

The contribution of the UN to Peace, Security & Prosperity

Essay

created for the

International Forum for Peace, Security & Prosperity

High School Student Writing Competition

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(Constanța), February 2022

Abstract

This article contains the author's research on peace, security, and also prosperity from around the world. The introduction is the ambiguity of the past, a history that shows the evolution of mankind, how negative, selfish and stubborn we use to be, and the way we evolved becoming nicer, kinder, and trying to learn from our mistakes. The author then talks about the almost most important operation in the world in terms of peace and security, called The United Nations (UN). The most important action the Nations has done, called „UN Peacekeeping, is being seen from a favorable point of view and is being described along with all its particularities: what it is, what it does, people that are participating in, and much more. The elaboration of the topic is being explained the contribution of the peacekeeping team that is working hard for all of us. They are categorized in military, civilian, and police, all of them having an almost equal role as in importance. The article also contains the basic principles of peacekeeping, their successes, their history, gender statistics, and what each category of people involved is doing. Along with the tables and pictures, each of them being explained in footnotes, in a logical way, and in a logical order, for a better understanding of the topic The conclusion is the author's point of view of the situation, with pros and cons about what has been discussed.

Keywords: UN Peacekeeping, peace, civilian, military, police

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2. Introduction

2.1 Description of the problem/concept

How wonderful would it be if we could live in long-lasting peace and prosperity forever? From the beginning of time, those two were the most important needs we people had to accomplish. Some of us were stubborn, wanting more from others who didn't have and neither want to give. That's how wars were „created”, win after win, making people feel full of greed without any mercy or sympathy.

Luckily, those times passed, leaving behind a new world, with kind people; people who have realized their mistakes and are trying every day to make up for them and to be forgiven, people who have the desire for a better world to live in and are progressively trying to change in better, and people who have power and can increase peace, security, and prosperity and keep them stable all around the world.

2.2 How the author will solve the problem in the next chapter?

One of those organizations, the one I'm going to talk about, is called The United Nations (UN), which currently has 193 Member States. They are aware of poverty, famine, and other crises that cannot be ignored any longer. Solving them is a significant task, but it is also an essential prerequisite for the long-term growth of all of the world's population. All of the countries that have joined the organization are resolved to fight together for the freedom of the human race: to end the "tyranny" of poverty, to heal, and to protect our beloved homeland. The organization has carried out various operations that have helped and continue to help society gather its strength in order to become stronger together because we can only be stronger together.

3. Elaboration of the topic

3.1 UN Peacekeeping

Peacekeeping is a powerful movement, with distinct characteristics and a varied network of people committed to maintaining peace and promoting diversified objectives. It has proven from the start to be one of the most effective UN operations, formed with the goal of assisting countries in their difficult transition from conflict to peace.

3.2 Basic principles of peacekeeping

The United Nations peacekeeping mission is founded on three core principles: impartiality, consent of the parties, and, most importantly, the use of force solely in self-defense and defense of the mandate. Currently, thirteen UN Peacekeeping operations are functioning on three continents.

3.3 What they do and their successes

This operation's goals include not just maintaining peace and security, but also facilitating the political process, protecting civilians and human rights, promoting and upholding the rule of law, and much more.

Success is never guaranteed because, by definition, UN Peacekeeping is assigned to the most dangerous themes, as well as the most physically and politically challenging environments. However, in its sixty-year history, they have achieved a remarkable record of achievement, culminating in the awarding of the Nobel Peace Prize.

3.4 Who and what are they

Coming from a varied spectrum of cultural and social backgrounds, as well as an increasing number of Member States, over one million men, and women have served under the UN flag since 1948. Peacekeepers like them are divided into civilian, military, and police troops that work together to achieve their purpose of helping people from all over the world.

3.5 Civilian personnel

Civilians work in finance, logistics, human resources, communications and technology, and general administration to support the military's role in promoting peace and security. Whether they are international personnel, host country national employees, or simply UN volunteers, their duties and responsibilities change as peacekeeping missions become increasingly sophisticated and multifaceted.



Figure 1: specialized civilian doctor consulting a patient¹

3.6 Fallen heroes

Unfortunately, over 3,500 peacekeepers have bravely given their lives to safeguard the peace, but their sacrifice on behalf of the world community provides the determination of a UN Charter to save future generations from the scourge of war.

¹ Picture created by the author of the UN Peacekeeping site "Our Peacekeepers - Civilians" section

3.7 Women in Peacekeeping

Women are involved in all three categories of personnel - police, military, and civilian - with a good influence, supporting and recalling the essential role of women in promoting peace and protecting women's rights. Women peacekeepers, brave and strong, prove every day that they can play the same roles, complete the same tasks, and work in the same challenging situations as their male counterparts.

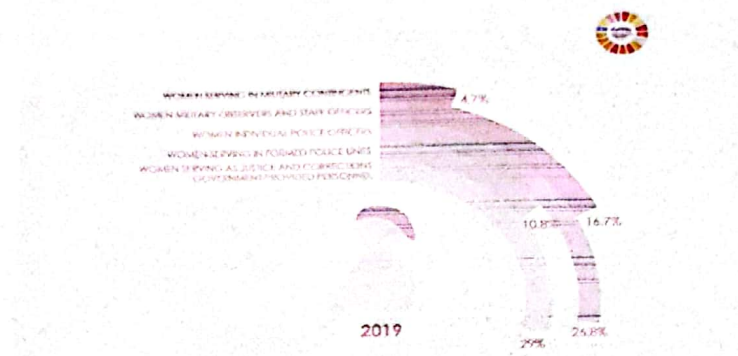


Figure 2: The statistics of uniformed women in peace operations²

In 1993, only 1% of the staff were women. The community has started to grow, reaching a number of approximately 95,000 peacekeepers by 2020, in which: 4.8% of military contingents, 10.9% of formed police units, and 34% of justice and personnel corrections provided by the government in UN peacekeeping missions are made by women. The numbers continue to rise, hoping that, by 2028, the target for women serving in military contingents will be 15% and 25% for military observers and staff officers, and that women serving in formed police units will be 20% and 30% for individual police officers.

