

A Brief Foreword

The subject of peacekeeping has been one of great controversy ever since its first usage in 1948, when the United Nations (UN) deployed military observers to the Middle East. Since then, the bright blue helmets have evolved through five generations, multiple bureaucratic reformations and gone through its fair share of hardship, hurdles, and setbacks. The United Nations Peacekeeping Force was not part of the original UN Charter of 1945, nor was it meant to be deployed as yet another usage of force and violence. However, changes in international conflict have caused it to stray from its original motive. Today, Peacekeepers are the Public Relations representatives of the United Nations. The blue beret is recognizable anywhere in the world and in areas of conflict, the first options we usually think of are peacekeepers. Yet, why are they so controversial? And what can we do to reform them?

Past and Current International Action

Past International Action

In the past 70 years that peacekeepers have helped solve the major issues in the world, it has been shaped greatly by generation of change. However, when we examine the peacekeepers of the past, we find that it was during the third and fourth generations where the most impactful changes were made.

Third and Fourth Generation Peacekeeping

The third and fourth generation of peacekeeping evolved together and it was during this time where the most impactful reforms to peacekeeping were implemented. Starting with the third generation, UN peacekeeping missions would use force to ensure that their mandate would be followed. This was showcased during the United Nations Missions in Kosovo (UNMIK). In

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In addition, fourth generation peacekeeping allowed UN Peacekeeping missions to intrude into a nation's ability to govern itself and its sovereignty, if necessary. This new power was demonstrated when the Security Council gave UNMIK temporary governing power in Kosovo. The mission would perform basic civilian administrative functions, keep order in place and enforce laws. However, third and fourth generation peacekeeping had their own fair share of problems. There was enormous organizational mismanagement regarding the planning of missions and resulted in the ad hoc planning of missions with task forces being organized only if they were needed. Furthermore, there would be multiple parties involved in one mission, but each had its own political motive, making it difficult to cooperate.

Brahimi Report

The Brahimi Report was the first attempt to evaluate peacekeepers and was published in 2000. It called for solutions on the lack of commitment by member states, the disorganization and lack of planning regarding missions as well as an increase in funding for the peacekeeping force. Moreover, the report called for peacekeepers to be equipped with modern equipment in order to be able to fulfill the mandate for their mission. The report also included suggestions such as having improved intelligence within the peacekeeping department and using on-call military officers.

Zeid Report

Following reports of sexual assault by peacekeepers in DR Congo in 2004, the Zeid Report was released in 2005 to respond to these allegations. Documented cases included rape, the use of prostitutes by peacekeepers, pedophilia, and the dangerous spread of sexually transmitted diseases like HIV/AIDS. In response to these concerns, the UN Peacekeeping

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administration was completely overhauled and a CDU(Control and Discipline Unit) was established. A professional investigative team was established with the role of investigating these allegations. It would be completely separate from the UN Peacekeeping mission specific to that area. The team used its resources to enable victims to report abuse by peacekeepers without fear of retaliation. The supposed success of this report was shown when the number of reports of UN Peacekeeper abuse dropped from 127 in 2007 to 46 in 2014, despite there being a rise of over 40,000 more peacekeepers in those 7 years.

New Horizons Report

The most recent report on UN peacekeeping was the New Horizons report and its main focus was the lack of cooperation between countries. Reforms that were encouraged included consultation and information sharing between member parties. Also, standards for initializing a peacekeeping mission were set in place to prevent ad hoc mission planning. This standardized peacekeeping mission initialization process consists of eight main steps and is listed below

The process starts with the **initial consultation between conflict parties** and then moves onto a **technical field assessment of the area**, which leads to the **security council resolution** on the proposed mission. **Senior Officials are then appointed** by the Secretary General, while the **Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Field Study** plan the mission. **Deployment** occurs as quickly as possible, and **peacekeepers** are then provided. The secretary general will also provide **mission reports** on the upholding of the mandate .

Current International Action

Fifth Generation Peacekeeping

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The fifth generation of peacekeeping is the current state of UN peacekeeping. An example of fifth generation peacekeeping is the UN mission in Darfur (UNAMID), a joint mission by the African Union and the United Nations. Despite the many reforms made from past generations, there are still numerous holes in the current system; there is poor leadership, the troops are equipped inadequately and there are conflicting visions of the role peacekeepers are suppose to serve between the African Union and the United Nations due to a lack of communication.

