



NATO AND UN PEACEKEEPING AND STABILIZATION MISSIONS AS A SECURITY SYSTEM ENTITY - OUTLINE OF THE ISSUES

Antoni OLAK, Božena KONECKA-SZYDEŁKO

ABSTRACT

Contemporary international relations are characterized by the presence of many conflicts and contradictions between states or within a country. They pose a threat to international peace and security. This leads to the emergence of such a form of global international cooperation as "peacekeeping". One of the main tools for resolving conflicts is the use of armed force in the form of international peacekeeping missions. Peacekeeping/ observation/crisis management operations are one of the tools available to the international community to resolve conflicts and prevent civil wars in unstable regions. Several such peacekeeping missions are carried out around the world every year. They cover almost the entire world and all types of international activities: peacemaking, peacekeeping and peacebuilding.

Keywords: Conflict, peace and security, peacekeeping and stabilization missions

INTRODUCTION

Contemporary international relations are characterized by the presence of many conflicts and contradictions between states or within a country. They constitute a threat to international peace and security. This leads to the emergence of such a form of global international cooperation as "keeping the peace" (Zapałowski, 1989, p. 25). 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 of an observational nature. Performed by a small number of people (from several to several dozen at most) (Ibidem, p. 28). Peacekeeping missions take place in difficult economic and political conditions that can change constantly, which is why these missions must be flexible so that they can adapt to new situations at any time. The UN plays a key role in this area. Other regional or international organizations, such as NATO, the European Union, and the African Union, are of no lesser importance. It should be recalled here that the main responsibility for maintaining international security and peace rests with the UN Security Council. This is a key role in strengthening security and stable peace in the Euro-Atlantic area. The role of the Security Council is significant, including: making decisions on ceasefires, sending troops and missions to armed conflict zones, and conducting peacekeeping operations by military contingents sponsored by the UN (Ibidem, p. 31).

NATO peacekeeping missions, which were and are conducted by decision of the UN Security Council under the auspices of NATO. The main location of NATO peacekeeping missions is the so-called "zone of instability" in Europe, covering those regions and subregions of the continent from which internal and external conflicts may arise that are detrimental to European and Euro-Atlantic security. A key element of NATO's peacekeeping policy in this area is the involvement of partner countries in peacekeeping operations under the "Partnership for Peace" program. In every country in the world there are many conflicts, both internal and external with other countries. Peacekeeping missions help to resolve these disputes and bring

peace to countries. Peacekeeping missions bring many benefits to society and the world in general. I will talk about this in my work.

1 CONFLICTS IN THE WORLD, PEACEKEEPING MISSION

The problem of armed conflicts in today's world is current and occupies an important place in the system of modern international relations. Hundreds of thousands of people around the world every year become participants and eyewitnesses of armed conflicts, living for years in war zones or areas uncontrolled by the authorities, in an environment of struggle and stress. Armed conflicts pose a significant threat to humanity, due to the possible increase in the number of participants in the context of globalization, the development of ecological disasters, negative humanitarian consequences associated with the growing number of refugees. Reality shows that a special feature of modern armed conflicts is the strengthening of the role of external forces and their influence on the course of conflicts, in particular, the conditions for intervention in armed conflicts by international organizations and individual states have become more favorable (Own Study, 2014, p. 29).

The danger of armed conflicts is that they are often prolonged (the Middle East, the countries of the former Yugoslavia, Abkhazia, South Ossetia, Chechnya, etc.), tend to expand, internationalize and escalate. Military events in the Middle East, the former Yugoslavia and some other regions clearly show that armed conflicts pose a risk of using weapons of mass destruction, which would have unpredictable political, socio-economic and environmental consequences. Analyzing modern armed conflicts, we can identify their main features, such as (Ibidem, p.131):

- strengthening the internationalization of armed conflicts;
- involvement of the civilian population in armed struggle;
- use of a wide range of weapons, especially the latest technologies;
- transformation of conflict management methods, which leads to abrupt transitions from conflict escalation to its de-escalation.

In terms of territorial distribution, currently the 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 negatively affects the economic development of these regions. The problem is exacerbated by old (frozen) conflicts that periodically return despite ceasefire agreements. Similar situations have been observed in Angola, Kosovo and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The reasons for the resumption of armed conflict are different, but the most common is that the causes of the conflict have not disappeared, have not been eliminated, but have been suspended for some time. The main factors of conflict escalation are structural factors (the structure of society, the level of economic development and its regional balance) and procedural factors (the policies of the parties to the conflict) (Ibidem, p. 131).

