

Committee: Security Council (SC)

Issue: Minimizing corruption risks in UN Peacekeeping Operations

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Position: Deputy President

PERSONAL INTRODUCTION

Dear Delegates,

It is my greatest pleasure to welcome you all to the Security Council of the 7th ACGMUN. My name is Jo Anagnostopoulou, I am a sixteen-year-old student from Ekpedefiki Anagennisi School, and I am beyond excited and honored to be serving as one of your Deputy Presidents. I joined my school's MUN club 4 years ago, and I consider it the best decision I have ever made.

To be more precise, UN simulations like ACGMUN will give you the opportunity to familiarize yourselves with diplomacy, politics, and global issues that today's society encounters. During the conference, you will find yourselves discussing intriguing matters and policies and creating long-lasting bonds. The SC is a committee that has always fascinated me due to its challenging topics and fruitful debate. Thus, I feel delighted to inspire young delegates like yourselves with my passion for such matters.

Should you have any further questions, I am more than willing to help. You can contact me via email at jo.anagnostopoulou.08@gmail.com. I look forward to seeing you all soon!

Kind Regards,

Jo Anagnostopoulou

TOPIC INTRODUCTION

When the United Nations (UN) was founded in 1945, the political leaders at the time made a promise to the global community to maintain peace, security, human rights, the rule of law, and development. This exact promise was to be sealed by the establishment of UN peacekeeping forces that would consist of national military and police personnel and would monitor inhumane conditions worldwide. UN peacekeeping came into force in 1948 when the Security Council authorized the deployment of UN military observers to the Middle East. Especially during the Cold War, peacekeeping was initially limited to only maintaining ceasefires and contributing to resolving conflict by peaceful means and ensuring political stability.

According to the UN, "Today's operations aim to facilitate the political process, protect civilians, assist in the disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration of former combatants; support the organization of elections, protect and promote human rights and assist in restoring the rule of law."¹

However, the exploitation of power by UN peacekeepers has been observed throughout the decades, particularly in recent missions. UN forces are unaware of how to combat corruption during crises due to the lack of practical guidelines in their training. Because of the lack of proper training they receive, they are not adequately equipped for their peacekeeping deployment and are more likely to commit crimes as their training has formed the impression that they do not believe they will be punished. Corruption can undermine international efforts, reduce mission effectiveness by diminishing public trust, and lead peacekeepers to commit heinous crimes.

"UN peacekeeping troops have legal immunity from prosecution in the host state, meaning that only the nation which sent the troops to the host state has jurisdiction to prosecute its soldiers for any crimes they commit during the mission."² But in practice, multiple states globally have not passed essential legislation to conduct trials on a national level for acts committed abroad. As a natural outcome,

¹ United Nations. "What is Peacekeeping?" United Nations Peacekeeping, <https://peacekeeping.un.org/en/what-is-peacekeeping>.

² "When UN Peacekeepers Commit Atrocities, Someone Has to Act." The Conversation, Date of Publication, <https://theconversation.com/when-un-peacekeepers-commit-atrocities-someone-has-to-act-34317#:~:text=Sexual%20exploitation%2C%20child%20abuse%2C%20corruption%20and%20torture.%20These,UN%2C%20yet%20they%20regularly%20go%20undetected%20or%20unpunished.>

UN peacekeepers are not brought before justice for all their acts and never get punished accordingly.

Having noted the above, it is high time that the global community acted upon the matter, to minimize potential corruption risks in UN peacekeeping operations. Atrocious acts, including sexual abuse, torture, and illicit trade jeopardize the moral code the UN stands for. Peacekeeping is a vital measure to promote prosperity and by implementing essential alterations, it can be proven even more efficient.

DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS

Corruption

“The abuse of entrusted power for private gain. Corruption erodes trust, weakens democracy, hampers economic development and further exacerbates inequality, poverty and social division.”³ Corruption has been committed on multiple occasions by political personnel and figures, such as peacekeepers, representing a country or an organization.

Crimes against Humanity

“Acts committed as part of a widespread or systematic attack directed against any civilian population, such as murder, deportation, torture and rape. The responsible international courts, including International Criminal Court, prosecute the perpetrators even if the crimes were not committed in times of war.”⁴ The majority of the atrocities peacekeepers have committed fall under crimes against humanity.