² Data established on 31 December 2019

3.8 Military personnel

The people from the military personnel of the United Nations are referred to as 'Blue Helmets on the ground'. They work alongside UN Police and civilians, local communities, and security forces, consisting of over 70,000 military personnel coming from armies from across the globe, determined in promoting stability, security, and peace processes.



Figure 3: Blue Helmets on the ground - the UN military forces³

Blue Helmets are the reason for the population's security, safeguarding them from any threats and making them feel safe and sound wherever they are, ensuring a safe environment.

3.9 What UN military personnel do

Aside from protecting civilians and UN personnel, the UN Military personnel are contributing to lots of other types of missions for peace, such as: monitoring and observing peace processes in post-conflict areas, providing security during elections, assisting in-country military personnel with training and support, etc.

³ Picture created by the author of the UN Peacekeeping site

3.10 UN Police personnel and what they do

Every day, UNPOL, or the UN Police, brings together up to 9,000 people from 94 countries to help improve and reestablish security through patrolling, operational support, and others.

Even though they appear to be accomplishing the same things as the UN military police, they have their own set of objectives, such as 'Action for Peacekeeping' and 'The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.'

As you might expect, they primarily serve the same functions as civilian police officers: to defend life and property by guarding the community of all Member States from all types of crimes and to ensure a safe and peaceful environment.



Figure 4: The United Nations Police discussing to civilians⁴

⁴ Picture created by the author of the UN Peacekeeping site

4. Conclusions

4.1 Personal opinion

In my opinion, the fact that this organization, the UN was created in the first place is already a huge blessing. The idea itself and the way they applied it, it's almost like a perfect working plan that continues to bloom every day; and I appreciate that.

4.2 Pros and Cons

From the way I see it, this whole article is a pro in terms of why is good for us to have "someone" who is always there and is taking care of us, keeping everything nice and peaceful. This organization, The United Nations has helped through a lot and I don't think that the world we see and live in today would have been the same without its help. On the other hand, some cons I've concluded to: Getting so much help from people with high social status, people who rule, strangers, doesn't it sound strange? In everyone's life, there's at least one person who cares and who is willing to do whatever is necessary to protect their closest ones. With that being said, wouldn't it be better if we would grow up a little in our thinking and learn how to take care of ourselves instead of waiting or relying on other people and expecting them to do our job? Maybe it's better if every one of us will become a bit more independent in the near future, just a little bit.

5. Annexes

5.1 List of figures

Figure 1: specialized civilian doctor consulting a patient; Page 4 of 10;

What is peacekeeping → Our peacekeepers → Civilians

URLs: <https://peacekeeping.un.org/en/what-is-peacekeeping>

<https://peacekeeping.un.org/en/our-peacekeepers>

<https://peacekeeping.un.org/en/civilians>

Figure 2: The statistics of uniformed women in peace operations; Page 5 of 10;

What is peacekeeping → Our peacekeepers - Women in Peacekeeping

URLs: <https://peacekeeping.un.org/en/what-is-peacekeeping>

<https://peacekeeping.un.org/en/our-peacekeepers>

Figure 3: Blue Helmets on the ground - the UN military forces; Page 6 of 10

What is peacekeeping → Our peacekeepers → Military

URLs: <https://peacekeeping.un.org/en/what-is-peacekeeping>

<https://peacekeeping.un.org/en/our-peacekeepers>

<https://peacekeeping.un.org/en/military>

Figure 4: The United Nations Police discussing to civilians

What is peacekeeping → Our peacekeepers → Police

URLs: <https://peacekeeping.un.org/en/what-is-peacekeeping>

<https://peacekeeping.un.org/en/our-peacekeepers>

<https://peacekeeping.un.org/en/un-police>

5.2 List of literature:

Information from „elaboration of the topic” is inspired by:

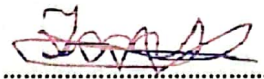
URL: <https://peacekeeping.un.org/en>

6. Affidavit

I declare that I have written the present essay independently and on my own. I have clearly marked any ideas borrowed from other sources as not my own and documented their sources. The essay does not contain any work that I have handed in or have had graded as a previous scientific paper earlier on.

I am aware that any failure to do so constitutes plagiarism. Plagiarism is the presentation of another person's thoughts or words as if they were my own – even if I summarise, paraphrase, condense, cut, rearrange, or otherwise alter them.

I am aware of the consequences and sanctions plagiarism entails. Among others, consequences may include nullification of the essay and exclusion from participation in the PSP Forum High School Student Writing Competition. These consequences also apply retrospectively, i.e. if plagiarism is discovered after the essay has been accepted and graded. I am fully aware of the scope of these consequences.



(Ioana Mădălina Scîrtocea)

Constanța, Romania in March 2022

Deputy director,

Prof.dr. Adrian Ilie