High Level Independent Panel on Peace Operations

In 2014, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon established a 17-member High-level Independent Panel on UN Peace Operations. The goal of the panel was to provide a comprehensive assessment of the state of UN peace operations today, and the emerging needs of the future. Former Secretary General Ban-ki Moon appointed Jose Ramos-Horta of Timor-Leste to be the chair of the panel. "The world is changing and United Nations peace operations must change with it if they are to remain an indispensable and effective tool in promoting international peace and security." (Ban-Ki Moon). Individuals with a wide range of experience and expertise will be brought together to make a comprehensive assessment of modern UN peacekeeping operations. This will be done to ensure that they remain an effective tool in international affairs.

2015 Leader's Summit

During the 2015 Leader's Summit, steps were taken towards modernizing and improving the UN Peacekeeping Force. More than 40,000 troops, 40 helicopters, 22 engineering companies, 11 naval/riverine units and 13 field hospitals were pledged by countries. Furthermore, the bureaucratic process for the United Nations Department of Field Support was streamlined to

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make it easier for supplies to be provided. However, the department is still burdened by the Department of Management, which often delays operation due to the established bureaucracy.

Country Position

“Ireland affirms its devotion to the ideal of peace and friendly co-operation amongst nations founded on international justice and morality”.

- Article 29 Section 1 of the Constitution of Ireland (1937)

The Republic of Ireland was born in the smoke and fire of the Easter Rising from the chaos of a World War. Three long years of bloody guerrilla warfare that claimed the lives of more than 2000 men, women and children until it gained its independence. The Irish have bitter memories of its personal experience with armed conflict on its home ground and since then, they have worked hard to promote order and prosperity around the world. The delegation of Ireland believes that there exists all issues, disputes, or crises can be solved through negotiation. However, if the need arises, the Irish are more than prepared to take up arms in the name of world peace. Ireland pledged its first troops for the precursor of UN Peacekeeping, UNEF, to ensure peace and help establish order during the Suez Crisis of 1956. Since then, she has cooperated closely with nations around the world under the banner of world peace.

Irish peacekeepers have served in countless theatres, field operations, and humanitarian missions around the world. The Irish play an active role in ten of the sixteen current UN peacekeeping missions around the globe. Through its extensive experience in the service of international security, Ireland believes there is still much work to do to improve the effectiveness of our peacekeepers. The United Nations peacekeeping force not only lacks funding and proper logistics, but it seems that they have also “lost their souls”. Currently, Peacekeepers face much

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scrutiny for allegations of sexual assault and prostitution scandals. They have also been charged with human rights abuses that have undermined the credibility of UN intervention forces.

Ireland is more than willing to take strides to reform the existing order or create new departments to reinstate the integrity of UN Peacekeeping. The Blue Helmets have participated in raids, assaults, and offensive military action against rebels in Congo, insurgents in Haiti, and radicals in South Sudan with limited success. However, the Peacekeeping corps was not designed to be used as a military force in the first place, nor is it a political tool used to prop up failing governments. The UN Peacekeeping Corps was founded for one reason and one reason only: to protect the lives and rights of those who cannot protect themselves. Too often this basic principle is forgotten in the committee chambers during the flurry of debate.

A Peacekeeper force can be used as a second-line military asset, but its primary objective is to protect civilians and ensure that their human rights are not violated. Peacekeeping corps should focus solely on humanitarian assistance and the stabilization of affected regions rather than going on military campaign. UN Peacekeeping Missions also must cooperate more with international bodies and intergovernmental organizations like NATO and the African Union when conducting a mission in their sphere of influence. The Blue Helmets are dangerously underfunded and under equipped. Increased financial support from wealthy nations is essential and budgeting should become more focused on humanitarian aid and the Department of Field Operations. All in all, Ireland firmly trusts the integrity of the United Nations and believes that the nations in SPECPOL will find compromises and reach agreements to improve success of peacekeeping all over the globe as we continue to take strides towards world peace.

Proposed Solutions

Proposed Solutions on Funding

Funding is a major issue for peacekeepers as the force has often been criticized for a lack of modern equipment and being understaffed. Raising more funds for peacekeepers will ensure that they have the appropriate equipment for their missions. More money also ensures that there are an appropriate amount of personnel for each individual task force and that more missions are being organized to combat the problems that the UN sees in the world.

The amount of money that countries contribute annually to the United Nations Peacekeeping Force has to be increased and this is the first step towards ensuring that the peacekeeper budget is adequate for its needs. The delegation of Ireland suggests that the donation amount for the security council members be increased according relative to their economic wealth. Furthermore, the delegation suggests the creation of an NGO called the United Nations Peacekeeper Fund (UNPF) that will raise money through fundraisers and donations for the United Nations Peacekeeping force. In addition, countries are encouraged to donate used equipment that they no longer use but is still usable towards the UNPF. This will decrease the funds that the UN Peacekeepers will have to spend on equipment and allow it to use that money towards other causes.