International Criminal Law (ICL)

“The field of international law that regulates the behavior of states, organizations, and individuals operating across boundaries in committing international crimes.”⁵ ICL not only establishes legal frameworks to prosecute crimes

³ Transparency International. "What is Corruption?" Transparency International, <https://www.transparency.org/en/what-is-corruption>. <https://www.transparency.org/en/what-is-corruption>

⁴ Government of the Netherlands. "The International Criminal Court (ICC)." Government.nl, <https://www.government.nl/topics/international-peace-and-security/international-legal-order/the-international-criminal-court-icc#:~:text=Crimes%20against%20humanity%20are%20acts,committed%20in%20times%20of%20war.>

⁵ Legal Information Institute. "International Criminal Law." Cornell Law School, https://www.law.cornell.edu/wex/international_criminal_law.

such as corruption but also reinforces the accountability of those involved in peacekeeping missions, serving as a deterrent and fostering a culture of transparency and adherence to ethical standards in the pursuit of international peace and security.

International Humanitarian Law (IHL)

“A set of rules that seeks, for humanitarian reasons, to limit the effects of an armed conflict. IHL protects persons who are not, or are no longer, directly or actively participating in hostilities, and imposes limits on the means and methods of warfare.”⁶ This legal framework underscores the imperative to ensure that peacekeeping operations adhere to ethical standards, fostering accountability, and preserving the dignity and safety of civilians affected by conflicts.

Legal Immunity

“Legal protection that exempts a person from liability, punishment, or legal action that would otherwise apply and can be granted in various contexts, including criminal and civil cases, administrative proceedings, and legislative inquiries.”⁷ Also, it is often crucial in fostering an environment where peacekeepers can operate effectively, but it necessitates careful mechanisms to prevent misuse and ensure accountability.

Peacekeeping Operations

“One among a range of activities undertaken by the United Nations to maintain international peace and security throughout the world by implementing coercive measures, including the use of military force. Launch of peacekeeping operations requires the explicit authorization of the Security Council to act in the face of a threat to the peace, breach of the peace or act of aggression.”⁸

⁶ International Committee of the Red Cross. "What is International Humanitarian Law?" International Committee of the Red Cross <https://www.icrc.org/en/document/what-international-humanitarian-law>.

⁷ "Immunity." LII / Legal Information Institute, www.law.cornell.edu/wex/immunity.

⁸ United Nations. "Terminology." United Nations Peacekeeping, <https://peacekeeping.un.org/en/terminology>.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Historical Background

Early Years

UN peacekeeping was born during the Cold War, as political instability worldwide limited the contribution of the SC. As a result, peacekeeping was more than necessary for maintaining ceasefires. Back then, missions consisted of unarmed military observers and lightly armed troops who monitored, reported, and had confidence-building roles instead of intruding into the conflict. The first operation, namely the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO), was launched in May 1948 to overview the Armistice Agreement between Israel and its Arab neighboring nations. Afterward, numerous operations took place as peaceful means to resolve conflicts.

In the 1960s and 1970s, the UN established primarily short-term missions, for instance, the Mission of the Representative of the Secretary-General in the Dominican Republic (DOMREP), the UN Security Force in West New Guinea (UNSF), and the UN Yemen Observation Mission (UNYOM). Longer term deployments were required under certain circumstances, for example, in the UN Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP), the UN Emergency Force II in the Middle East (UNEF II), the UN Disengagement Observer Force in Syria (UNDOF), and the UN Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL). The first large-scale mission was the UN Operation in the Congo (ONUC), initiated in 1960 and had “nearly 20,000 military personnel at its peak, 250 of which died while serving under the UN flag, including the Secretary-General Dag Hammarskjöld”.⁹

Post-Cold War Period

By the end of the Cold War, the UN altered and expanded its field of operations to undertake various complex tasks, such as building sustainable and secure institutions of governance, monitoring human rights, disarming, demobilizing, and reintegrating former combatants. Thus, more personnel were included in relevant operations such as administrators, economists, legal

⁹ “Our History.” United Nations Peacekeeping, 2010, peacekeeping.un.org/en/our-history. “UNODC and United Nations Peacekeeping Forces Team up to Combat Drugs and Crime in Conflict Zones.” United Nations: Office on Drugs and Crime, www.unodc.org/unodc/en/frontpage/2011/March/unodc-and-dpko-team-up-to-combat-drugs-and-crime-in-conflict-zones.html. Accessed 26 Nov. 2023.

experts, civil affairs and governance specialists, humanitarian workers, and communications and public information experts.

