

Introduction to and Evolution of UN Peacekeeping Operations



Main Teaching Points (MTP)

- History and Background of UN
- The Charter
- Main UN Bodies Involved in Peacekeeping
- Secretariat Departments Directly Working with PKOs



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Main Teaching Points (continued)

- Spectrum of Peace and Security Activities
- Security Council Mandates
- Evolution of and Types of Peacekeeping Operations
- Basic Principles of UN PKO
- Other Success Factors



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The United Nations (UN)

- Forerunner – “League of Nations” of 1920
- First use of “United Nations” at Declaration
- Charter signed (51 countries) on 26 June 1945
- Charter ratified and UN established 24 Oct 1945
- Currently 193 states as of 2017
- Impartial rather than neutral organization



The Purpose of the United Nations

- Maintain International Peace and Security
- Enhance international co-operation in solving problems of an **Economic, Social, Cultural, or Humanitarian** character
- Promote **fundamental freedoms for all** without distinction as to **Race, Sex, Language, or Religion**
- Unify the actions of Nations in the attainment of these common ends



United Nations Charter

- Guides work of the United Nations by International treaty
- Sets out rights and obligations of member states
- Establishes United Nations organization and procedures
- Codifies major Principles of International Relations



Organizations of the United Nations

Six main organizations of the United Nations

- General Assembly
- Security Council
- Trusteeship Council
- Economic and Social Council
- International Court of Justice
- Secretariat



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General Assembly



- Representatives of all the UN Member States
- “Democracy of the world”
- Each Member State has one vote in the General Assembly
- Meets annually (September to December) or as needed
- Several committees within the General Assembly, including one that focuses on Peacekeeping

UN Security Council (UNSC)

- The Security Council is the UN body with primary responsibility for maintaining Peace and Security

Five Permanent Members:

- China
- France
- Russia
- United Kingdom
- United States

Ten Non-Permanent

- Albania (2023)
- Brazil (2023)
- Gabon (2022)
- Ghana (2023)
- India (2022)
- Ireland (2022)
- Kenya (2022)
- Mexico (2022)
- Norway (2022)
- United Arab Emirates (2023)

Ref: [United Nations Security Council](#)



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UN Security Council (UNSC)

- One of the principal organizations of the United Nations
- UNSC powers (outlined in the Charter) include the establishment/authorization of:
 - Peacekeeping operations
 - International sanctions
 - Military Action
- UNSC powers are exercised through Security Council Resolution (UNSCR)



Security Council Functions and Powers

- Maintains international peace and security according to the principles and purposes of the United Nations
- Investigates any dispute or situation which might lead to international friction
- Recommends methods of adjusting terms of dispute settlement
- Formulates plans for the establishment of a system to regulate armaments
- Determines existence of threats to the peace or acts of aggression and recommend actions to be taken
- Calls on Members to apply economic sanctions / other measures not involving the use of force to prevent or stop aggression
- Takes military action against an aggressor



