

# United Nations Department of Peacekeeping Operations



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## **VITAL: UN Peacekeeping is a central element of international conflict response:**

- ◆ The fundamentally international character of UN Security Council–authorized peacekeeping missions provides an unparalleled legitimacy to any intervention and demonstrates the commitment of the entire international community to take tangible action to address the crisis at hand. UN Peacekeeping alone may not be the right tool for every situation; it must accompany a peace process, not substitute for one. Working along side partners such as NATO (in Afghanistan and Kosovo), the European Union (in the Democratic Republic of the Congo) and the African Union (in Sudan), UN peacekeeping provides an impartial and widely-accepted vehicle for both burden-sharing and effective action.

## **ROBUST: UN Peacekeeping is a massive enterprise:**

- ◆ There are more than 90,000 personnel serving on 18 UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO)-led peace operations on four continents in ten time zones, directly impacting the lives of hundreds of millions of people.
- ◆ Almost 64,200 of those currently serving are troops and military observers and about 7,500 are police personnel. In addition, there are almost 5,250 international civilian personnel, more than 11,300 local civilian staff and some 1,720 UN Volunteers. As of early 2006, women constituted approximately 1% of military personnel and 4% of police personnel in UN peacekeeping; 30% of international civilian staff and 28% of nationally recruited civilian staff are women.
- ◆ 108 countries contribute military and police personnel to UN peacekeeping.
- ◆ The UN is the largest multilateral contributor to post-conflict stabilization worldwide. Only the US Government deploys more military personnel to the field than DPKO.
- ◆ In 2005 alone, UN peacekeeping operations rotated 161,386 military and police personnel on 864 separate flights, and carried 271,651 cubic meters of cargo. Peacekeeping operations undertook long-term charters on 207 aircraft for the movement of 711,224 passengers within peacekeeping missions and DPKO operated or deployed some 220 medical clinics and 21 military hospitals.

## **EFFECTIVE: UN Peacekeeping enjoys a high success rate in its interventions:**

- ◆ A recent study by the RAND Corporation compared different approaches to “nation-building”. The UN, it concluded, was the most suitable institutional framework for most nation-building missions, one with a comparatively low cost structure, a comparatively high success rate, and the greatest degree of international legitimacy.<sup>1</sup>
- ◆ Since 1945, UN peacekeepers have undertaken 60 field missions and negotiated 172 peaceful settlements that have ended regional conflicts, and enabled people in more than 45 countries to participate in free and fair elections.
- ◆ In 2005, DPKO successfully completed peacekeeping operations in Sierra Leone and Timor-Leste, having achieved its mandate to help build domestic institutions and give these still fragile societies a lasting chance at peace.
- ◆ Mine clearance operations managed by the UN Mine Action Service in DPKO are supporting the deployment of peacekeepers in Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Eritrea/Ethiopia, Lebanon, and Sudan.

## **CHEAPER: UN Peacekeeping is cost-effective:**

- ◆ A survey by Oxford University economists found that international military intervention under Chapter VII of the UN Charter is the most cost-effective means of reducing the risk of conflict in post-conflict societies.<sup>ii</sup>
- ◆ The approved DPKO budget for the period from 1 July 2005 to 30 June 2006 is approximately \$5 billion. This represents 0.5% of global military spending.
- ◆ UN peace operations are less expensive than other forms of international interventions. When UN costs per peacekeeper are compared to the costs of troops deployed by the US, developed states, NATO or regional organizations such as the AU, the UN is the least expensive option by far, according to a study by the Stimson Center.<sup>iii</sup>
- ◆ A study by the US Government Accountability Office estimated that it would cost the US about twice as much as the UN to conduct a peacekeeping operation similar to the UN Stabilization Mission in Haiti — \$876 million compared to the UN budgeted \$428 million for the first 14 months of the mission.<sup>iv</sup> Other comparative advantages of UN peacekeeping cited by this study included its multinational nature which provides impartiality and legitimacy, burden sharing, the development of staff members with experience in post conflict peacebuilding operations and a structure for coordinating international assistance.

