

## **PEACE KEEPING OPERATIONS UNDER UN : A BRIEF ANALYSIS**

Peace keeping is one of the major tools used by the United Nations Organization to assist host countries to navigate the difficult path from conflict to peace. UN peace keepers provide security to the affected countries and help them to manage their transition from conflict to peace. Currently UN is maintaining 16 peace keeping operations in four continents. The peace keeping operations are multidimensional in nature. The purpose of peace keeping is normally maintenance of peace and security in the concerned state. UN peacekeeping force is also deployed 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. The military remains the backbone of peacekeeping operations. However a set of civil and political experts including administrators, police force, economists, legal experts, election observers, human right monitors, humanitarian activists and communication and public information experts are also a part of the missions.

After the Cold War, there was a rapid increase in the number of peacekeeping operations. With a new consensus and a common sense of purpose, the Security Council authorized a total of 20 new operations between 1989 and 1994, raising the number of peacekeepers from 11,000 to 75,000. In the second half of the 1990s, the Council authorized new UN operations in Angola, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Guatemala and Haiti. Later the Security Council established large and complex peacekeeping operations in many African countries including Burundi, Chad and the Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Liberia, Sierra Leone,

Sudan and Syria.

UN Peacekeeping is led by the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO). Peace keeping is generally guided by three basic principles -

1. Consent of the parties-Every peace keeping mission is commissioned only with the consent of affected parties. UN never imposes a peace keeping mission on a non-willing state.
2. Impartiality- A major policy of the peace keeping operation is impartiality in force deployment and operations. The UN force is a multinational force with no particular bias. They are committed to the UN mandate only.
3. No use of force except for the defense of the mandate- No UN peace keeping mission uses force unless required by the mandate. Minimal force may be used for self-protection and for the protection of the mandate.

Setting up of observer missions is an important component of UN peace keeping and peacemaking. Observer missions usually consist of unarmed military and civilian personnel who monitor the implementation of cease fire agreements between warring groups and report to the Secretary General. The first observer mission known as the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO) was set up in Middle East in 1948.

In 1991, the United Nations observation mission in El Salvador (ONUSAL), a peace building operation to monitor application of a series of agreement between the Salvadoran government and the FMLN at resolving the civil war was set up. The civil war in El Salvador ended in 1992 as a result of missions efforts.

In Namibia, the UN transition Assistance Group (UNTAG) supervised the territory's first free and fair elections, leading to independence in Namibia. The UNTAG's military tasks included monitoring the cease fire and

verifying the withdrawal of foreign troops and demobilization of various security forces.

The UN transition Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) set up in 1992 undertook one of the most complex peace making operations in the UN history. The UN organized free and fair elections in cooperation with various UN agencies and nongovernmental organization.

### **Financing Peace keeping Operations**

The UN has no military forces of its own. The UN Member States provide, on a voluntary basis, the military and police personnel required for each peacekeeping operation. Peacekeeping soldiers are paid by their own Governments according to their own national rank and salary scale. Countries volunteering uniformed personnel to peacekeeping operations are reimbursed by the UN at a standard rate, approved by the General Assembly. Police and other civilian personnel are paid from the peacekeeping budgets established for each operation. The UN also reimburses Member States for providing equipment, personnel and support services to military or police forces. The financing of UN Peacekeeping operations is the collective responsibility of all UN Member States. According to article 17 of the UN charter every member State is legally obligated to pay their respective share towards peacekeeping. The sharing of peacekeeping expenses is based on a special scale of assessments. Under this formula the five permanent members of the Security Council are required to pay a larger share because of their special responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security.