Secretary-General and UN Secretariat

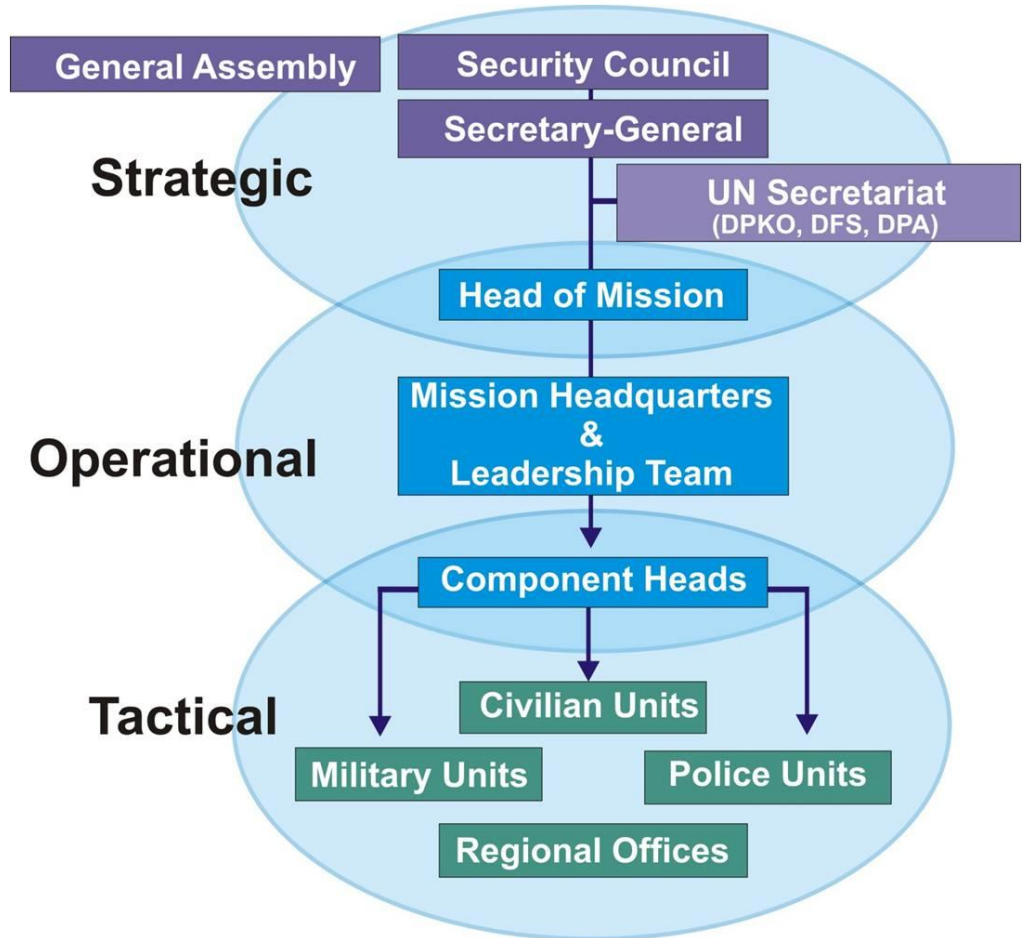


- Serves as the “Chief Administrative Officer” of the Organization
- Spokesman for world interests particularly the poor and vulnerable
- Leads the UN Secretariat the administrative arm of the UN
- **António Guterres**, took office on 1st January 2017

Ref: [Secretary-General of the United Nations](#)



Main UN Bodies in Peacekeeping



Adapted from UN Peacekeeping Operations
Principles & Guidelines, pg. 67

Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO)



Led by the Under-Secretary-General (USG) of DPKO

Directs and **controls** UN PKOs;

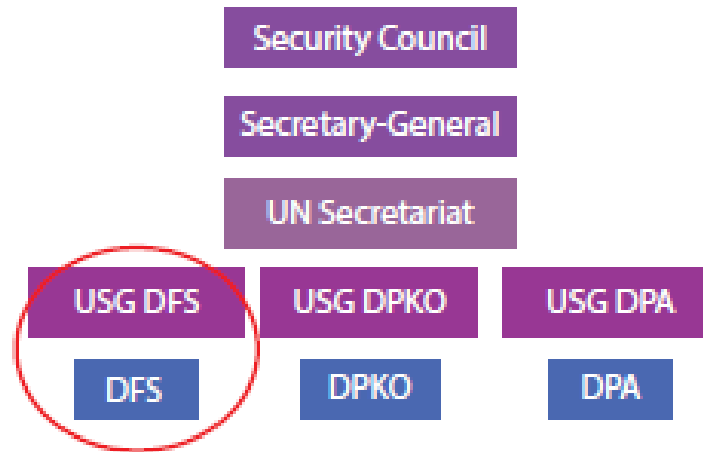
Develops policies and operational guidelines based on Security Council resolutions (e.g. mission mandates)

Advises the Secretary-General on matters related to UN PKOs

Acts as a focal point between the Secretariat and Member States on matters related to United Nations peacekeeping missions



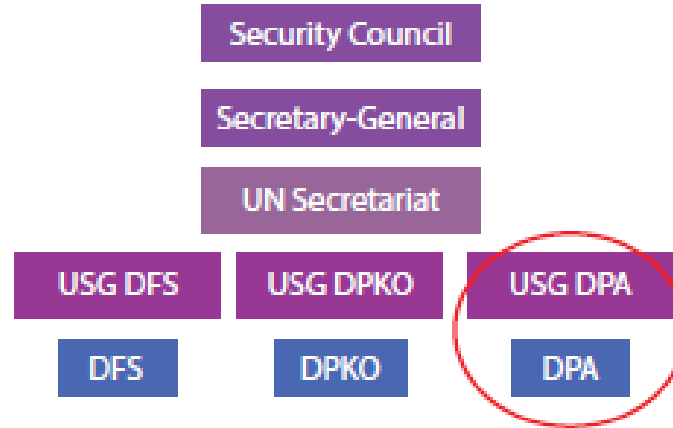
Department of Field Support (DFS)



