

Questionnaire on Future of UN Peace Operations

Questions for all Member States

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

Peacekeeping today is confronted with multiple challenges, which include political, operational and technological aspects.

The flux in the decision-making in the **UN Security Council is a concern**. This polarization has the potential to impact mandate formulation as well as implementation. Lack of unity may encourage host countries/communities to extract more from the UN or even to withdraw consent to peacekeeping missions (as in the case of Mali).

The reduction in funding is likely to impinge upon the functioning of UN peacekeeping missions. Lack of adequate resources and expanding mandates are a recipe for failure.

Even when peacekeepers are deployed, the policy of **national caveats** hinders effective utilization of resources and implementation of mission mandate.

Peacekeeping missions often **do not have effective and viable exit strategies or transition plans**. Their absence results in the perpetual existence of missions – without a visible political end-state. **Peace operations cannot be a substitute for political solutions to conflicts**.

The **development and proliferation of low-cost, new and emerging technologies** poses significant challenges. Peace operations will have to adapt to usage of new age weapons like unmanned aerial systems (UAS), IEDs etc.

Mis-/dis-information and hate speech against peacekeeping missions could lead to inciting violence and affect the safety and security of missions.

Linkages between conflicts and terrorism as well as trans-national organized crime adds a new dimension to the challenges faced by peacekeeping operations. The proliferation of non-state actors is an evolving scenario which will have an effect on implementation of mandates.

Amidst these various challenges, ensuring the **safety and security of peacekeepers** becomes important. Equally necessary is to fix **accountability for the crimes against peacekeepers**.

2. How can 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, capacities)?

Adapting UN peace operations to the current and future challenges begins with the **formulation of realistic mandates** that acknowledge the constraints under which peacekeeping missions operate. **Troop-/Police-Contributing Countries need to be involved in all stages of mandate formulation to better reflect the situation on ground.**

In order to address the asymmetric nature of challenges that are likely to face peacekeeping operations, **technological solutions need to be better integrated into missions.**

Peacekeepers should also be given adequate training in handling technology platforms that are likely to be used in peacekeeping missions. Training of peacekeepers could also focus on **effective strategic communication.**

UN peace operations will also have to **incorporate renewable energy solutions and sustainability practices into their functioning**, so that they leave behind a lesser environmental footprint and also create a positive, enduring legacy for the community.

As **funding** to UN peace operations declines, it would be important to **prioritize peacekeeping missions**, factoring in the on-ground situation. Redundant peacekeeping operations need to be closed.

Focus should be on **capacity-building of host government and institutions** to ensure that peace holds even after peacekeeping missions exit.

Future peacekeeping operations are likely to see **greater participation of women peacekeepers**. Therefore, **adapting field operations and equipment to better facilitate participation of women peacekeepers** is imperative.

In order to create a deterrent for crimes against peacekeepers, it is necessary to ensure accountability for crimes against peacekeepers. Under **India's Presidency of the UN Security Council in August 2021, UNSC Resolution 2589 on Protecting the Protectors** was adopted, pursuant to which, a database on crimes against peacekeepers has been established.

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? Under what conditions are United Nations peace operations most likely to achieve their objectives?

Peacekeeping will need to be future oriented and forward looking. The nature of peacekeeping has evolved over the years and the mission mandates will also need to adapt and evolve. These will need to be brought through discussions and consultations with all stake-holders.

The success or failure of deployment of peace operations depends on whether the troops are **well-equipped, well-informed and well-trained** to handle current and emerging challenges, including asymmetric threats. It also depends on how **clear and focused** the **mandates** are. Peace operations are most likely to succeed when they are **accompanied by a broader political process**, with a clearly envisioned political end-state.

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?

Cooperation between UN and regional organizations is a cardinal principle of maintenance of international peace and security, enshrined in Chapter VIII of the UN Charter. **The activities of the UN, regional organizations and international financial institutions (IFIs) should complement each other, while keeping their respective core mandates intact.**

Political will of all relevant stakeholders including regional and sub-regional organizations is essential for the success of peace operations. **Regional actors are better aware of dynamics and sensitivities and help augment UN capacities.** It is, hence, crucial to involve host nations and regional organizations in peace efforts.

Partnerships with IFIs gain salience particularly with respect to **peacebuilding activities**. It is critical to **ensure that aid from IFIs** to countries experiencing conflict **should not be made conditional** on any specific policy measures.

