



## THE IMPORTANCE OF STABILIZATION PEACEKEEPING MISSIONS AS AN ENTITY OF THE SECURITY SYSTEM IN EUROPE AND IN THE WORLD - OUTLINE OF THE ISSUES

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### ABSTRACT

Nowadays, international relations are characterized by the presence of many conflicts and contradictions between or within countries, which pose a threat to international peace and security. This leads to the emergence of a form of global international cooperation called "peacekeeping". One of the main tools for resolving conflicts is the use of armed force in the form of international peacekeeping missions. The UN plays a key role in this area, as well as other regional and international organizations such as NATO, the European Union, and the African Union. Primary responsibility for maintaining international security and peace rests with the UN Security Council. The Security Council has many responsibilities, including: deciding on ceasefires, sending troops and missions to armed conflict zones, and conducting peacekeeping operations through UN-sponsored military contingents.

**Keywords:** conflict, conflict zone, security, stabilization

### INTRODUCTION

Nowadays, international relations are characterized by the presence of many conflicts and contradictions between states or within countries, which pose a threat to international peace and security. This leads to the appearance of one forms of global international cooperation such as "peacekeeping". One of the main tools for resolving conflicts is the use of armed force in the form of international peacekeeping missions. Peacekeeping missions are a type of peacekeeping activities (operations) that are mainly observational in nature. Peacekeeping missions are taking place in difficult economic and political conditions that can constantly change; therefore, they must be flexible so that they can adapt to the new situation at any time. The UN plays a key role in this field, as do other regional or international organizations such as NATO, the European Union, and the African Union.

Primary responsibility for maintaining international security and peace rests with the UN Security Council. The Council plays a key role in strengthening security and stable peace in the Euro-Atlantic area. The Security Council has many responsibilities, including: deciding on ceasefires, sending troops and missions to armed conflict zones, and conducting peacekeeping operations through UN-sponsored military contingents. NATO peacekeeping missions - crisis management missions, continue to be conducted in accordance with the decision of the UN Security Council under the auspices of NATO. The main location of NATO peacekeeping missions is the "zone of instability" in Europe, covering those regions and sub regions of the continent that may give rise to internal and external conflicts that are harmful to European security and Euro-Atlantic. A key element of NATO's peace policy in this area is the involvement of partner countries in peacekeeping operations under the "Partnership for Peace" program. These peacekeeping missions help resolve these disputes and bring peace to conflict regions.

## 1 PROBLEMS OF CONFLICTS IN THE WORLD - SELECTED ISSUES

The issue of today's armed conflicts in the world is topical and occupies a special place in the system of contemporary international relations. Every year, hundreds of thousands of inhabitants around the world become participants and often eyewitnesses of armed conflicts, living in war zones or areas not controlled by the authorities, in an environment surrounded by fighting and stress. Armed conflicts constitute a very significant threat to world security due to the possible increase in the number of participants in the context of globalization, the development of ecological disasters, and cause negative humanitarian consequences related to the growing number of refugees. Practice shows that a special feature of modern armed conflicts is the strengthening of the role of external forces and on their course, conditions for intervention have become more favorable in armed conflicts of international organizations and individual states (Stryjek, 2013, p. 16).

The danger of armed conflicts is that they are often prolonged (Middle East, Yugoslavia, Abkhazia, South Ossetia, Chechnya, etc.), they tend to expand, internationalize and also escalate into wars about broader political goals. Military events in the Middle East, the former Yugoslavia and other regions of the world (the latest in Europe - the War in Ukraine) clearly show that armed conflicts pose a threat to the use of weapons of mass destruction with unpredictable political, socio-economic and environmental consequences. By analyzing contemporary armed conflicts, we can identify their main features, such as: strengthening the internationalization of armed conflicts; involvement of civilians in armed struggle; use of a wide range of weapons, in particular the latest technologies; transformation of conflict management methods, which leads to rapid transitions from conflict escalation to its de-escalation (Stryjek, 2013, p. 16).

Today, most armed conflicts occur in Africa and Asia. In these regions, political instability leads to excessive concentration of weapons, creating favorable conditions for organized crime, which ultimately has a negative impact on the economic development of these regions. The problem is made worse by old (frozen) conflicts that periodically re-emerge despite ceasefire agreements. Similar situations were observed in Angola, Kosovo and the Democratic Republic of Congo. The reasons for the resumption of armed conflict vary, but the most common is that the causes of the conflict have not disappeared, have not been removed, but have been suspended for some time. The main factors in the escalation of conflicts to armed scientists are structural factors (the structure of society, the level of economic development and its regional balance) and procedural factors of the policies of the parties to the conflict (Stryjek, 2013, p. 16).

