

Guiding questions for the open call for contributions

1. What are the main challenges confronting peace operations today and what challenges are expected to be faced by peace operations in the future?

Current peace operations face significant challenges such as terrorism, transnational organized crime, grey-zone conflicts, hybrid threats, arms proliferation, the influence of social media, the use of disruptive technologies, irregular migration, and violent disputes between States, among others. Looking ahead, in addition to the persistence of current challenges, it is expected that issues related to climate change, competition over resources, disinformation, and social polarization will emerge or intensify.

Non-state armed groups, transnational criminal organizations, and terrorist networks pose complex threats that often exploit political instability and weak governance. Drug trafficking, human trafficking, and other criminal activities can undermine stability and hinder peace efforts. The widespread availability of small arms and light weapons fuels violence and obstructs peace consolidation.

Disinformation campaigns and online polarization can exacerbate tensions and complicate conflict resolution, as the spread of false information erodes trust in institutions and undermines the search for peaceful solutions.

Peace operations frequently face financial and logistical constraints that affect their effectiveness. Mandates are increasingly complex, often including tasks such as the protection of civilians, institution-building, and support to electoral processes. Financing will remain a challenge both now and in the future, particularly in the context of economic crises, budgetary restrictions, and liquidity issues affecting peacekeeping budgets.

Growing competition for resources such as water and land, as well as climate-related natural disasters, can trigger or aggravate conflicts. Scarcity of natural resources and economic inequality can generate tensions and disputes.

The use of technologies such as artificial intelligence and drones in conflict settings introduces new ethical and operational challenges for peace operations. Rising migration and displacement of populations may also create new tensions and challenges for security and stability. The increasingly diverse and complex nature of conflicts demands more adaptive and multidimensional approaches to peace consolidation. The growing influence of non-state actors, including armed groups and multinational companies, requires enhanced coordination and collaboration in conflict management.

The contribution of TCCs and PCCs, both in terms of capabilities, personnel, and resources, remains a challenge, as each State must balance its own domestic constraints while contributing to peacekeeping operations. Therefore, an increase in the number of violent conflicts across different regions, affecting a broader range of actors and States, will likely result in fewer resources being available to address them multilaterally.

2. How could United Nations peace operations adapt in response to current and future challenges (e.g. in terms of political and substantive work, mandates, operational and administrative requirements, and capacities)?

It is considered that UN peace operations could better adapt to current and future challenges through a comprehensive, politically-oriented approach. This would entail greater flexibility in mandates from the Security Council, improved coordination with different actors, strengthened operational capacities provided by troop- and police-contributing countries (TCCs/PCCs), and enhanced administrative structures and procedures governing the interaction between DPO, DPPA, and DOS, as well as their engagement with TCCs/PCCs.

Such a comprehensive approach could combine increased investment in preventive diplomacy and peacebuilding, flexible mandates, stronger coordination with other stakeholders, capacity-building, and the responsible use of new technologies, all within the framework of sustainable financing.

This approach can be further optimized through the establishment of common planning, command, and control mechanisms for peacekeeping and special political missions; consolidation of high-level initiatives such as the Peacekeeping Capability Readiness System (PCRS), the Light Coordination Mechanism (LCM), the Comprehensive Planning and Performance Assessment System (CPAS), and the Integrated Training Service (ITS); continued inclusion of special political missions in reports produced by the United Nations Crisis Center (UNOCC); standardization of procedures and guidelines, where feasible, for the generation of military and police forces; preservation of the multidimensional structures of peacekeeping operations; and sustained engagement of TCCs/PCCs with the Military Committee of the Security Council on related matters.

Reinforcing the current posture of the United Nations on this subject, it is considered essential that peace operations adapt permanently to new realities. This may be achieved through a global security strategy subject to periodic review, strengthened international cooperation in the provision of troops, police, contracted personnel, and mission experts from TCCs/PCCs, as well as by projecting tasks with a focus on efficiency gains and developing innovative approaches for conflict prevention and resolution.

3. What could United Nations peace operations be expected and mandated to do in the future? Under what conditions are United Nations peace operations least likely to be effective in achieving their objectives?

It is considered that peace operations, if refocused and optimized—including alignment with the A4P+ Plan and its areas of development— could contribute to preventing the escalation of ongoing conflicts and mitigating existing ones, complementing other collective instruments that strengthen peace and security functions, such as preventive diplomacy.

