

To receive regularly updated information on ongoing peacekeeping operations, visit the UN Web site at www.un.org and click on "peace and security."

if so, they determine what type of personnel and equipment they are prepared to offer.

To succeed, a peacekeeping mission needs to meet certain conditions. In particular, it must have a clear and feasible mandate, effective command, political and financial support from the UN member states and, above all, co-operation from the parties to the conflict. The mission has to be undertaken with the consent of the government of the country where it is deployed and, generally, of the other parties involved; and in no case must it be used to promote the interests of one party to the detriment of the other.

Impartiality is the primary "weapon" of the peace soldiers, who in any case carry only light arms and cannot use force except in cases of legitimate self-defence or when armed persons attempt to prevent them from carrying out their assigned duties.

Last, peacekeeping by the UN must not be confused with peace enforcement or other forms of military intervention. On many occasions, the Security Council has authorized member states to use "all necessary means," including force, to end armed conflicts or threats to peace. With this authorization, member states formed military coalitions in 1950 during the Korean War and in the 1990s in response to the invasion of Kuwait by Iraq, as well as in Somalia, Rwanda, Haiti, and Bosnia and Herzegovina. Although sanctioned by the Security Council, such interventions are entirely the responsibility of participating states.

Peacebuilding

The term "peacebuilding" first gained currency in 1992 with its appearance in the landmark report entitled *An Agenda for Peace*, by Boutros Boutros-Ghali, then UN Secretary-General. This document outlined the new challenges and opportunities for promoting international peace and security in the post-cold war world.

One of the principal challenges for the United Nations has been the proliferation of conflicts within states. In 1997, for example, of the 87 armed conflicts around the world, 84 of them were within states. Nearly all these conflicts took place in developing countries, and they have often been characterized by long-term cycles of violence. While conflicts generally occur within states rather than between them, they tend to spill over into surrounding areas, with dire consequences. Growing international awareness of the human and financial costs of such conflicts has prompted the UN and the international community to think differently about international security, and has led to the emergence of the concept of peacebuilding.

Peacebuilding is the effort to strengthen the prospects for internal peace and decrease the likelihood of violent conflicts. Its goal is to enhance the indigenous capacity of a society to manage conflict without violence.

Peacebuilding lies at the intersection of international security and development. It may encompass a wide range of activities. For example, support for conflict prevention and dispute resolution, demobilization



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