Proposed Solutions on Peacekeeper Behavior

Major reforms on controlling peacekeeper behavior have been made since allegations of sexual abuse, prostitution, and human rights violations first came to light in the 1990's. However, there are still steps to be made seeing as reports of peacekeeper abuse continue to be reported . The delegation of Ireland proposes that a behavior investigative team be included in every peacekeeping mission and be incorporated into of the CDU department as a whole. The size of

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the investigative team shall be dependent on the size of the peacekeeping mission. Also, a specific ratio for the peacekeeper to investigative team member will be discussed and agreed upon by countries during committee sessions. Furthermore, a new department called the Department of the Judicial Handling of Misconduct should be added to the UN Peacekeeping department to help keep the behaviors of peacekeepers in check. This will act as the judicial portion of UN peacekeeping and handle the judging of allegations against peacekeeper abuse. The victim and defendant will both be assigned impartial lawyers from within that department to handle their case. Each separate case will be prosecuted within the judicial body established and mandated by the United Nations. The delegation of Ireland also proposes that comprehensive lessons against sexual abuse be incorporated into peacekeeper training. It must be made very clear that sexual abuse will not be tolerated in any circumstance because not only does it reflect poorly on the soldier, but discredits UN intervention in situations of conflict as a whole.

Proposed Solutions on International Cooperation

The United Nations Peacekeeping Force has often been criticized for its lack of communication between allies. In order to promote more cooperation with its allies, the delegation of Ireland proposes that a department called the Department of International Cooperation. This department would handle negotiation between peacekeeping forces and the multinational non-UN mandated forces in the area of the mission or any other conflict party involved. Cooperation with international forces would help negate the problem of having inadequate personnel. Furthermore, inter-country alliances should be notified if a peacekeeping mission is to be held in an area of their involvement in advance. National sovereignty is an important part of United Nations operations and there is a tenuous balance of a nation's

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responsibility to itself and its responsibility to the international community. The Department of International Cooperation will oversee this balance and ensure it is being kept in member states around the world.

Proposed Solutions on Efficiency

Over the years, there have been many complaints that the UN is too cumbersome and takes too long to act. As a result, the delegation of Ireland proposes to free the Department of Field Support from the Department of Management as it only makes the process of establishing and assisting a UN peacekeeping mission more cumbersome. UN peacekeeping procedures should not have to constantly refer back to the Department of Management when making them stand-alone could save time and the lives of peacekeepers.

Questions to Consider

As the United Nations' only force organized force trained for combat, it may be tempting to use peacekeeper forces for military or political leverage. All too often, UN Peacekeeping forces march into war torn countries and do more harm than good. Ill planned adventures like UNPROFOR in Yugoslavia, ONUC in the Congo, and MONUSCO in Haiti, have only incensed the situation, perpetrating the violence, corruption, and turmoil that they were ordered to prevent in the first case. Taking little or no action at all, however, is far worse. When international community refuses to stand by those being wrongly persecuted or become subjects of chaos and confusion, it violates the basic principles the United Nations was founded on.

The UN Peacekeeping Force may be criticized for the mistakes it makes 40% of the time and it is easy to overlook the 60% of the time where it succeeds. First generation peacekeeping is the past, and in modern times, the symbolic role of first generation peacekeepers simply wouldn't

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be able to combat the threats faced by our world today. UN peacekeepers are like our outer wall; when conflicts arise, we look to it first, which is why it desperately needs to be modernized and funded in greater amounts. The delegation of Ireland strongly supports the continued usage of peacekeepers, and encourages all other nations to list it as a priority on their security agendas.

Ireland recognizes that there are many problems in our world which cannot be predicted, so it is always better to be prepared for any kind of situation. Currently, the UN peacekeepers are acquired in an ad hoc basis, and a reserve force of peacekeepers in the event of an emergency would be greatly welcomed by the delegation of Ireland. An on-call peacekeeping force would UN peacekeeping from having to gather its forces, a tedious process that could take days. However, the delegation of Ireland is strongly against the use of an international standing army as there would never be any consensus on its usage. An international standing army would be under the control of the many different countries, and due to conflict political motives, nothing would ever be achieved with it.

When dealing with absolutism or extremism, peacekeepers should always first abide by international law and UN protocol. Negotiation should always have been attempted prior to the deployment of a peacekeeping force. The primary role of UN peacekeepers are to maintain a ceasefire and help bring the conflict to an end. Furthermore, the delegation of Ireland believes that experts from major military countries should be brought in to educate peacekeepers on dealing with extremist and absolutist threats. There are many countries who have had more exposure to those type of combatants than most peacekeepers have and their knowledge would be greatly appreciated. Also, an UN Peacekeeping Force could always support an intergovernmental organization to end a conflict rather than taking the front-line.

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