The study of contemporary armed conflicts, the causes of their emergence and development in connection with global political processes is an important place in the system of contemporary science of international relations. The specificity of conflicts and crises of the new generation has caused significant changes in the activities of international intergovernmental organizations. Domestic scientists M. Nelip and O. Merezhko believe that the theoretical solution of the problem of the justification of humanitarian intervention will create appropriate conditions and new mechanisms in the form of UN humanitarian operations for the complete victory of the world community over international humanitarian crises" (H. Lutsyshyn, 2014, p. 131). At this point, it can be said that peacekeeping missions are one of the

main tools available to the international community to resolve all types of conflicts and prevent wars in regions with an unstable political situation.

NATO is an organization that plays an active and leading role in ensuring peace and security in the international arena. Through its crisis management operations, the Alliance demonstrates its readiness to act and this is a positive factor of change in the performance of security-related tasks in the 21st century. This refers to NATO operations and missions - various operations, missions and team exercises, initiated 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 exclusively on the basis of decisions of the UN Security Council under the auspices of NATO (Gliman, 1994, p. 38).

2 HISTORY OF UN PEACEKEEPING MISSIONS/OPERATIONS

In 1948, UN peacekeeping missions began to operate. Peacekeeping operations began when a group of military observers decided to support a ceasefire in the Arab-Israeli conflict. On May 29, 1948, the Security Council adopted Resolution 50, which established the first special group of military observers. This group consisted of 648 military and civilian observers. This UN Security Council resolution set a precedent that became the basis for UN peacekeeping operations in the future, which is considered to be the starting point for the necessary activities of the UN. The term "keeping the peace" has been used since 1956, in connection with Egypt's complaint against Great Britain and France, the first extraordinary session of the General Assembly was convened, which adopted Resolution 119 of 31 October 1956 on the creation of a UN emergency military force, which operated in the Suez Canal area for over 10 years (Olejarz, 2015, p. 161).

Until now, the terms: "UN international forces", "UN police forces", "peacekeeping forces" were widely used. The name "UN peacekeeping operation" was approved only on 18 February 1965, when the General Assembly adopted Resolution 2006 and established a special committee for peacekeeping operations. The committee consists of 100 states that are members of the UN. Other member states also participate in the work of the Committee and its working groups as observers (Gorovyi, 2018, p. 17).

3 UN PEACEKEEPING

The essence of maintaining peace 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-General can refer any matter that threatens the world to the Security Council. The Secretary-General can also use "preventive diplomacy" to resolve a conflict situation. This (preventive) diplomacy helps to prevent conflicts and reduce the scale of the conflict (<http://www.unic>, 2024). Unfortunately, if the parties to the conflict do not agree to resolve the dispute through diplomacy, the UN Security Council can apply severe sanctions. When all available means of maintaining peace prove ineffective, in accordance with Chapter VII of the UN Charter, 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 (Ibidem, 2024, p. 17).

In order to decide on the establishment of a peacekeeping mission, there are several mandatory procedural steps (Ibidem, 2024, pp. 17-18):

- a - consultations:** a series of consultations are held with all parties to the conflict in order to choose the most effective way to resolve the problem. The UN Secretary-General prepares.

a special report on the strategic assessment of the situation and possible options for the UN's involvement in resolving the conflict.

- b** - *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.
- c** - *Security Council resolution*: if the Security Council concludes that the establishment and deployment of UN peacekeeping operations is the best and most appropriate way to maintain peace and tranquility, it will formally confirm the operation and adopt a resolution on this matter. This resolution defines the authority and scope of the operation and describes in detail all the tasks to be performed. Once the Resolution has been adopted, the budget and resources of the operation are approved (these are approved by the General Assembly).
- d** - *appointment of key officials*: the UN Secretary-General appoints the Head of Mission, who will lead the mission. The Head of Mission will lead the operation. The commander of the peacekeeping forces, the police commissioner and all senior civilian staff are also appointed.
- e** - *full planning of the operation* (Ibidem, p.15): a joint mission working group is set up at headquarters, involving all relevant UN departments, foundations and programs.
- f** - *deployment and execution of the operation*: the operation begins with the dispatch of an advanced team to organise the mission headquarters and gradually expands to cover all components and regions covered by the UN mandate. The operation is implemented as quickly as possible, taking into account the security and political situation on the ground.
- g** - *recruitment of peacekeepers* (Ibidem, p. 16): 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 their affiliation to the UN peacekeeping contingent is confirmed only by blue helmets, berets and identification cards. Recruitment of civilian personnel for peacekeeping operations is carried out by the UN Secretariat.
- h** - *preparation of reports to the Security Council* (Ibidem, p. 15): this phase begins after the deployment of peacekeeping operations and lasts as long as there is a justified need to use UN peacekeeping forces. The Secretary-General regularly reports to the Security Council on the implementation of the peacekeeping mission's mandate. The Security Council updates and adapts the mandate until the mission is completed.

