

1. What are the main challenges currently faced by peacekeeping operations, and what challenges are they expected to encounter in the future?

Today, peacekeeping operations are confronted with a range of serious challenges that reflect the changed nature of armed conflicts and the growing complexity of the international environment. Traditional approaches to peacekeeping no longer always correspond to current realities.

First, whereas peacekeepers previously operated mainly in the context of inter-State wars, they now act predominantly within States where numerous armed groups, including terrorist organizations, are in conflict. These groups often disregard international law and display open hostility toward UN forces.

Second, the very nature of conflicts has changed. They have become more asymmetrical and protracted, with blurred frontlines and a high degree of instability.

Third, peacekeeping missions often suffer from limited mandates. Mandates issued by the UN Security Council sometimes do not allow for the effective protection of civilians or the countering of armed groups. This may lead to situations in which peacekeepers are unable to intervene even when there is a threat of mass violence.

Fourth, many peacekeeping missions do not address the root causes of conflicts, such as poverty, inequality, corruption or ethnic discrimination. This undermines the sustainability of peacekeeping and frequently leads to renewed violence after a mission's withdrawal.

In the future, peacekeeping missions will need to adapt to technological threats by developing their own cyber-defense and information-resilience capabilities as well as protection against drone attacks.

At the global level, in an environment of distrust and competition among major powers, the effectiveness of collective peacekeeping efforts

risks a significant decline. The spread of disinformation and information attacks further undermines the legitimacy of peacekeepers in the eyes of both local communities and the international public.

2. How could UN peace operations adapt to current and future challenges (for example in terms of political and core work, mandates, operational and administrative requirements and capabilities)?

UN peace operations must adapt to the growing challenges associated with the changing nature of conflicts, technological progress, climate threats and geopolitical polarization. This requires a comprehensive transformation at the political, mandate, operational and administrative levels aimed at enhancing the effectiveness, flexibility and legitimacy of peacekeeping.

From a political perspective, the UN should intensify preventive diplomacy, including mediation, early warning and peace initiatives prior to conflict onset. This would reduce the need for large-scale and costly operations. Strengthening coherence among Member States, particularly within the Security Council, will be essential. Without political unity, even the most ambitious peacekeeping initiatives will remain of limited effectiveness.

At the same time, special attention should be paid to cooperation with regional organizations such as the African Union, the European Union and the League of Arab States. These partnerships make it possible to take regional specificities into account, thereby increasing the legitimacy and effectiveness of operations.

Adapting mandates is also critically important. Peacekeeping mandates must be flexible and responsive to rapidly changing conditions. This implies regular reassessment of tasks and priorities, with scope for adjustment. Mandates must be specific, realistic and clearly define the tasks assigned to the mission—whether protecting civilians, supporting political processes, monitoring ceasefires or assisting in the restoration of State

authority. Particular emphasis should be placed on the protection-of-civilians component, especially when armed groups threaten civilians.

At the operational level, peacekeeping missions must undergo technological modernization. This includes the use of unmanned aerial vehicles, satellite reconnaissance, early-warning systems and cyber-defense measures. Personnel training should be enhanced to reflect new challenges: operations in urban environments, human-rights protection, response to gender-based violence, engagement with local populations and work under conditions of information warfare. In addition, the mobility and logistical flexibility of peacekeeping forces must be increased. Missions should be less cumbersome, able to deploy rapidly and respond to localized outbreaks of violence. Strengthening internal accountability remains a key task: peacekeepers must be held responsible for any violations, particularly those involving human rights.

At the administrative level, ensuring sustainable and predictable financing is a priority. This calls for reforming the financing system for operations so as to make it less dependent on the political will of individual States. Broader participation in personnel contributions should also be encouraged to achieve geographic and gender diversity in contingents, thereby increasing local communities' trust in missions.

Equally important is advance planning for mission exit, including the transfer of functions to national governments, local NGOs and development agencies. Peace maintenance should not be limited to stabilization; missions need to be integrated into long-term processes of recovery, State-building and sustainable development.