Between 1989 and 1994 the SC authorized a total of 20 new operations, “raising the number of peacekeepers from 11,000 to 75,000.”¹⁰ However, after 1994, inadequate resources led to peacekeeping missions being minimized. Only specific operations were initiated where there was a significant risk in the use of violence; thus, there was no peace to be kept. Peacekeeping operations started receiving criticism as parties failed to adhere to peace agreements and hostilities continued.

Role of Peacekeeping Operations in International Security

The UN accomplishes the direct prevention of conflict by deploying peacekeepers. In order to launch an operation, three principles must be followed: “main parties to the conflict should consent, peacekeepers should remain impartial but not neutral, and peacekeepers cannot use force except in self-defense and defense of the mandate.”¹¹ Despite that, UN peacekeepers have been deployed to war zones where not all parties to the conflict have consented, such as in Mali and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

Experts differ on whether UN operations succeed. In general, peacekeeping missions are considered to have both positive and negative effects, especially in certain regions where political stability is scarce. There have been cases that proved the mismanagement of the missions, resulting in neutrality, rights abuses by peacekeepers, and financial issues. However, it is imperative to acknowledge that as a measure, peacekeeping is vital and has aided many member states over the years. Addressing the issue of corruption within the missions can improve ongoing situations and develop more sufficient guidelines for future peacekeeping operations.

Violation of IHL

Before attending a mission, peacekeepers undergo a training process. However, the training itself tends to be ambiguous, as it focuses mainly on the theoretical aspect of operations rather than their real-life implications. As a result, UN

¹⁰ “Our History.” United Nations Peacekeeping, 2010, peacekeeping.un.org/en/our-history. “UNODC and United Nations Peacekeeping Forces Team up to Combat Drugs and Crime in Conflict Zones.” United Nations: Office on Drugs and Crime, www.unodc.org/unodc/en/frontpage/2011/March/unodc-and-dpko-team-up-to-combat-drugs-and-crime-in-conflict-zones.html. Accessed 26 Nov. 2023.

¹¹Council on Foreign Relations. “The Role of Peacekeeping in Africa.” Council on Foreign Relations, <https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/role-peacekeeping-africa>.

peacekeeping officers are not adequately prepared for their missions and tend to engage in wrongful acts for which they are not punished. It has been observed that the vast majority of those acts violate IHL. Peacekeepers take advantage of the political instability in the area, become biased, join alliances due to the incentive of power, proceed with mass killings, and sexually exploit populations.

Over the last 20 years, the UN has been accused of sexual abuses in 70 different cases, 8 of which involved peacekeeping operations. Out of a total of 84 reported victims, 46 are women, 17 are underaged girls, 12 are females of unknown age, 6 are males, 1 of which is underaged, and the others are of unknown age.¹² Furthermore, three of the allegations have been assessed through an investigation, two cases have not, and four were closed due to technical issues. Only a total of 16 allegations have been discussed with the relevant member states for action to be taken. Despite the fact that the UN itself, as well as other organizations and countries, have addressed the issue by passing resolutions and legislative frameworks, corruption risks in UN peacekeeping operations still remain an unresolved matter.

Case Studies

United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH)

Haiti is one of the most infamous cases of human rights violations by UN Peacekeepers. MINUSTAH has been the target of scrutiny from the international community due to peacekeepers abusing their status and position by violently mistreating the people they were meant to protect. Assault, including sexual assault against Haitian women and children, was also commonplace during the 15 years of the mission. Furthermore, the UN and Haiti's police forces did not contribute to any mitigation of these violations despite vowing for a zero-tolerance policy. Now, with a thirty-member political mission having taken MINUSTAH's place, the international community must prevent the repetition of these atrocities.

United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIKs)

UN Peacekeeping in Kosovo served – and still serves – an integral role in the state's conception. Ever since the dissolution of Yugoslavia in the 1990s, the area has been in near-constant turmoil. However, this has not stopped

¹² United Nations. "UN Receives 70 New Allegations of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse in Three Months." UN News, <https://peacekeeping.un.org/en/un-news/un-receives-70-new-allegations-of-sexual-exploitation-and-abuse-three-months>.

peacekeepers from mistreating the Kosovar people and contributing to enforced disappearances.

Instead of allowing for Kosovo's peaceful integration into internationally recognized statehood, UNMIK has been influenced by the political turmoil in the Balkans and has failed to live up to its initial goal to restore peace in the region. There have been 150 complaints from relatives of missing persons, stating that UNMIK has not investigated the abductions, was not able to present any evidence that an investigation took place, or has abandoned the investigation after the victim's body had been handed over to the relatives. As is the common denominator among many of these cases, the ones responsible for the blatant human rights violations have not been prosecuted due to conflicting interests.

