

YUNMUN XXX

United Nations Security Council
Topic 1: Peacekeeping Reform

Ever since the establishment of the United Nations in 1948 there has been an overwhelming sense of international community. The preamble to the UN Charter notes that the UN was created “to practice tolerance and live together in peace with one another as good neighbours, and to unite our strength to maintain international peace and security, and to ensure, by the acceptance of principles and the institution of methods, that armed force shall not be used, save in the common interest, and to employ international machinery for the promotion of the economic and social advancement of all peoples.”¹

While the UN holds a collective responsibility to the international community, the Security Council is specifically charged with the “maintenance of international peace and security.” Article 42 of the charter states that “should the Security Council consider that measures provided for in Article 41 would be inadequate or have proved to be inadequate, it may take such action by air, sea, or land forces as may be necessary to maintain or restore international peace and security. Such action may include demonstrations, blockade, and other operations by air, sea, or land forces of Members of the United Nations.” Thus, Article 42 gives the Security Council the power to take forceful measures if need be.

One way that the Security Council has historically helped maintain international peace and security has been through the force of peacekeeping. This precedent began with the first two peacekeeping missions in 1948 and 1949 respectively. In 1948 the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO) was established by Security Council Resolution 50 in order to call for a ceasefire in Palestine.² One year later, the United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan was formed to oversee the ceasefire in Jammu and Kashmir.³ These two observing groups established the idea of an unbiased group entering into a conflict in order to diffuse tensions. Ultimately, the first armed peacekeeping mission, the UN Emergency Force (UNEF) was deployed successfully in 1956 to diffuse tensions in the Suez Canal.⁴ Ever since, the Security Council has been deploying missions world wide under the basic principles of peacekeeping; “prevention, containment, and moderation of hostilities between or within states through the use of multinational forces.”⁵

In order to concretize peacekeeping the “Trinity of Peacekeeping” was established. The trinity states that there must be consent of the parties, impartiality, and non-use of force; excluding self defense.⁶ These three pillars have shaped what peacekeeping is and the effectiveness of the very institution itself. When looking at many of the missions that have been deployed we must ask ourselves if the trinity is hindering us from actually “maintaining peace and security” or if it is promoting those very values.

¹ <https://www.un.org/en/sections/un-charter/preamble/>

² <https://peacekeeping.un.org/en/mission/untso>

³ <https://peacekeeping.un.org/en/mission/unmogip>

⁴ <https://peacekeeping.un.org/en/mission/past/unefi.htm>

⁵ <https://pdfs.semanticscholar.org/6be3/c65aa5cf43a0bc6de9ed273f35eeab2632bb.pdf>

⁶ <https://peacekeeping.un.org/en/principles-of-peacekeeping>

As the Security Council, we have the power to reflect on a vast institution that shapes our world, and determine what we think it should look like. Delegates should approach this topic from both conceptual and practical standpoints. Reforming peacekeeping will have a broad impact on individuals, societies, and ultimately the international community; I urge you to take this responsibility seriously.

Questions to consider:

1. How does your country view the role of peacekeeping? Preventative or reactionary?
2. What are the responsibilities of a peacekeeper?
3. Does your country agree with the trinity of peacekeeping?
4. If not, how should we revise the trinity?
5. Does your country think peacekeepers should be able to use force in an offensive manner?
 - a. How does your country think should we institute and regulate force?
6. What weapons should peacekeepers be armed with?
7. Who does your country believe should be peacekeepers?
 - a. Which body should be in charge of assembling peacekeepers?
 - b. Should there be a diversity clause?
 - c. Should there be a max amount of peacekeepers per country?
 - d. How can we create a system of screening?
8. Who is responsible for determining and funding the peacekeepers salaries?
9. Are peacekeepers responsible for rebuilding?
10. How does your country plan on creating a system of accountability for the peacekeepers?
11. What are the lessons that we can learn from various failed peacekeeping missions such as those in Somalia, Rwanda, and Bosnia?
12. Does your country believe that there is a need a peacekeeping force? If your answer is no, please provide a viable alternative.

These questions are to be used as a starting point for our upcoming discussion and are by no means a comprehensive list of what can be covered in the committee. I urge you to do further research on peacekeeping and all it entails to prepare yourselves for the discussions ahead. *Please remember that while sub-committees and sanctions can be helpful, they will not stand as solutions and reform alone.*

Please be sure to present your country's position and be familiar with the guidelines enumerated in the YUNMUN Student Handbook, particularly those concerning plagiarism. All position papers will be scanned for plagiarism through turnitin.com.

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