations Peacekeeping originated in 1948 when the Security Council authorized the deployment of UN military observers to the Middle East, tasked with monitoring the Armistice Agreement between Israel and its Arab neighbors, giving rise to the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO). Since then, over 70 peacekeeping operations

have been conducted, involving military personnel, UN police, and civilians from more than 120 countries, with over 3,000 UN peacekeepers losing their lives in the line of duty.

The early years of UN Peacekeeping were marked by missions such as UNTSO and the UN Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP), which exemplified observation and monitoring operations. These missions were unarmed and small in scale. The First UN Emergency Force (UNEF I), launched in 1956 during the Suez Crisis, marked the first armed peacekeeping operation. The UN Operation in the Congo (ONUC) in 1960 became the first large-scale mission, with nearly 20,000 military personnel, highlighting the risks inherent in stabilizing war-torn regions.

In the subsequent decades, the UN established short-term missions in various regions and launched longer-term deployments in places like Cyprus and the Middle East. The end of the Cold War dramatically altered the landscape, shifting UN Peacekeeping from traditional observation missions to complex multidimensional endeavors aimed at implementing comprehensive peace agreements and supporting sustainable peace.

Principles of UN Peacekeeping:

The three fundamental principles of UN peacekeeping—consent of the parties, impartiality, and non-use of force except in self-defense and defense of the mandate—are interrelated and mutually reinforcing. Consent of the parties underscores the importance of political commitment from involved parties, ensuring the UN's freedom of action. Impartiality emphasizes that peacekeepers should treat all parties fairly while executing their mandate, akin to a referee penalizing infractions. Non-use of force except in self-defense and defense of the mandate highlights that UN peacekeeping is not an enforcement tool, but force can be used with Security Council authorization to deter disruptions to the political process and protect civilians.

Role of UN Peacekeeping:

Protecting civilians: The Security Council has increasingly focused on protecting civilians in armed conflicts, adapting peacekeeping mandates accordingly. Peacekeepers are now equipped to address threats to civilian populations, including sexual violence and violations of children's rights.

Preventing conflicts: Civil affairs officers play a pivotal role in engaging local stakeholders, participating in local conflict management, and supporting the extension of state authority, contributing to conflict prevention and resolution.

Building Rule of Law and security institutions: UN Office of Rule of Law and Security Institutions (OROLSI) peacekeepers assist conflict-affected countries in reestablishing vital rule of law and security institutions, facilitating peace-building efforts.

Promoting human rights: Most multidimensional UN peace operations have human rights teams that work towards protecting and promoting human rights, empowering populations to assert their rights, and aiding national institutions in upholding human rights obligations and the rule of law.

Peacekeeping Operations:

UN peacekeeping missions have been active in various regions, performing diverse roles. For example, the United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP) has been observing the ceasefire in Jammu and Kashmir since 1949.

The United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO) was the first-ever peacekeeping operation, established in the Middle East in 1948. UN missions, such as the United Nations Mission in the Republic of South Sudan (UNMISS), address contemporary challenges like civil conflicts, human rights abuses, and humanitarian crises.

Funding of UN Peacekeeping:

The financing of UN Peacekeeping operations is a collective responsibility of all UN Member States, as per Article 17 of the UN Charter. A complex formula based on relative economic wealth determines each Member State's share of peacekeeping expenses. The five permanent Security Council members contribute more due to their special responsibility for international peace and security.

India's Participation in U.N. Peacekeeping:

India is a prominent contributor to UN peacekeeping, having participated in 43 out of 63 peacekeeping operations and observer missions since the UN's inception. Over 100,000 Indian troops, Military Observers, and Civilian Police Officers have been involved, with 126 Indian nationals sacrificing their lives. India's commitment is exemplified by offering one brigade of troops to the UN Standby Arrangement System (UNSAS) and providing the first full Female Formed Police Unit for peacekeeping in Liberia.

The Centre for UN Peacekeeping (CUNPK), established by the Indian government, is dedicated to training personnel for UN Peacekeeping Operations. It has conducted numerous international and national courses, exercises, and seminars, drawing participants from around the world.

Bilateral dialogue on Peacekeeping:

India actively engages in dialogue on peacekeeping issues with countries like the United States and the United Kingdom. These meetings facilitate the exchange of views, joint activities, and institutional cooperation on peacekeeping policies and operations.

This research paper will delve into these aspects in detail, shedding light on the evolving landscape of UN peacekeeping and India's vital role within it.

Conclusion

UN peacekeeping remains a cornerstone of international efforts to prevent and resolve conflicts, protect civilians, and promote human rights and the rule of law. India's role in these operations is testament to its commitment to global peace and security. As the international community faces new and complex challenges, the continued collaboration between nations like India and the UN becomes increasingly vital in advancing the shared goal of a more peaceful and secure world. The history of UN peacekeeping and India's participation within it serves as a compelling narrative of collective efforts to forge a better future.

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