



PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS

Traditionally, “peacekeeping” has been defined as a process where a group of lightly armed military personnel stood *between* two sides in a conflict that had agreed to stop fighting. The normal requirements are neutrality, minimum use of force, and the agreement of the two sides. But since peacekeeping was first developed, the types of conflict have changed. In the past, conflicts that required peacekeeping operations were usually between two countries (“inter-state”). However, now they often involve two or more groups in the same country (“intra-state”). Also, civilians are targeted along with proper military forces, and the groups involved do not always follow the laws of conflict.

Modern peace operations include a wider range of activities, such as peace making and rebuilding.

PEACEKEEPING

Peacekeeping refers to traditional types of peace operations. It is a process where a group of lightly armed military forces separate two parties in a conflict who have agreed to a ceasefire, so that they can keep the peace. It must fulfil several requirements:

- The agreement of involved parties to an external intervention
- It only takes place in a conflict between two or more *countries* with a defined battlefield
- Respect for accepted laws of armed conflict by combatants
- Fairness to both sides
- Minimum use of force

Peacekeeping creates time and breathing space for diplomatic efforts to address the underlying causes of conflict. It is a diplomatic rather than a military solution. This operation type is considered as being first generation.

A NEW GENERATION OF PEACE OPERATION

Modern conflicts are a complex mix of internal and international influences. Their roots may be mainly internal, but they are complicated by cross-border involvement, either by states or by economic interests and other international players who have an interest in the conflict. As a result, the structure of peacekeeping missions has also changed.

1. The difference: Peace making, peace building or peace enforcement

Among the tasks discharged by peacekeeping operations over the years are:

- Maintaining ceasefires and separating the two sides;
- Protecting humanitarian operations; and,
- Putting a peace agreement into effect.

United Nations (UN) peacekeeping operations now have a lot of different aspect, including military, civilian police, political, civil affairs, rule of law and elections monitoring, human rights, humanitarian,

reconstruction, public information and gender affairs. We are now more often talking about peacemaking or peacebuilding, and even peace enforcement.

Peacemaking addresses conflicts which are already in progress and tries to stop them, using diplomacy and negotiation.

Peacebuilding is a more modern term that refers to UN action to create the foundations of peace and provide the tools for building on those foundations. Peacebuilding includes reintegrating former combatants into civilian society, improving security forces, strengthening the rule of law, improving respect for human rights, providing technical assistance for democratic development and promoting peaceful dispute solving and reconciliation techniques.

Peace enforcement usually refers to forceful or otherwise threatening actions taken in accordance with Chapter VII of the UN Charter, which talks about the ways in which peace operations can function in the case of violent conflicts.

2. New characteristics:

- The mission can be deployed without consent of all sides of the conflict.
- The peacekeepers coordinate more with the humanitarian agencies.
- Non-governmental organisations work in the field.
- The tasks are multiple, complex and long-term.
- They have the following roles:
 - o Maintenance of peace
 - o Peace Consolidation
 - o Peace Imposition
 - o Reconstruction
 - o Intervention and humanitarian support

3. The development of regional peacekeeping forces and other willing organisations

Over the past decade peace operations have taken on a new face. The lack of equipment, hardware and staff has been a major limiting factor for many peace operations.

Today, even if the role of the UN remains important, it tends to increase its cooperation with regional actors such as the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO), the European Union, the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), and the African Union.

Thus, nowadays, many of the UN operations aren't necessarily military but rather function alongside a non-UN regional or multinational peacekeeping force.