Involvement of regional organizations, IFIs etc., must be based on the principle of **impartiality**. In order to be successful, the activities of all stakeholders must be driven by the **national priorities**. Peace efforts have a better chance of bearing results when they are **nationally-owned and nationally-led**.

5. Please share any other observations that may benefit the review.

Troop-/Police-contributing countries often operate in high-risk zones under ambiguous mandates and restrictive rules of engagement. It is important to extensively engage and consult T/PCCs during mandate formulation and implementation. It is also important to have structured feedback on the success or failure of peace operations in order to better adapt the mandates and their implementation.

Questions for Member States that are hosting United Nations peace operations or have hosted them in the past

6. From your national perspective, having hosted one or more United Nations peace operations, what are the most critical considerations and conditions for success?

7. Based on your country's experience, what lessons learned should inform future United Nations peace operations?

8. What positive and/or negative examples can you share in terms of how current or past United Nations peace operations have implemented their mandates in, or related to, your country/context?

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As the UN faces a crisis of liquidity impacting key UN activities, including peacekeeping operations, redundant peacekeeping missions that have outlived their mandate and objective must be closed.

Questions for current and former Troop- and Police-Contributing Countries

9. What factors shaped your country's decision to become a T/PCC to United Nations peace operations? What factors and considerations will determine whether your country will remain an active T/PCCs in future United Nations peace operations?

India's participation in UN peace operations is a **reflection of our commitment to the purposes and principles of the UN Charter**. It demonstrates **India's willingness to contribute to the cause of international peace and security**. Since the Korean War in the 1950s, India has contributed nearly **3,00,000 peacekeepers, 182** of whom have made the **supreme sacrifice** while upholding the UN flag.

For India, participation in UN peace operations is a **projection of our capabilities to shoulder a greater role in contributing to global peace, as a responsible power**. India has the expertise, experience and knowledge in this domain which it is willing to share for global peace and prosperity. India stands ready to play the role of a capacity builder, technology demonstrator and capability provider.

India will continue to engage constructively in UN Peace Operations even as the concepts of peacekeeping undergo a transformation. Peace operations need to evolve to keep pace with the emerging challenges. However, the **process of evolution** must be **Member State-driven**, based on **consensus** after wide-ranging **consultations** with all stakeholders, particularly the troop-/police-contributing countries.

10. How would you assess the degree to which your views as a T/PCC were, or are, taken into consideration with regard to the mandates of United Nations peace operations and their implementation?

T/PCCs must be **consulted and their views be given adequate importance** during mandate formulation. The views of the host country is also equally important.

11. From your perspective as a T/PCC, what are the most pressing challenges confronting the United Nations peace operations that you are involved in?

India is currently deployed in 9 of the 11 ongoing peacekeeping missions. Some of the pressing challenges faced by the peace operations in these areas are as follows:

- Lack of political commitment to peace by relevant stakeholders, including in the UN Security Council
- Resources not being commensurate with the mandate
- Safety and security of peacekeepers, particularly in the context of usage of IEDs, UAVs etc.
- Limited accountability for hostile actions against peacekeepers.
- Lack of viable exit plans and transition strategies in Missions
- Lack of effective communication of mission mandates and responsibilities
- Delayed/Lack of approval from host nations for induction of weapons and ammunition.
- Limited resources for Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance operations.
- Strategic communication.

12. Based on your experience deploying peacekeepers, what capabilities and support would be needed for deployments in the future?

Peace operations in the future will see greater integration of technology while reducing the human component of deployment. Some of the potential capabilities and support that future deployments would benefit from include:

- Conflict Analysis and Hotspot Prediction
- Renewable Energy deployments, to reduce dependency on supply chains
- Real-time situational awareness platforms
- Unmanned surveillance systems
- Telemedicine for physical and mental health support, med-evac, cas-evac.
- Counter-IED and Counter-UAV systems
- Enhanced strategic communication of mission objectives and responsibilities through dedicated cells.

- Air borne assets, as per requirement.

These technological capabilities need to be buttressed by real-time tactical intelligence.

It is equally important to ensure that pre-deployment training of peacekeepers incorporates these thematic areas. India stands ready to help with training of trainers as well as providing pre-deployment training to peacekeepers from other countries.
