

Review on the future of all forms of United Nations peace operations

Open call for contributions

PL contributions

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?

- The growing number of conflicts and complexity of their nature calls for robust peacekeeping operations able to adapt to existing threats and challenges.
- These days peacekeeping operations face a number of serious challenges that affect their effectiveness. **The nature of armed conflicts is changing** – they are becoming less territorial, while the impact of modern technologies and artificial intelligence is growing. Non-state actors are becoming more prominent, complicating traditional approaches to conflict resolution and peacekeeping.
- We note **waning consent** among both host countries but also member states. The effectiveness of PKO is being questioned, and the missions' objectives have become a subject of disagreement among member states. In addition, as Member States tighten their own budgets, the UN peacekeeping is **under financial pressure**.
- We cannot ignore the damage caused by **disinformation campaigns**, which undermine the legitimacy of peacekeeping missions in the eyes of local communities and the broader public.
- All these factors hamper the **safety of mission personnel**.
- The future of these operations demands decisive action and strategic decisions. To preserve their role as a key instrument for international peace and security, member states, in particular **Security Council members must demonstrate strong political commitment** and actively engage in reforming and adapting missions to evolving global realities.

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)?

- In view of the **technological advancements** and changing local dynamics, the success of the missions will depend on flexibility, innovation, and a strong, shared commitment from the international community.
- The mandates of peacekeeping operations should be **realistic, their goals - achievable timelines – feasible**. Missions also need to be better prepared and equipped to maintain an adequate level of deterrence. Addressing hybrid threats, such as disinformation attacks against peace operations, is also essential.
- It is crucial to develop **more adaptable mission models** that balance the need for effective action on the ground with realistic transition and exit strategies. These models should leverage the real strengths of peace operations while recognizing their limitations, including their dependence on strategic consent and the support of key conflict parties.
- Adopting a **modular approach** will enable tailoring of the missions to local contexts, helping them adapt over time and fostering a wide range of partnerships both within and beyond the UN system.

- The **enhanced use of data and digital technologies** is another key element of modern peace operations. We must improve these tools to track conflict dynamics, deepen our understanding of local sentiment, and facilitate more inclusive dialogue and evidence-based decision-making.
- **We attach great importance to the local ownership** of peace processes. Cooperation with local communities is essential for building lasting peace and restoring trust. One of the greatest challenges in this regard is **bridging the gap between the expectations placed on peace operations and their actual results on the ground**. We expect the Security Council to establish feasible mandates that are well-suited to local contexts and responsive to real needs and priorities.
- We underscore the importance of **strategic communication** and building resilience against disinformation. We need strong measures to counter false narratives and inform properly the local communities about the missions' objectives, mandates, and activities.
- We highlight **the protection of civilians** as primary goal of the mandates of UN peace operations.
- As the global financial environment is changing, the UN peacekeeping must further **enhance its efficiency**. The missions should be responsible, transparent, and consistent in their fiduciary duties, while communicating clearly their results and achievements. We need to raise the level of trust among financial contributors. There should be no doubt about the value of multilateral tools for crisis response, conflict prevention, and peacebuilding effectiveness.

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?

- The success of peacekeeping is closely tied with the **willingness of conflict parties to pursue peace**. We cannot forget about actions aimed at reaching a consensus between the parties in conflict. Likewise, success depends on adequate cooperation and support from the host parties and other key actors.
- UN peacekeeping efforts are more likely to succeed when neighbouring countries and relevant regional organizations are actively involved in the outcome.
- We will support and encourage the organisation's bodies to engage in building regional security and cooperation structures that are most effective in responding to crisis situations.
- The effectiveness of UN peacekeeping operations is significantly constrained in situations where there is a lack of unanimous and sustained political backing—including from the Security Council and member states.
- We cannot allow the mandates to be overly ambitious, unclear, diffuse, or unrealistic; where local communities and host governments are insufficiently engaged or do not recognize the mission's value; and where extensive disinformation campaigns undermine the legitimacy and goals of the operation. Local and international expectations regarding peacekeeping capabilities should be **adjusted accordingly**.

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?

- The role of partnerships with regional organizations, international financial institutions, and other actors will be steadily growing especially in light of declining political support for missions.

- We firmly believe that such cooperation can strengthen the legitimacy of all operations, provide additional resources, and tailor the mandates to local conditions.

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

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

NOT APPLICABLE

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?

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?

- Poland supports and engages in international efforts aimed at promoting peace and security. Polish engagement in the peacekeeping missions has a deep-rooted history and demonstrates our commitment to the values enshrined in the United Nations Charter.
- We see the peacekeeping as one of the core elements of the collective endeavours aimed at conflict resolutions and protection of civilians. Poland's participation in United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) is a proof of our political commitment to UN Peacekeeping as well as to the stabilization of the Middle East
- Our decision to re-engage in UNIFIL mission in 2019 was motivated by the firm commitment to the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), and also coincided with our non-permanent in the UN Council, underscoring a broader commitment to multilateralism and international peace and security.
- Taking into account current challenges, UN must find its role in addressing a growing danger of turning international tensions into conflicts, as a result of questioning the rules based international order.
- A danger posed by aggressive authoritarian regimes might result with a decreasing ability to contribute to the peacekeeping, as growing number of countries is compelled to prioritize the self-defence needs and requirements.

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?

- Operational success is directly linked to the contribution of peacekeeping operation's stakeholders and impossible to achieve in the case of their obstruction.

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?

- As the global financial environment tightens, the fundamental concern remains **securing adequate funding for the operation of peacekeeping missions**. In light of shrinking peacekeeping budgets and the UN80 initiative, we call for fresh thinking regarding the roles peacekeeping can and should play.
- Apart from financing challenges, the spread of misinformation fuels distrust and heightens dangers, **causing UN peacekeepers to increasingly become targets of direct attacks**, which leads to unacceptably high casualty rates. We urge all partners to make every effort to ensure the due protection and safety of peacekeepers, which under no circumstances can be compromised.

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