United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO)

The management of UN peacekeeping missions is difficult, as was demonstrated in MONUSCO in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Though the mission was initially set for success, the lack of organization forced troops to remain in the area, which caused funding issues for both peacekeepers and the UN.

This funding issue has enabled the former to trade local resources, such as ivory, gold, and weaponry with local rebel militias. It is important to note that a significant part of the aforementioned resources have been extracted through unethical and illegal practices in the name of personal wealth. Peacekeepers engaged in illicit trade while on mission, but the issue was never brought before the UN.

MAJOR COUNTRIES AND ORGANIZATIONS INVOLVED

Ethiopia

From the deployment of troops to the first UN peacekeeping missions to more recent operations, Ethiopia has played a crucial role in the UN's efforts to advance peace worldwide. According to the statement of the Under Secretary General for Peacekeeping Operations Jean-Pierre Lacroix, Ethiopia is one of UN peacekeeping's strongest partners, as it is currently the largest contributor of uniformed personnel. Indeed, Ethiopia is among the top 5 troop contributors to UN peacekeeping, with over 8,300 personnel, the vast majority of them serving in UN Missions in Darfur, Abyei,

and South Sudan.¹³ Ethiopia's troops include civilian police forces as well. This structure brings the political and civilian work under one leadership.

Ethiopia has not gone beyond criticism for its political choices, particularly for the deteriorating situation in the Tigray region. The atrocities committed by Ethiopian forces in Tigray have sparked controversy over whether Ethiopian soldiers should be allowed to participate in UN Peacekeeping Missions.

India

India, the foremost contributor to UN peacekeeping forces, has deployed almost 195,000 troops across 49 missions, solidifying its role as the second-largest troop contributor globally.¹⁴ With 7,676 personnel engaged in 10 active UN Peacekeeping Missions, India's commitment to global peace is evident.¹⁵ Acknowledging the necessity to address corruption risks, India emphasizes transparency and accountability within its operations. Its multifaceted involvement, extending beyond troop numbers, underscores a dedication to effective peacebuilding. As India navigates complex challenges in UN missions, collaborative efforts and a commitment to integrity remain pivotal for minimizing corruption risks and ensuring the success of peacekeeping endeavors.

People's Republic of China (PRC)

The PRC has traditionally viewed states' efforts to intervene in the domestic affairs of other nations with skepticism and has subsequently abstained from resolutions on topics relevant to peacekeeping. Ever since 2015, however, it has been contributing more troops to UN peacekeeping missions than any other permanent member of the UNSC. In fact, 2015 marks a historic year for China's foreign and security policy, as President Xi Jinping announced that his country would allocate approximately 8,000 troops to the UN peacekeeping standby force. To date, China's contributions have reached 2,833 troops, representing one-fifth of the 40,000 total troops committed by fifty nations worldwide.¹⁶

¹³ "Ethiopia: A Leading Contributor to UN Peacekeeping Efforts | UN News." News.un.org, 27 Apr. 2018, www.news.un.org/en/gallery/1128322.

¹⁴ Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations. "Peacekeeping Operations: Principles and Guidelines." Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations, <https://www.pminewyork.gov.in/pdf/menu/49151pkeeping.pdf>.

¹⁵ Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations. "Peacekeeping Operations: Principles and Guidelines." Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations, <https://www.pminewyork.gov.in/pdf/menu/49151pkeeping.pdf>.

¹⁶ "China's Troop Contributions to U.N. Peacekeeping." United States Institute of Peace, 25 Oct. 2018, <http://www.usip.org/publications/2016/07/chinas-troop-contributions-un-peacekeeping>.

In 2016, Chinese troops engaged in peacekeeping operations in Sudan were accused of abandoning their posts at one civilian protection site where tens of thousands had sought safety from successive bouts of fighting in Juba, Sudan. During the clashes between troops from the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) and the opposition forces, 2 UN bases were hit, and two Chinese peacekeepers lost their lives. The Chinese peacekeeping troops subsequently abandoned their posts, leaving weapons and ammunition behind, according to a report by the US-based Centre for Civilians in Conflict (CIVIC).¹⁷ Months later, the UN admitted that peacekeeping forces abandoned their posts and refused to engage in civil protection during the attack. However, it failed to hold any commanders or troops accountable.