The study and analysis of contemporary armed conflicts, the causes of their emergence and development in connection with ongoing global political processes, is important and occupies an important place in the system of contemporary international relations. By analyzing the history of armed conflicts, their nature, phases and types, it is possible to predict the emergence of new conflicts. The essence of further research is to study the influence of political forces of various countries on the development of armed conflicts, examining the problem of mercenaries (e.g. the activities of private military companies) as one of the components of modern armed conflicts. The specificity of new generation conflicts and crises has resulted in significant changes in the activities of international intergovernmental organizations. Following the thesis of M. Nelip and O. Merezko: that the theoretical solution to the problem of the legitimacy of humanitarian intervention will create appropriate conditions and new mechanisms in the form of UN humanitarian operations for the total victory of the world community over international humanitarian crises" (Kubiak, Wróblewski, 2018, p. 16).

## 2 PEACEKEEPING MISSIONS - KEEPING THE PEACE

Peacekeeping missions are one of the main tools at the disposal of the international community, which are helpful in resolving all types of conflicts and preventing wars in regions with an unstable political situation. NATO is an organization that plays a key and leading role in ensuring peace and security in the international arena. Through its crisis management operations, the Alliance demonstrates its readiness to act as a positive agent of change and its ability to deliver security-related tasks in the 21st century. NATO operations and missions - various team-initiated operations, missions, exercises, and conducted under the control of the armed forces of the member states of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. These missions and operations are conducted solely based on decisions of the UN Security Council under the auspices of NATO (<https://www.gov.pl/06.09.2023>).

The term "peacekeeping" has been used since 1956. Following a complaint by Egypt against Great Britain and France, the first extraordinary session of the General Assembly was convened and it adopted Resolution 119 of 31 October 1956 on the establishment of an emergency-armed force of the United Nations, which have operated in the Suez Canal area for over 10 years. Until then, terms such as "international UN forces", "UN police forces", "peacekeepers" were widely used. The name "UN peacekeeping operation" was approved only on February 18, 1965, when the General Assembly adopted a Resolution 2006 and established a special committee for world peacekeeping operations. The committee submits consists of 100 countries that are members of the UN. In the work of the Committee and its working groups other member states also participate as observers (Olejarz, 2015, p. 161).

The essence of peacekeeping is to convince the parties to the conflict to use diplomatic means to end hostilities. The Secretary-General plays a key role in maintaining UN peace. The Secretary may refer to the Security Council any matter that threatens the world. The Secretary General may also use "preventive diplomacy" to resolve a conflict situation. Preventive diplomacy helps prevent and reduce the scale of conflict. However, if the parties to the conflict do not agree to resolve the dispute through diplomacy, the UN Security Council may apply severe sanctions. When all available means of maintaining peace prove ineffective, in accordance with Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations, it is permissible to use more decisive means of influence, up to and including military action to resolve the conflict. All these activities are carried out under the leadership of the UN Secretary-General. To decide on the establishment of a peacekeeping mission, there are several mandatory procedural steps (<https://www.unic.un./06/09/2023>).

*Stage one: consultations* - A series of consultations are conducted with all parties to the conflict in order to select the most effective way to solve the problem. The UN Secretary General is preparing a special report on the strategic assessment of the situation and possible options for UN involvement in resolving the conflict (Gorovyi, 2018, p. 17).

*Stage Two - Situation Assessment* -In order to prepare the strategic assessment report, the Secretary-General sends a technical assessment mission to the area where the UN peacekeeping operation is planned. Based on all the conclusions drawn by the mission, the UN Secretary General prepares a report for the Security Council, presenting all possible variants of the deployment of the peacekeeping operation, taking into account the most important: scale, level of financing and all necessary resources

*Stage Three - Security Council Resolution* -If the Security Council concludes that the establishment and deployment of UN peacekeeping operations is the best and the most appropriate way to maintain peace and tranquility, she will formally confirm the operation and will adopt a resolution on this matter. This resolution defines the powers and scope of the

operation and describes in detail all the tasks to be performed. After adopting the Resolution, the budget and funds of the operation are approved the General Meeting (Gorovyi, 2018, p.16) approves them.