If adjustments are not made to the current structure, particularly in financial matters, so as not to discourage the participation of TCCs/PCCs, it will be difficult to sustain the current level of task performance in line with CPAS standards and to implement mandates in the future. In such conditions, the achievement of objectives will be less likely.

In this regard, a stable financial situation is seen as key to enabling the UN to fulfill its commitments, together with the timely contributions from TCCs/PCCs.

4. What could be the role of partnerships, with regional organizations, international financial institutions, or other actors, in future United Nations peace operations? What are the opportunities and challenges presented by partnerships, and what principles should underpin them?

Partnerships with regional organizations, international financial institutions, and other actors are considered to offer the potential for more effective and sustainable impact over time. Such partnerships could broaden the multidimensional scope of operations, provide specialized resources and local knowledge, and foster greater legitimacy and support. However, they also present challenges, including coordination among actors with differing interests, accountability, and the potential overlap of mandates.

The key principles that should underpin such partnerships are respect for sovereignty, complementarity of roles, transparency, accountability, neutrality, and inclusive participation.

5. Please share any additional observations that may benefit the Review.

It is considered that the United Nations could strengthen its capacity to prevent conflicts before they escalate, making fuller use of diplomacy, good offices, and mediation. At present, the Security Council issues binding mandates through procedures that could be further reinforced. The General Assembly, through the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations (C-34), has the opportunity, when consensus is reached, to issue annual recommendations to the Secretary-General in eight areas of development; these procedures could also be strengthened. The Secretary-General coordinates the work of the wider UN system, and therefore its evolution and continuous improvement are indispensable.

Peace operations could support nationally-led political processes aimed at restoring democratic institutions and addressing the root causes of conflicts. The protection of civilians should remain a priority, with particular attention to the prevention of sexual and gender-based violence, forced displacement, and other forms of violence. Peace operations should also support long-term peacebuilding efforts, including disarmament, reintegration of ex-combatants, rule of law, and reconciliation.

They must also adapt to new threats such as climate change, terrorism, and organized crime, which exacerbate conflicts. Mandates should be more flexible and responsive to evolving circumstances, avoiding rigid or standardized approaches. Strengthening operational and administrative capacities is necessary, including rapid deployment of personnel and resources, improved intelligence and analysis, and enhanced training.

It is also important to improve coordination with relevant actors, including regional organizations, governments, civil society, and UN agencies. The United Nations should leverage new technologies to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of operations, through the responsible use of drones, artificial intelligence, and data analysis.

Ensuring sustainable and predictable financing for peace operations is essential, including through diversification of funding sources.

Questions for Member States hosting, or having hosted, United Nations peace operations

Chile does not currently host, nor has it in the past hosted, United Nations peace operations.

Questions for countries that contribute or have contributed troops and police to United Nations peace operations

1. What factors influenced your country's decision to become a troop- or police-contributing country to United Nations peace operations?

Chile has a longstanding tradition of participating in peace operations, even prior to the creation of the United Nations (Chaco War), reflecting a permanent and long-term commitment to the principles of international peace and security.

Chile joined UN peace operations from the very first mission in 1948, driven by a combination of factors, including its commitment to international peace, the promotion of democracy and human rights, its capacity and willingness to contribute to global security, the importance of strengthening international relations, and the consistent support of foreign policy through the Ministry of Defense.

In addition, peace operations provided Chile with the opportunity to strengthen its armed forces, acquire experience in international environments, and develop polyvalent operational capabilities. Other relevant aspects include the establishment of a system for sustaining forces deployed abroad, the integration into the strategic command and control system of the Joint Chiefs of Staff (EMCO), the training of peacekeeping troops and police, and the development of the Joint Peace Operations Training Center (CECOPAC), which enjoys international prestige and recognition.

In sum, Chile's decision to participate in UN peace operations has been shaped by a combination of internal factors, such as its commitment to peace and security, the desire to strengthen its armed forces and foreign policy, and external factors, such as the international need to contribute to conflict resolution and the promotion of democracy and human rights. Chile's contribution has remained permanent ever since.

2. What factors and considerations will determine whether your country remains an active troop- or police-contributing country in future United Nations peace operations?

Chile's future participation in UN peace operations will depend on political, military, and economic factors, as well as on the evolving needs of the United Nations itself. Chile has been a consistent and permanent contributor, and its future decisions will be influenced by its military and financial capacity, along with the assessment of risks and benefits in each mission.