- Responsible for dedicated support to UN field operations, including peacekeeping operations and special political missions
- Core functions include: personnel, finance, procurement, mission logistics, communications, information technology support



Department of Political Affairs (DPA)



- Monitors and assesses global political developments
- Advises the Secretary-General on actions to advance the cause of peace
- Provides support and guidance to UN peace envoys and political missions in the field
- Collaborates with peacekeeping missions as a partner for political analysis and electoral assistance



Spectrum of Peace and Security Activities



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Principles & Guidelines, pg. 19

Spectrum of Peace and Security Activities

- Early years of UN Peacekeeping operations (UN PKO) guided by an unwritten body of principles
- United Nations peacekeeping has evolved into a complex, global undertaking
- Spectrum of contemporary peace operations has become increasingly broad



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The Charter

- UNSC may adopt a range of measures (Including establishing a PKO)
- Legal basis for action is found in the Charter
 - Chapter VI: Specific Settlement of Disputes
 - Outlines range of peaceful measures
 - Chapter VII: Provisions related to “Action with respect to Peace, Breaches of Peace and Acts of Aggression
 - Chapter VIII: Involvement of regional arrangements and agencies
 - Involvement of regional partners in maintaining international peace and security

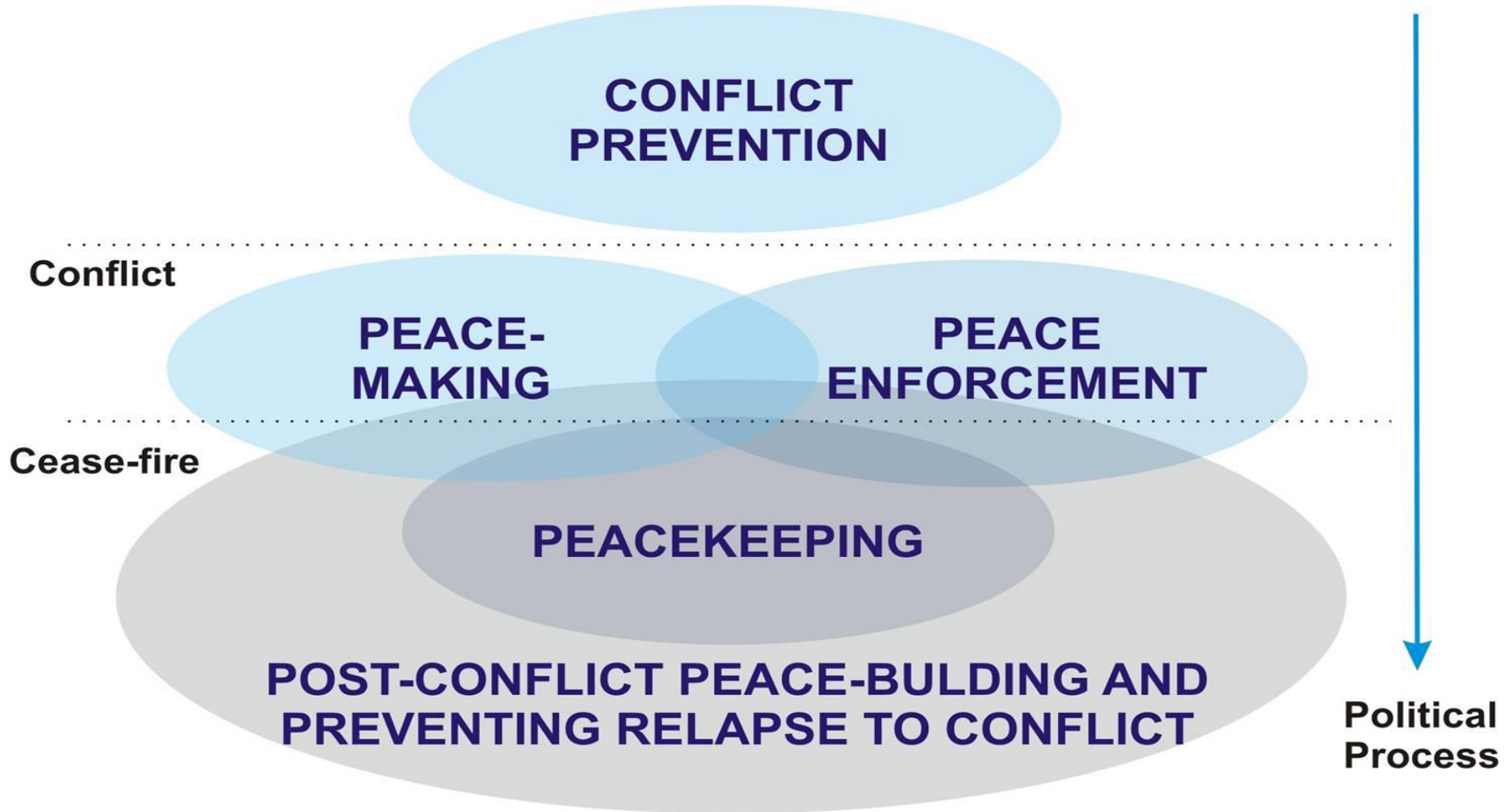


Security Council (SC) Mandates

- UNSC mandates reflect broader debates shaping the international environment
- UN PKO are also based on the following Security Council Resolutions (SCR):
 - i) SCR1325 (2000) on women, peace and security;
 - ii) SCR 1612 (2005) on children and armed conflict; and
 - iii) SCR 1674 (2006) on the protection of civilians in armed conflict



Spectrum of Peace and Security Activities



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Conflict Prevention

- Use of diplomatic measures or other tools to prevent inter/intra state tensions from turning into violent conflict



Peacemaking