*Stage four* - appointment of key officials - the UN Secretary General appoints the Head of Mission who will lead the mission. The head of the mission will lead the operation. The peacekeeping commander, police commissioner and all senior civilian staff are also appointed (Gorovyi, 2018, p.16).

*Stage five* - full operation planning - A joint mission working group is created at headquarters with the participation of all relevant departments, foundations and UN programs (Gorovyi, 2018, p.16).

*Stage Six* - Deployment and Conduct of Operations - The operation begins with the deployment of an advanced team to organize the mission headquarters and gradually expands to cover all UN-mandated components and regions. The operation is carried out as quickly as possible, taking into account the security and political situation on site (Gorovyi, 2018, p.17).

*Stage Seven* - Recruitment of Peacekeepers - Since the UN does not have its own armed forces and police, the personnel required for each operation are provided by UN member states at the request of the United Nations. Peacekeepers wear the military uniforms of their countries, and only blue helmets, berets and ID badges confirm their membership in the UN peacekeeping contingent. The UN conducts recruitment of civilian staff for peacekeeping operations

*Stage Eight* - Preparing Reports to the Security Council - This phase begins after the deployment of peacekeeping operations and continues as long as there is a justified need for UN peacekeeping forces. The Secretary-General reports regularly to the Security Council on the implementation of the peacekeeping mandate. The Security Council updates and adapts the mandate to complete the mission (Gorovyi, 2018, p.18).

Every peacekeeping mission is different. The development of UN peacekeeping missions is carried out exclusively based on special mandates granted by the UN Security Council. The Council gives a mandate to the missions, defining their tasks. The Council consists of 15 member states: 5 permanent (Britain, France, United States, China and Russia) and 10 non-permanent, elected by the UN General Assembly for a two-year term, 5 countries each year. Peacekeeping missions operate based on three principles (Gorovyi, 2018, p.18):

- 1) Consent of all parties to the conflict: Peacekeeping missions are conducted only with the consent of all major parties to the conflict. Without such consent, the peacekeeping mission cannot achieve 100% of its main goal - peace, tranquility and political security between countries.
- 2) Prohibition of the use of physical force and weapons, except for self-defense and protection of the mission mandate: Use of force only as a last resort. Force may only be used in cases of self-defense, protection of people and mandates.
- 3) Impartiality: Impartiality is necessary to maintain understanding between the parties to the conflict and international cooperation. Impartiality is, above all, objectivity, and objectivity is very important.

The goals of UN and NATO peacekeeping missions are primarily to ensure international peace, and the main tasks of peacekeeping missions are (Olejarz, 2015, pp.159-171):

- monitoring compliance with the ceasefire;
- preventing the outbreak of armed conflict;
- assistance in implementing the peace agreement between the parties;
- facilitating the political process;
- protection of civilians and protection of human rights;

- assistance in organizing elections and so on.

In its operations, NATO engages in tasks covering the full range of crisis management operations: combat and peacekeeping operations, training activities, providing the necessary financial resources and equipment for operations, monitoring and providing humanitarian assistance to people. International peacekeeping operations, as a phenomenon of international politics, are now practiced almost whenever necessary. International peacekeeping operations do not change their essence. They remain an effective political tool for resolving military-political conflicts, providing a solution to a set of tasks that no country can solve on its own (Olejarczyk, 2015, pp.159-171).

The role of forces and means of international operations and peacekeeping missions in contemporary conditions is determined by the essence of a historically productive approach to their implementation, which assumes the presence of three components: political, military and resource. Among these components, the political component plays the largest and most important role. Current trends in the development of peacekeeping activities indicate that this approach will be consolidated in the future.

## **CONCLUSION**

To sum up, it is necessary to mark the indicated problems that need to be solved in the future. The issues discussed in a nutshell create an area for drawing many different conclusions. The main one is that peacekeeping missions and international organizations such as The UN and NATO are very important in terms of internal security and the region and international. The topic of accession of other countries to NATO and the UN is also very important.

To this day, many people in our country cannot answer the question about Poland's benefits after joining NATO and the benefits of being in NATO. There are and will always be armed and political conflicts in the world, so the aspect of peacekeeping missions will always be relevant. That is why we need to discuss this issue to know what a peace/stabilization mission is and why it exists. In general, it is obvious that there should be fewer conflicts in our region and in the world, that there should be peace everywhere and that there would be no need to use peacekeeping missions.

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