As peace operations are costly, Chile must carefully evaluate the financial resources required to deploy and sustain its contingents. In this regard, the availability of UN financing and the possibility of receiving financial support for missions may play a role in Chile's participation. Domestic needs in terms of security and development also affect the availability of resources for peace operations.

In summary, Chile's participation in future UN peace operations will depend on a combination of political, military, and economic factors, as well as the evolution of UN requirements and the assessment of the risks and benefits of each mission. As a country committed to international peace and security, Chile will seek to balance its global responsibilities with its national capacities and priorities.

3. How would you assess the extent to which your views as a troop- or police-contributing country are or have been taken into account regarding United Nations peacekeeping mandates and their implementation?

The influence of Chile's views on UN peacekeeping operations is moderate and varies depending on the context and specific situation. While Chile has contributed to UN peacekeeping operations since their inception, its influence on the formulation and execution of mandates is limited compared to TCCs that currently contribute large numbers of personnel, provide greater financial support, or are permanent members of the Security Council.

Chile has deployed troops and police in numerous missions historically, but its contribution in terms of personnel and resources is smaller compared to countries such as Bangladesh, Ethiopia, India, Nepal, and Pakistan. Furthermore, Chile is not a permanent member of the Security Council, which is the main body responsible for authorizing and defining the mandates of peacekeeping operations. This limits its capacity to directly influence decision-making.

Chile's influence may be greater in areas where its expertise and knowledge are particularly relevant, such as peacekeeping operations in Latin America, civilian protection, disaster response, and the development of comprehensive educational processes aimed at strengthening the training of military, police, and civilian personnel in specific areas.

4. From your perspective as a troop- or police-contributing country, what are the most urgent challenges facing the United Nations peacekeeping operations in which you participate?

From Chile's perspective as a contributor to UN peacekeeping operations, the most urgent challenges include improving rapid response capacity, mobility (particularly with helicopters), medical support, protection against improvised explosive devices (IEDs), strengthening information analysis and partnerships with regional organizations, and enhancing the protection of deployed personnel. Motivation, personnel well-being, and the sustainability of long-term participation are also important considerations. Timely and formal communication between missions and TCCs through the UN regarding accidents or situations affecting the security or health of observers, troops, and police is considered an area for improvement.

Chile emphasizes the need for sustainable long-term participation, which involves securing adequate resources, ongoing training, and mechanisms to maintain personnel commitment. The availability of appropriate medical services, including evacuation capacity, is essential to ensure the safety and well-being of peacekeeping personnel.

The threat of IEDs is a growing concern in many peacekeeping operations. Chile has expressed its interest in enhancing protection against IEDs to reduce risks to its personnel. Accurate information collection and analysis are critical for decision-making and effective operational planning. Chile can contribute expertise in organized crime and enhance its information analysis capabilities.

Partnerships with regional organizations can strengthen the effectiveness of peacekeeping operations. Chile has expressed interest in increasing cooperation with regional organizations, particularly in South America through the Latin American and Caribbean Network for Peacekeeping Cooperation (RELACOPAZ), and in providing training to other countries.

5. Based on your experience in deploying peacekeeping forces, what capabilities and support would be necessary for future deployments?

Although Chile has demonstrated its capacity in peacekeeping deployments, future operations require a broader and more adaptive approach. Rapid deployment capabilities, improved equipment and training, reinforced medical support, protection against improvised explosives, and enhanced cooperation with regional organizations are necessary. In addition, strong political and financial support from UN Member States is essential.

Chile has participated in various UN peacekeeping missions, including deployments in conflict zones such as India–Pakistan, the Middle East, Cyprus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, and Haiti. The country has demonstrated a commitment to training cooperation and has provided resources such as helicopters, light transport, personnel, medical services, and engineering and telecommunications units. Chile's experience in peacekeeping operations can serve as a valuable model for other countries seeking to contribute to global peace.

In summary, the success of future UN peacekeeping operations will depend on Member States' ability to provide resources, political support, and specialized capabilities, as well as their willingness to collaborate with regional organizations and adapt to the evolving challenges of each context.

One area identified for potential strengthening in the future is the incorporation of capabilities through alliances or multinational forces among TCCs using the PCRS system and its levels, thereby facilitating more integrated contributions and collaboration in UN peacekeeping operations.