- Measures to deal with existing conflicts
- Usually involves diplomatic action to bring hostile parties to a negotiated agreement



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Peace Enforcement



- Coercive measures, including military force, used to restore international peace and security
- Conducted only with the authorization of the Security Council
- May be authorized without consent of conflict parties if there is a threat to international peace or for humanitarian & protection purposes



Peacekeeping

- Designed to preserve the peace, where fighting has ended, and to assist in implementing the peace agreement
- May involve:
 - Mostly military employment for the observing ceasefires, or
 - Complex multi-dimensional models involving military and civilian police.



Peace-Building

- Long-term process of creating conditions for lasting peace by:
 - working on root causes of the conflict
 - supporting security sector reform
 - assisting in rebuilding of justice systems
 - supporting national human rights institutions



Evolution and Types of Peace Keeping Operations

1948: UN Deploys Observers to Middle East (UNTSO)

Throughout the Cold War, UN PKO's limited to cease-fires and stabilizing situations on the ground.

New generation of “multi-dimensional” operations. May employ a mix of military, civilian and police capabilities to support the implementation of a comprehensive peace agreement.



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Different Types of UN Peacekeeping Operations

- Traditional Peacekeeping
- Multi-dimensional Peacekeeping
- Transitional Authority



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Traditional Peacekeeping

- Observation, monitoring and reporting – using static posts, patrols, over-flights or other technical means
- Supervision of cease-fire and support to verification mechanisms
- Interposition as a buffer and confidence-building measures



Multi-Dimensional Peacekeeping



- Deployed in the dangerous aftermath of internal conflicts
- Creates a secure and stable environment
- Employs a mix of military, police and civilians to support implementation of a peace agreement
- Supports establishment of legitimate and effective governance institutions and Rule of Law