Thus, adapting UN peace operations requires a systemic approach and comprehensive reforms. Only through a combination of political will, institutional flexibility, technical innovation and local engagement can the effectiveness and legitimacy of peacekeeping be preserved under present and future global challenges.

3. What can be expected of UN peace operations in the future and what authority might they have? Under what conditions are UN peace operations least likely to be effective in achieving their objectives?

In the future, UN peace operations can be expected to undergo significant changes in their nature, functions and approaches. These missions will become increasingly flexible, politically oriented and technologically equipped to address the growing complexity of contemporary conflicts.

At the same time, their effectiveness will depend on a range of external and internal conditions without which the implementation of their tasks will be severely hindered.

Above all, the development trajectory of operations will shift toward preventive diplomacy and political mediation. The UN will need to seek to avert conflicts before they escalate by strengthening institutions of peaceful mediation, special political missions and early-response mechanisms. This would reduce the need to deploy large armed contingents and cut costs.

4. What role can partnerships with regional organizations, international financial institutions or other actors play in future UN peace operations? What opportunities and challenges arise from partnerships, and what principles should underpin them?

In the future, partnerships with regional organizations, international financial institutions and other actors will play a key role in enhancing the effectiveness of UN peace operations. Modern conflicts are increasingly multilayered, affecting not only security but also politics, the economy, social and climate issues. In this environment, the UN cannot act alone; it needs reliable partners that complement its efforts, reinforce the legitimacy of missions and expand their capabilities.

Regional organizations such as the African Union, the European Union, ECOWAS or the League of Arab States possess deep knowledge of the local context and often enjoy greater public trust. Their participation in operations enhances the perceived legitimacy of missions and ensures better adaptation to regional specificities. Moreover, they can react swiftly to crises, deploying forces more quickly than UN structures. This is particularly important at the initial stage of conflict or in cases of sudden escalation. Regional partners can also serve as a primary stabilizing force before the arrival of a full-scale UN mission.

International financial institutions such as the World Bank, the IMF and regional development banks play an important role in post-conflict recovery. They can provide long-term support for governance, economic, education and health reforms, help strengthen institutions and reduce the risk of conflict relapse. Their involvement links peacebuilding efforts with sustainable development programmes, thereby providing a stronger foundation for national recovery.

Partnerships with humanitarian organizations, non-governmental entities and the private sector also open new opportunities. They allow for the pooling of resources, expertise, technology and local knowledge—particularly in delivering assistance to populations, promoting human rights and introducing innovative solutions, including digital technologies, monitoring and cybersecurity.

Nevertheless, such partnerships entail a number of challenges. Differences in mandates, strategic objectives, approaches to the use of force and principles of neutrality may result in inconsistent action, duplication of functions or even competition for influence and resources. Coordination difficulties arise, especially in the absence of a unified strategic platform. Some partners, particularly regional ones, face shortages of financial and human resources that limit their capacity to meet commitments. Divergent

standards, for example regarding human-rights compliance, discipline or accountability, can also undermine trust in joint missions.

For partnerships to truly contribute to effective peacekeeping, they must be based on clear principles.

- First, cooperation should be complementary rather than competitive (partners should reinforce the UN mission, not replace it).
- Second, mutual respect and equality are essential, particularly with regard to the sovereignty of host countries and the competence of regional organizations.
- Third, joint strategic planning and constant coordination at all levels—from headquarters to field teams—are crucial. Transparency and accountability must be uniform for all participants, especially in matters of financing, human-rights compliance and disciplinary responsibility.
- Finally, partnerships should remain flexible and adaptive, capable of responding rapidly to changes in situation and context.

Implementation therefore requires a strategic approach, a shared vision and adherence to common principles of cooperation. In a context of global instability and increasing conflict complexity, effective partnerships are becoming a key condition for the success of UN peacekeeping efforts.