

Panama Proposals – Upcoming Review on the Future of United Nations Peacekeeping Operations (Friday, August 15th, 2025)

Proposals (Answers to the Guiding Questions in a Nutshell):

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

- A. 1) Financial insufficiency and the Liquidity Crisis. This is critical and complex, as the world is increasing military expenditures, instead of investing in prevention, peacebuilding, and tools for maintaining, consolidating, and sustaining peace, which is more cost-effective.
- 2) Threat of Emerging Technologies. The threat of weaponization of new and emerging technologies, such as social media's design and its algorithms, levelled up in threat through new advancements in Artificial Intelligence. Disinformation and Misinformation campaigns.
- 3) The Planetary Emergency. The spillover effects of the Planetary Emergency in which the unpredictability of the alterations to Earth Systems and the crossing of the Planetary Boundaries through, for instance, the rising sea levels, extreme desertification, extreme loss of biodiversity and Climate Change, are impacting Peacekeeping Operations. All this is becoming a catalyst for increasing other root causes of conflict, forced displacement and extreme migration, transnational organized crime, terrorism, armed group recruitment, food insecurity crises and the fight for natural resources and means of subsistence and production, increasing poverty and marginalization, etc.
- 4) Shift in Global Multilateralism. This trend of increase of preference for National Ownership of international processes, and with many countries desiring and expecting the United Nations (UN) System to be involved in less processes. Or, at least, the shift in the UN being able to do more with less and taking more targeted and context-specific approaches. This also implies the shift in UN responsibilities and having more limited Mandates.

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)?

- A. For instance, by integrating prevention components, peacebuilding components, more political and civil components into all the mechanisms of its Peace Operations, and during all phases of transitions.

3. What could United Nations peace operations be expected and mandated to do in the future?

- A. The future is unpredictable. Nevertheless, it could be expected to address Climate Change-induced forced displacement and migration, the effects of unregulated emerging new technologies and the use of social media, algorithms, and artificial intelligence components to destabilize democracies, civic trust, and increase polarization, extremism, and increasing instability for local, national, and global social, political, and economic security. Likewise,

Under what conditions are United Nations peace operations least likely to be effective in achieving their objectives?

- A. If social media's design, algorithms, artificial intelligence and emerging technologies are not properly regulated. If the containment, reduction and eradication of global hotspots of terrorism are not properly addressed. If extremism is not addressed from its root. If reintegration of ex-combatants, ex-terrorists, ex-gang members is not possible. If reconciliation and trust building and sustainment between all key and relevant actors, at all levels (from the community, local, national and international sphere) is not possible. If the Planetary Emergency is not properly addressed, which includes the extreme loss of Biodiversity and potable water sources, the warming and acidification of oceans, the crossing

of all Planetary Boundaries, and the continuous destabilization of Earth Systems, rising sea levels, and other Climate Change spillover effects.

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

- A. There are many ways. Some of them could include:
- 1) Emphasizing the higher coordination with and involvement of grassroots organizations for peacebuilding, trust building through the recovery of civic spaces and inclusivity of actors of all levels and through genuine representativity;
 - 2) Complementing Top-Down approaches with Bottom-Up approaches for trust-building, decision making, policymaking, and policy implementation, evaluation and monitoring; leveraging the
 - 3)Exploiting the full potential of South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC), South-North Cooperation and North-South Cooperation mechanisms.
 - 4)Managing to innovate in cross-regional and multi-stakeholder partnerships to revitalize the International Financial Architecture. Through strengthened collaboration for projects and follow up mechanisms with the Private Sector. International Financing Institutions (IFIs) and Regional Development Banks.
 - 5)Giving the Peacebuilding Architecture, including the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) the Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO) and Peacebuilding Fund (PBF), the financial resources, importance, and recognition it deserves, and the opportunity to play a higher and wider role within the UN system and international arena.

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?

- A. The Answer to the 3rd question also applies here.

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

A. **Observations and Proposals (Overview):**

Panama's Thematic Priorities in the Review of the Peace Operations Architecture:

- **Women, Peace, and Security (WPS):** It is crucial to integrate women into all peace processes and decision-making.
- **Mental Health and Psychosocial Support:** There has been a call to address mental health and psychosocial support needs in all peace operations, both for victims and deployed personnel.
- **New Technologies:** Countering Disinformation and exploring how technologies can help improve political inclusivity with a focus on women and youth.
- **Forced Displacement and Climate Change:** Forced displacement, refugees, and the interconnection with climate change need to be addressed as key issues in peacebuilding. There is an urgent need to support the Climate, Peace, and Security Agenda in the Council.
- **Youth, Peace, and Security (YPS):** It is crucial to integrate young people into all peace and decision-making processes. It is necessary to support existing National Youth Strategies and exchange information on how to replicate them in Panama.
- **Inclusivity:** Include civil society in decision-making, local peacebuilders, and community leaders, including Indigenous Peoples.

Emphasize the connection between peacekeeping and peacebuilding/peace consolidation:

- The Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) can play a key role in maintaining commitment during post-conflict transitions. It can do so by visiting the affected country and providing advice to facilitate dialogue and build trust between governments, organizations, United Nations agencies, and civil society.

- The Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) can help bridge financing gaps during transitions.