4 TYPES OF PEACEKEEPING MISSIONS

Each peacekeeping mission is different. The development of UN peacekeeping missions takes place solely on the basis of special mandates granted by the Security Council. UN. The Council issues a mandate to missions, which defines their tasks. The Council consists of 15 member states: 5 permanent (Great Britain, France, the United States, China and Russia) and 10 non-permanent, elected by the UN General Assembly for a two-year term of 5 countries each year. Peacekeeping missions can be divided into four types of mandates (Gorovy, 2018, p. 15):

1. *Monitoring missions* – with a mandate to monitor the ceasefire and the situation on the demarcation line. Such missions are always sent with the consent of the parties to the

- conflict. 2. *Traditional missions*: are created by agreement of the parties, but with an extended mandate, e.g. police assistance and assistance in negotiating a peace agreement.
2. *Multidimensional mission*: tasks are established by agreement of the parties and concern most perspectives of ending the conflict, such as economic reconstruction and institutional transformation (police, military, judicial reforms, elections).
3. *Coercive missions*: "Third generation operations", which do not require the consent of the parties to the conflict and are based on Articles 25, 42 and 43 of the UN Charter on the application of the objectives of the operation.

Peacekeeping missions operate on the basis of three principles (UNIC, 2024):

1. **Consent of all parties to the conflict**: Peacekeeping missions are carried out only with the consent of all the main parties to the conflict. Without such consent, a peacekeeping mission cannot fully achieve its main goal - peace, tranquility and political security between countries.
2. **Prohibition of the use of physical force and weapons, except in self-defense and protection of the mission mandate**: Use of force, only as a last resort. Force may be used only in cases of self-defense, protection of people and the mandate.
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.

5 OBJECTIVES AND DURATION OF UN AND NATO PEACEMAKING

First of all, the main objective of peacekeeping missions is to ensure international peace, and the main tasks of peacekeeping missions are (Ibidem):

- monitoring compliance with the ceasefire;
- preventing the outbreak of armed conflict;
- assisting in the implementation of the peace agreement between the parties;
- facilitating the political process;
- protecting civilians and protecting human rights;
- assisting 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 (Ibidem).

Most peacekeeping missions take up a very long time. Over the past 15 years, the shortest UN missions were held in Burundi (2 years) and Timor-Leste (3 years). The question remains why so many missions last several years, and sometimes several tenths of a year. Experts believe that this is due to the extremely difficult tasks facing peacekeeping forces and the constant intensification of various conflict factors in the world. International peacekeeping operations, as a phenomenon of international politics, are currently practiced almost always when necessary.

International peacekeeping operations do not change their essence. They remain an effective political tool for resolving military-political conflicts, which provides a solution to a set of tasks that no country can solve on its own. The role of forces and means of international

peacekeeping operations and missions in modern conditions is determined by the essence of the 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 operations indicate that this approach will be consolidated in the future.

CONCLUSION

Several fundamental conclusions can be drawn from the considerations cited. First of all, it should be noted that the UN and NATO carry out missions in many regions of the world. These missions are to be a response to various conflicts – resulting from territorial disputes, ethnic and religious differences.

Peacekeeping/observation missions/crisis management operations are one of the tools available to the international community aimed at resolving conflicts and preventing civil wars in unstable regions. Several such peacekeeping missions are carried out around the world every year. They cover almost the entire world and all types of international activities: peace-making, peacekeeping and peace-building.

Importantly, the party to the conflict will not always be clearly identified and defined. This is especially the case in conflicts in which a terrorist organization is a party, which by definition has no political representation.

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Prof. dr hab. Antoni OLAK, MBA, Honorary. Prof.

PANS im. Ks. B. Markiewicz in Jarosław: Faculty of Management and Economics - Department of National Security;

WSPiA in Lublin: Department of International Relations, Poland, ORCID ID;

<https://orcid.org/0000-0003-2877-8183>

e-mail: antonio130@vp.pl

Mgr. Bożena KONECKA-SZYDELKO,

Provincial Sanitary and Epidemiological Station in Rzeszów,

UMB v Banskej Bistricy, Department of International Relations, Slovak Republic,

ORCID ID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-8018-6973>,

e-mail: bozena.konecka-szydelko@sanepid.gov.pl