

United Nations Secretary-General's Review of the Future of All Forms of UN Peace Operations

Tunisia joined the United Nations on 12 November 1956. In the framework of its firm and lasting commitment to international charters and treaties and its engagement with issues of security, peace, and solidarity worldwide, our country has since 1960 participated with military units in peacekeeping missions under the UN flag, driven by its belief in the principles of justice and its will to build an international community free of conflicts.

Questions addressed to all Member States

What are the main challenges currently facing peace operations, and what complex challenges are expected in the future?

Peace operations today face a set of complex challenges, including:

- Lack of regular and sufficient funding, and weak sustainability of human and logistical resources;
- Lack of international consensus on many crises and issues, negatively affecting the clarity and effectiveness of peacekeeping mandates;
- Rise of unconventional conflicts involving non-state actors (private security companies / terrorist groups) with unclear or undeclared objectives;
- Increased use of technology in ways that threaten security and stability, such as digital disinformation and cyberattacks;
- Widening gap between UN goals and the expectations of host states or local communities, especially in the absence of real solutions or tangible change in these societies.

In the future, additional challenges are expected, including:

- The impact of climate change on international peace and security;
- The escalation and changing nature of conflicts, making them more complex;
- The severity of cross-border crises (pandemics / irregular migration, etc.).

How can UN peace operations adapt to current and future challenges?

Adapting peace operations to emerging challenges requires a more flexible and proactive approach, through:

- Strengthening early-warning mechanisms and preventive diplomacy;
- Clarifying missions' mandates and setting priorities aligned with field realities and available resources;
- Adopting regional and integrated approaches that link security, development, and human rights;
- Responsibly and ethically integrating technology to support peace operations in the field;
- Increasing the involvement of troop-contributing countries in mission planning and evaluation.

What should future peace operations undertake? What conditions make them more or less effective?

Future peace operations should play a central role, particularly in economic and social processes that strengthen the foundations of international peace and security, through:

- Protecting civilians in conflict zones in accordance with international humanitarian law, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and relevant Security Council resolutions;
- Supporting national reconciliation processes, restructuring the security sector, and building state institutions to ensure lasting stability;
- Responding to new threats, particularly the rise of violence, unconventional threats, and the growing role of non-state actors.

Protecting civilians is among the key conditions for the success of peace operations. It represents both a strategic and moral cornerstone for UN missions, a decisive factor in winning local communities' trust, and a prerequisite for creating an environment conducive to negotiations, humanitarian aid, and reconstruction.

In this regard, the Tunis Declaration of July 2025 (on the occasion of the international conference on the role of armed forces in protecting civilians in peacekeeping operations, held on 10–11 July 2025) reaffirmed renewed international consensus on the centrality of civilian protection in multidimensional peace operations. It also highlighted concrete commitments in several areas (see attached annex), notably:

- Supporting the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 2719 (2023) on financing peace operations;
- Strengthening military capacities in line with humanitarian principles;
- Investing in training and regional capacity-building;
- Responsible use of technology and data;
- Combating disinformation and hate speech;
- Supporting partnerships with regional organisations, especially the African Union;
- Developing and consolidating civil–military coordination within mission frameworks;
- Establishing a follow-up mechanism to ensure continuity and implementation of commitments.

Implementing these commitments will contribute to developing peace operations that are more flexible, effective, and connected to field realities, while empowering regional actors to play advanced roles consistent with UN legitimacy.

By contrast, UN missions are less effective when:

- They deploy without a clear vision or without acceptance by the parties concerned;
- They are tasked with mandates that cannot be achieved within the given timeframe and resources;
- They lack support or trust between the mission and local communities.

The factors for their success include:

- Regional and international consensus on mission objectives;
- Close cooperation with local and regional actors;
- Adequate resources and qualified human capacities.

What role can partnerships with regional organisations, international financial institutions, and other actors play? What opportunities, challenges, and principles should govern these partnerships?

Multilateral partnerships are a vital element for strengthening the effectiveness of peace operations, as they provide:

Opportunities:

- Additional resources and specialised expertise;
- Regional legitimacy, geographic proximity, and deeper understanding of local contexts;
- Better coordination between humanitarian, economic, social, and security efforts.