Amnesty International

Amnesty International is a non-governmental organization (NGO) that is active in more than 150 countries and territories and campaigns on human rights by researching and raising awareness of relevant violations. The organization has observed peacekeeping operations and acknowledges all human rights violations committed. Amnesty International has managed to research various UN missions, including MINUSTAH, UNMIK, MONUSCO, the Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA), and the Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA), publishing reports published reports expressing its deep dissatisfaction when it comes to the lack of punishment for peacekeeping forces. Amnesty wishes to end political immunity to hold perpetrators accountable for their actions, promotes universal jurisdiction to enable universal trial for all judicial cases that seem to threaten the international rule of law, and encourages the UN bodies to respond faster to humanitarian crises.

International Peace Institute (IPI)

The International Peace Institute is an independent, non-profit organization aiming to strengthen multilateral efforts. IPI formulates innovative recommendations for the United Nations system, member states, regional organizations, civil society, and the private sector by conducting research, convening discussions, and providing strategic advice.

Among its efforts, noteworthy is the launch of the "Prioritization and Sequencing of Security Council Mandates" project. It aims to make UN peace

¹⁷ Center for Civilians in Conflict. "Fire in July: Violence in Juba and UN Response." Civilians in Conflict, <https://civiliansinconflict.org/publications/research/fire-july-2016-violence-juba-un-response/>.

operations more effective by examining how country-specific peace missions can be adapted to prioritize tasks based on evolving political and security developments.¹⁸

In December 2017, IPI launched a second project named “Protection of Civilians (POC),” focusing on the need to protect the civilian population in the context of UN peacekeeping operations. Through this program, IPI supports the UN Secretariat in analyzing the challenges associated with peacekeeping operations and adapting policy and practice to facilitate and improve the protection of civilians.

TIMELINE OF EVENTS

Date	Description of event
29 May 1948	The first UN peacekeeping mission is launched.
14 July 1960	United Nations Operation in Congo (ONUC), the most fatal UN mission is launched.
1 July 1985	Act No. 6/1985, upon UN officers’ jurisdiction is passed in Spain.
23 September 1993	United Nations Mission in Haiti (UNMIH) is launched.
10 June 1999	UNMIK is launched.
8 January 2008	Resolution A/RES/62/63 is passed by the UN General Assembly (UNGA).
7 March 2008	Resolution A/RES/62/214 is passed by the UNGA.
1 July 2010	MONUSCO replaces ONUC.
11 March 2016	Resolution S/RES/2272 is passed by the UNSC.
14 July 2017	Resolution A/RES/71/297 is passed by the UNGA.
21 September 2018	Resolution S/RES/2436 is passed by the UNSC.

¹⁸ International Peace Institute. "Peace Operations and Sustaining Peace." International Peace Institute, <https://www.ipinst.org/program/peace-operations-and-sustaining-peace>.

29 June 2022	Resolution A/RES/76/274 is passed by the UNGA.
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RELEVANT UN RESOLUTIONS, TREATIES AND EVENTS

- Criminal Accountability of United Nations Officials and Experts on Missions, 8 January 2008 **(A/RES/62/63)**¹⁹
- Comprehensive Strategy towards Assistance and Support to Victims of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse by United Nations Staff and Related Personnel, 7 March 2008 **(A/RES/62/214)**²⁰
- Prevention of Sexual Exploitation, 14 July 2017 **(A/RES/71/297)**²¹
- Sexual Exploitation and Abuse, 29 June 2022 **(A/RES/76/274)**²²
- Sexual Exploitation and Abuse, 11 March 2016 **(S/RES/2272)**²³
- United Nations Peacekeeping Performance, 21 September 2018 **(S/RES/2436)**²⁴
- United Nations Conduct and Discipline Unit²⁵

PREVIOUS ATTEMPTS TO SOLVE THE ISSUE

Act No. 6/1985

Spain is considered a model for the global community as it has acted promptly upon the issue by enabling Spanish courts to exercise jurisdiction over crimes committed by Spanish nationals in a foreign country. In relation to genocide, torture, enforced disappearance, illegal trafficking of substances, sexual exploitation of minors, and corruption, all Spanish courts can try a case against the perpetrators of

¹⁹ "UN Document, GEN/N07/467/55, <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N07/467/55/PDF/N0746755.pdf>.

²⁰ "UN Document, GEN/N07/476/61, <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N07/476/61/PDF/N0747661.pdf>.

