



THE UNITED STATES AND UN PEACEKEEPING

Sixty Years of Steadfast Support

“International peacekeeping missions carried out by the United Nations and partner organizations are essential to creating the secure conditions conducive for democratic elections and basic state capacity.”

– Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice

The United Nations Security Council authorized the first UN peacekeeping mission on May 29, 1948. Sixty years later, UN peacekeepers have been deployed in 63 operations around the globe to prevent conflict, promote conflict resolution, and provide post-conflict stability. From the beginning, the United States has been a steadfast partner in supporting UN peacekeeping missions wherever and whenever they can play a role in advancing peace and stability.

EVOLUTION OF UN PEACEKEEPING

Over time, UN peacekeeping has evolved to meet the challenges posed by complex political and security landscapes. Devised at a time when Cold War rivalries often limited Security Council flexibility, UN peacekeeping goals were primarily limited to maintaining ceasefires and stabilizing situations on the ground in disputed areas such as the Middle East, the state of Kashmir, or the island nation of Cyprus. Today, UN peacekeepers undertake robust mandates that involve much broader and more diverse roles.

ROLES OF TODAY'S PEACEKEEPERS

- Support the development of civil society
- Monitor human rights and elections
- Police refugee camps
- Assist with security reform
- Disarm, demobilize and reintegrate former combatants

UN PEACEKEEPING FACTS

- More than 104,000 personnel now serve in 17 peace operations led by the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) on four continents in 12 time zones.
- Each peacekeeping operation has specific

mandated tasks, but all share common aims – to alleviate human suffering and to create conditions and build institutions for self-sustaining peace.

- Peacekeeping operations may include:
 - A military component, armed or unarmed
 - A civilian police component
 - Civilian components encompassing various disciplines

UN PEACEKEEPING SUCCESS

The United Nations Peacekeeping Forces was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in September 1998. This signal achievement underscored the vital contribution UN peacekeepers have made toward the realization of one of the fundamental tenets of the United Nations.