Challenges:

- Division of responsibilities;
- Conflicting priorities;
- Risk of duplication of efforts.

Principles:

- Respect for state sovereignty;
- Transparency, complementarity, and effective coordination among all parties;
- Adoption of a comprehensive and coherent approach consistent with UN principles.

Additional notes

In line with efforts to reform the UN peace operations system, the Ministry of National Defence has developed a strategic vision for 2025–2035, reflecting Tunisia's firm commitment to improving the quality of its contributions to these operations, through six main pillars:

1. **Capacity-building:** The Tunisian armed forces are enhancing operational readiness by increasing the number of units deployed and diversifying their capacities, including land, naval, and air forces, as well as medical support and field intelligence units. Military units are also being prepared for rapid deployment.
2. **Training and readiness:** Tunisia aims to serve as a strategic hub for exporting peace and security in Africa and globally by:
 - Establishing an international peacekeeping centre responsible for preparing and training military units from different countries for UN missions, including trainees from partner states;

- Requesting accreditation of courses organised by the Tunisian Centre of Excellence for Countering Improvised Explosive Devices.
 - 3. **Adaptability and flexibility:** Tunisia builds on its accumulated experience in diverse environments, enabling it to operate effectively in various geographical areas, with strong deployment and field adaptability.
 - 4. **Gender approach:** Tunisia reaffirms its full commitment to UN Security Council Resolution 1325 (Women, Peace and Security) and promotes women's participation in UN missions, particularly in leadership and decision-making roles.
 - 5. **Civil-military coordination:** Tunisia values the integration of social and developmental dimensions in its missions, respecting local communities' specificities and implementing impartial cooperation programmes, including vocational training.
 - 6. **Humanitarian assistance:** Tunisia emphasises the importance of ensuring that humanitarian aid reaches civilians directly and impartially, in accordance with humanitarian principles and international human rights standards.
-

Questions addressed to troop- and police-contributing countries

9. What factors have motivated Tunisia to participate in peace operations? What considerations will determine its continued role?

Tunisia's participation in peacekeeping operations is based on:

- Its unwavering commitment to the principles of the UN Charter;
- Its firm belief in the importance of multilateralism in resolving conflicts;
- Its determination to contribute actively to international peace and security.

Tunisia will continue its engagement provided that:

- Security and logistical guarantees are ensured for its troops;
- The core principles of peace operations, especially impartiality, are respected;
- The views of contributing countries are taken into account in the design and implementation of mandates.

10. How does Tunisia assess the consideration of its views as a troop-contributing country in mission planning and implementation?

Tunisia considers current consultation mechanisms satisfactory, but they can be improved by:

- Ensuring active participation of contributing countries in all stages of mandate planning and adjustment;
- Establishing permanent platforms for experience- and knowledge-sharing between the Secretariat and troop contributors;
- Adopting regular evaluations with the involvement of troop-contributing countries' representatives.

11. What are the main challenges facing peacekeeping from the perspective of troop-contributing countries?

Key challenges include:

- Bridging the gap between the strategic and field levels;
- Shortage of resources and equipment suited to the field (Tunisia is among the few countries participating in UN missions with new military equipment);
- Growing security risks, particularly in complex conflict environments.

12. What capabilities and support are needed for future peace operations?

- Expanding advanced training programmes, particularly pre-deployment courses tailored to mission requirements;
- Equipping units with appropriate and secure technological means;
- Strengthening psychological and social support for mission personnel.

In this regard, Tunisia continues to support international peacekeeping efforts. In addition to its deployed units, it has committed, through the Peacekeeping Capability Readiness System (PCRS), to enhancing the readiness of its units and expanding its contributions, including:

- A Quick Reaction Force (QRF);
- A Level 2 military field hospital;
- A naval boat unit;
- An airport support unit;
- A drone unit dedicated to intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR).

These formations have reached PCRS Level 2 readiness, reflecting Tunisia's operational preparedness and its ability to deploy rapidly and effectively when called upon.