²¹ "UN Document, GEN/N17/195/93, <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N17/195/93/PDF/N1719593.pdf>.

²² "UN Document, GEN/N22/411/24, <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N22/411/24/PDF/N2241124.pdf>.

²³ "UN Document, GEN/N16/069/25, <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N16/069/25/PDF/N1606925.pdf>.

²⁴ "UN Document, GEN/N18/295/50, <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N18/295/50/PDF/N1829550.pdf>.

²⁵ United Nations. "United Nations Conduct and Discipline Unit." United Nations Conduct and Discipline Unit, <https://conduct.unmissions.org/>.

such acts to punish perpetrators accordingly.²⁶ Jurisdiction over crimes committed by a member state's nationals while serving as United Nations officials or experts encourages member states and other responsible international organizations to provide necessary assistance in developing such legal measures.

Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act (H.R.972)

The United States (US) Congress adopted H.R.972 in 2005, an act that contains several provisions specifically targeted at preventing trafficking of persons, sexual exploitation, and abuse by military personnel, even in peacekeeping operations.²⁷ The bill specifically requires the State Department to certify to Congress, before it contributes US logistical or personnel support to a peacekeeping mission, that the international organization has taken appropriate measures to prevent the organization's employees, contractors, and peacekeeping forces from engaging in trafficking in persons or committing acts of illegal sexual exploitation.

POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

Establishing a Training Mechanism

The UN should intensify its training for peacekeepers, especially before missions are launched. Organizations like IPI can contribute to formulating a new training mechanism that will be implemented by the UN. Peacekeepers should be able to familiarize themselves with situations they will encounter throughout the operation, including illicit trade, mass killings, exploitation of children and women, and armed attempts against peacekeepers themselves. During training they should also learn to create buffer zones between combatants and to monitor ceasefires and peace agreements. All aforementioned simulations will improve the existing preparation of peacekeepers as far as the practical aspect is concerned. The program, however, should also include a more organized educational method, for example, studying previous UN missions, assessing them, evaluating mistakes made, and proposing solutions. By drawing attention to past operations, emphasis will be placed on the responsibility peacekeepers hold. Such measures would improve the training of peacekeepers since they balance the theoretical and practical aspects that training

²⁶ United Nations. "Spain and Universal Jurisdiction." United Nations, https://www.un.org/en/ga/sixth/71/universal_jurisdiction/spain_e.pdf#:~:text=In%20its%20original%20formulation%2C%20article%2023%2C%20paragraph%204%2C,Spain%20pursuant%20to%20an%20international%20treaty%20or%20agreement.

²⁷ United States Congress. "Freedom to Read Protection Act." Congress.gov, H.R. 972, 109th Congress, 1st Session, <https://www.congress.gov/bill/109th-congress/house-bill/972/text>.

requires instead of disseminating vital information through manuals, handbooks, and toolkits.

Holding Perpetrators Accountable

Due to the legal immunity afforded to them by the UN Charter, peacekeepers cannot be held accountable for their actions. However, challenging the limits of their legal immunity is important in bringing the perpetrators of atrocities to justice. Member states that contribute to the UN peacekeeping forces can initiate negotiations to sign an agreement upon trying peacekeepers, when necessary, within an international framework. Spain works as a model for other member states. Punishing nationals who serve as UN officers is an efficient solution as it focuses on the responsibility of the nations to hold their personnel accountable. Military expenditure data from troop-contributing countries could be useful for tracking peacekeepers and proceeding with personal allegations and trials. However, whether this legal framework will be applied to current peacekeepers, past peacekeepers, or future operations should be a consideration made by delegates.

Moreover, the International Court of Justice can issue an advisory opinion, which could be helpful in setting all vital criteria for peacekeepers that go to trial. Ad-hoc courts can be created to try extreme cases like crimes against humanity committed by UN personnel. Punishments can be set on a personal level in the form of freezing assets and on a national level in the form of sanctions imposed on the country that provided said peacekeepers.

Strengthening the Monitoring System

Throughout peacekeeping operations, information must be gathered to ensure the efficiency of the missions. Thus, states in which operations have been launched and the ten highest-ranking troop-contributing nations ought to establish a commission that will aim to monitor and overview the missions. Member states can submit a quarterly report summarizing the role peacekeepers play in the region and assessing their contribution to the conflict. When a violation is observed, the commission can take the matter to UNSC directly. The commission can also collaborate with NGOs in the field of human rights and organize conferences to discuss the impact of the operations on the region's stability with the affected populations.

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