We urge support “National Prevention Strategies”:

- In the Pact for the Future, Member States committed to creating and strengthening “National Prevention Strategies.” It is suggested that the PBC act as a clearinghouse, where countries share their strategies (through South-South and Triangular Cooperation, South-North, and North-South) and support each other in their development through field visits and the exchange of effective and replicable practices and public policies.

We need more financing:

- We come with three representatives' more than half of the Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) money comes from only three donor countries.
- Efforts must be stepped up to continue strengthening relations with international financial institutions (such as the World Bank and the IMF) and regional development banks (such as the IDB) in order to secure new sources of income and ensure the financial stability of the Peace Architecture.

Observations and Proposals (In Depth) (Espanol):

Teniendo en cuenta la Conferencia Ministerial de Berlín sobre el Futuro de las Operaciones de Paz, así como las investigaciones y diálogos que han tenido lugar alrededor del Proceso de Revisión de la Arquitectura de Consolidación de la Paz (PBAR) y la Revisión de la Arquitectura de las Operaciones de Paz, consideramos pertinente apoyar a la adaptación a los nuevos desafíos en el terreno.

Estos desafíos incluyen: el auge del terrorismo y el crimen organizado transnacional, las nuevas tecnologías y la desinformación, una desigualdad socioeconómica insostenible, el auge del extremismo en las esferas de poder en paralelo al debilitamiento de las instituciones democráticas y el Estado de Derecho, la lucha por los recursos naturales, la pobreza y marginalización estructural, y la lucha por los medios de subsistencia y de producción. Estos desafíos, agravados por el Cambio Climático, tienen como consecuencia el desplazamiento forzado y reclutamiento de grupos armados.

Cada uno de estos desafíos esta interconectado, y sus consecuencias van más allá de nuestras fronteras, haciéndolos así, desafíos compartidos que deben ser abordados en coordinación conjunta.

Es fundamental guiarnos por las investigaciones que apuntan a revitalizar las Operaciones de Paz con un enfoque en la “Primacía de la Política”, término que utiliza el Instituto Internacional para la Paz (IPI). Es decir, es crucial abogar y enfatizar en un enfoque en las personas, y en las comunidades a las que servimos, desde mecanismos para la prevención hasta la construcción de confianza, con el objetivo de consolidar y sostener la paz, y garantizar así un desarrollo sostenible.

Panamá sigue comprometido con abogar para la integración de mecanismos y componentes de construcción de paz permanente. Esto abarca apoyar en materia de prevención, incluyendo Estrategias Nacionales de Prevención, así como brindar apoyo para garantizar una educación para la paz que permita sostener la misma en el tiempo. Esto requiere que las operaciones contengan un mayor componente civil especializado en prevención, construcción de confianza y de paz, así mismo como un mayor involucramiento de mujeres y jóvenes a nivel local, quienes son los que se encargaran de implementar y sostener la paz en el tiempo.

Como miembros de la Comisión para la Consolidación de la Paz (PBC) durante el periodo del 2025, Panamá seguirá comprometido con la construcción de paz permanente en todas las etapas y procesos de las Operaciones de Paz de las Naciones Unidas, incluyendo en las transiciones militares y políticas, y las misiones especiales y políticas. Exhortamos a que las misiones de paz, tanto políticas como policiales y militares, aborden las causas estructurales de las crisis y tengan integradas un componente local, civil y político.

Si realmente queremos revitalizar las operaciones de paz, estas deben fundamentarse en la construcción de la paz desde las bases, ya que solo así se garantiza el desarrollo íntegro y la resiliencia de la población local para prevenir las crisis. En este sentido, el proceso de revisión de la Arquitectura de Construcción de la Paz y la Comisión de Consolidación de la Paz juegan un rol esencial.

La PBC ha demostrado ser un mecanismo que puede facilitar que los países en transición asuman con propiedad sus procesos y, a la vez, que no pierdan de vista la inclusión de todos los actores en la toma de decisiones.

Acogemos el estudio independiente del “Futuro de las Operaciones de Paz”, como hoja de ruta que busca fortalecer la adaptabilidad de las operaciones de paz y los acuerdos Conferencia Ministerial de Berlín en mayo. Exhortamos robustecer el compromiso de los Estados Miembros para asegurar un financiamiento más previsible y sostenible para el adecuado funcionamiento de los 30 nuevos modelos propuestos.

Tal y como se menciona en el estudio, instamos a redoblar la coordinación de las Operaciones de Paz con autoridades locales y organismos regionales como la Unión Africana, Unión Europea, la Liga de los Estados Árabes, ASEAN, la Organización de los Estados Americanos, CARICOM, entre otras.

Por último, debido a la crisis de liquidez, urge mejorar nuestra comunicación con las autoridades locales y comunidades a las que servimos. Reforcemos nuestro compromiso con un enfoque centrado en las personas, que priorice la recuperación de la confianza mutua y el respeto por la dignidad humana.

Fortalezcamos también la cooperación internacional, fomentando sinergias con el Sector Privado, las Instituciones Financieras Internacionales, y los Bancos de Desarrollo. Ellos han abierto sus puertas para coordinar con las autoridades, sociedad civil, y socios implementadores, incluyendo la Comisión de Consolidación de la Paz (PBC) y el Fondo para la Consolidación de la Paz (PBF), para seguir construyendo confianza e impactando las comunidades.