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Multi-Dimensional UN PKO

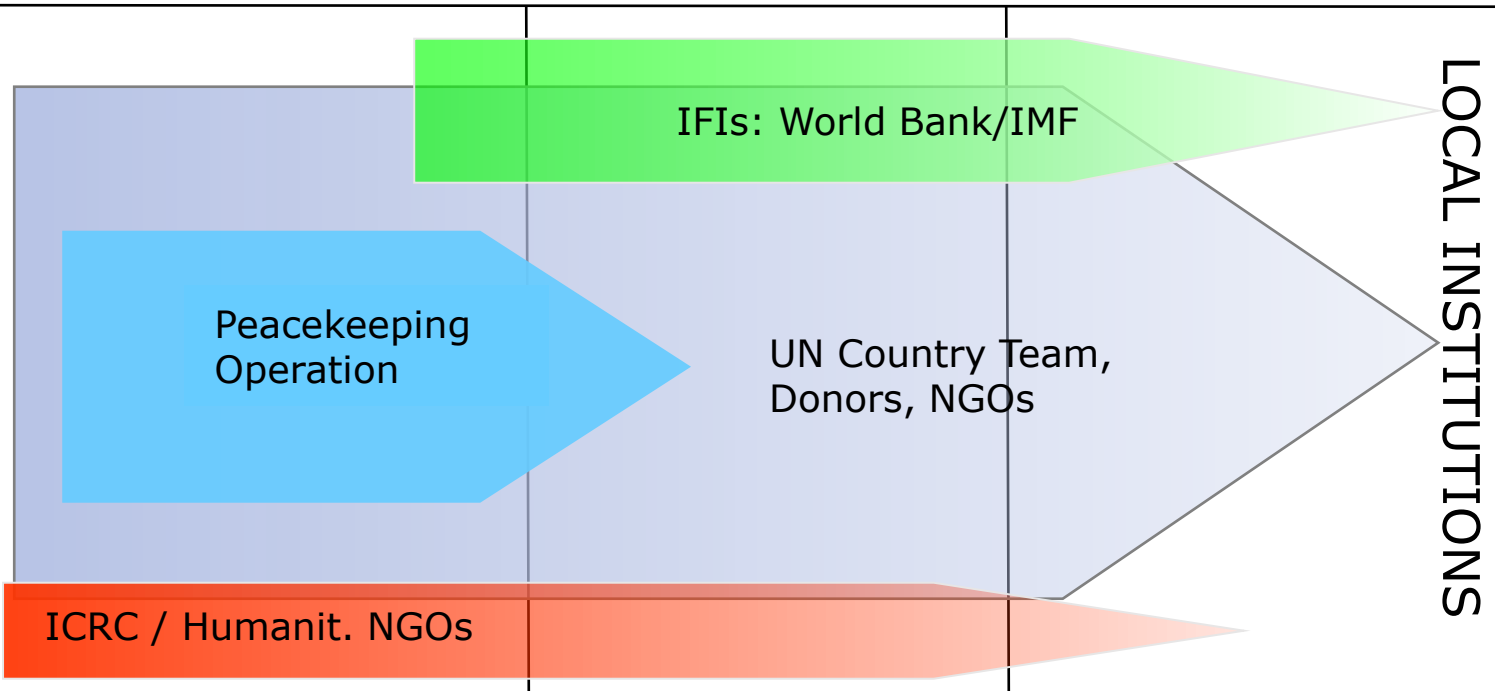
**Post-Conflict
Tasks**

Stabilization

Transition

**Long-term
Development**

ECONOMIC GOV
INFRA INVESTMT
CIVIL ADMIN
ELECTIONS
POLITICAL
SECURITY
DDR
RULE OF LAW
CAPACITY BLDG
HUMANIT ASST



LOCAL INSTITUTIONS

Time

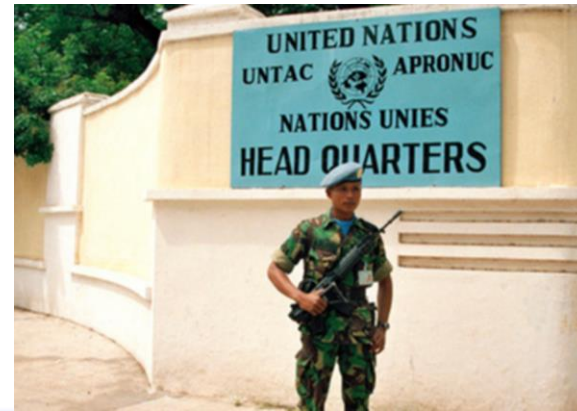
Sustainable Peace

Conflict



Transitional Authority

- A UN multi-dimensional peacekeeping operation that temporarily assumes the legislative & administrative functions of a State:
 - Until sovereignty questions are resolved, or,
 - To establish administrative structures that may not have existed previously.
- A rarely used measure
 - Cambodia



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Special Political Missions (SPMs)

- Three types of SPMs:
 - Field Missions
 - Special Envoys
 - Expert Panels to monitor Security Council sanctions
- SPMs vary in mandate, size and duration
- Field missions have very few or no uniformed personnel



Basic Principles of UN Peacekeeping

- Although UN Peacekeeping has evolved significantly, three basic principles continue to be relevant:
 - Consent of the Parties;
 - Impartiality;
 - Non-use of force, except in self-defence or in defence of the mandate
- Principles are inter-dependent and mutually supporting



Other Success Factors

- In order to succeed, PKO's must also be perceived as:
 - Legitimate; and
 - Credible
- Must also promote national and local ownership



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Summary

- The Charter is an international treaty that guides the work of the United Nations, including peace and security activities
- SC is the UN body with primary responsibility for maintaining peace and security
- United Nations peacekeeping has evolved into a complex, global undertaking



QUESTIONS?



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