## **RELEVANT: UN Peacekeeping makes a difference where it matters most:**

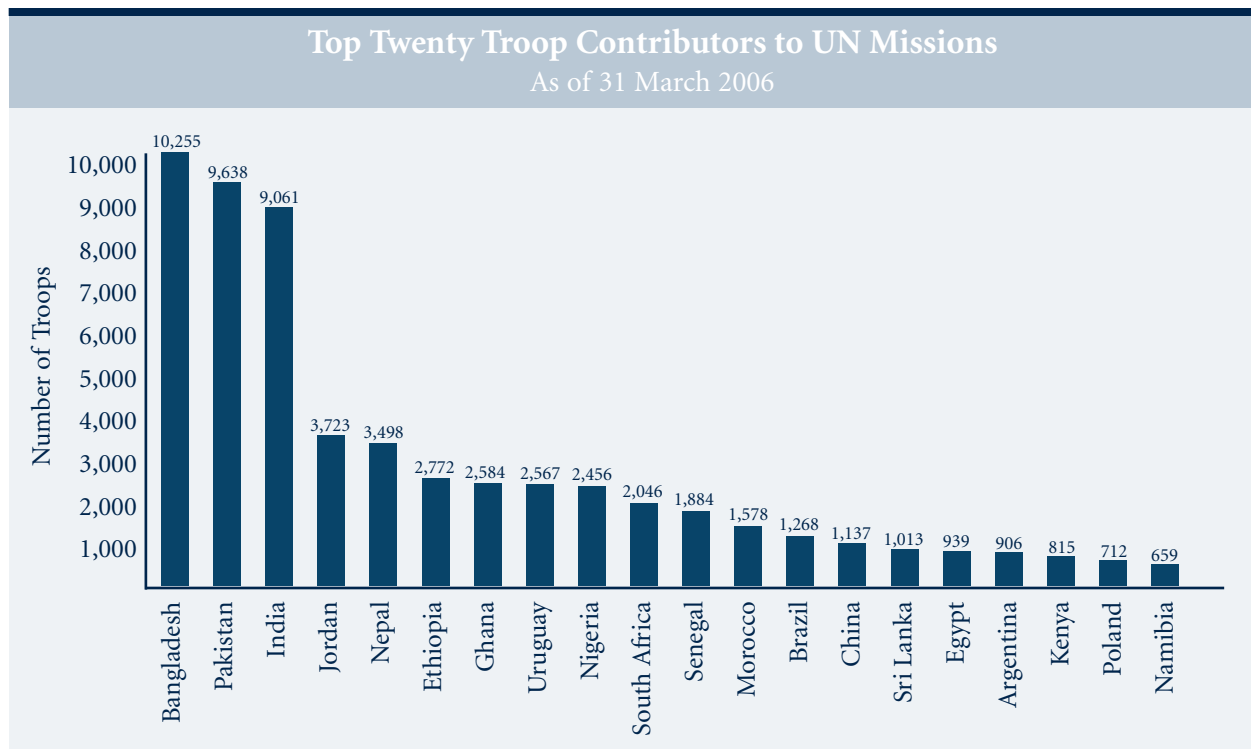
- ◆ The security environments into which recent peacekeeping operations have been deployed are among the most difficult and “least-governed” of any that international operations have ever encountered.<sup>v</sup> UN operations have provided practical on-the-ground help to these tremendously vulnerable populations. Peacekeeping missions deploy where others cannot or will not and play a vital role in providing a bridge to stability and eventually long-term peace and development.
- ◆ There is also a clear correlation between the decreasing number of civil wars and the increase in UN peacekeeping and peacebuilding missions.<sup>vi</sup> The number of UN peacekeeping operations has increased by more than 400% since the end of the Cold War. As this upsurge of international activism grew in scope and intensity through the 1990s and 2000s, the number of crises, wars and genocides has begun to decline.<sup>vii</sup>

## **DYNAMIC: UN Peacekeeping continues to evolve:**

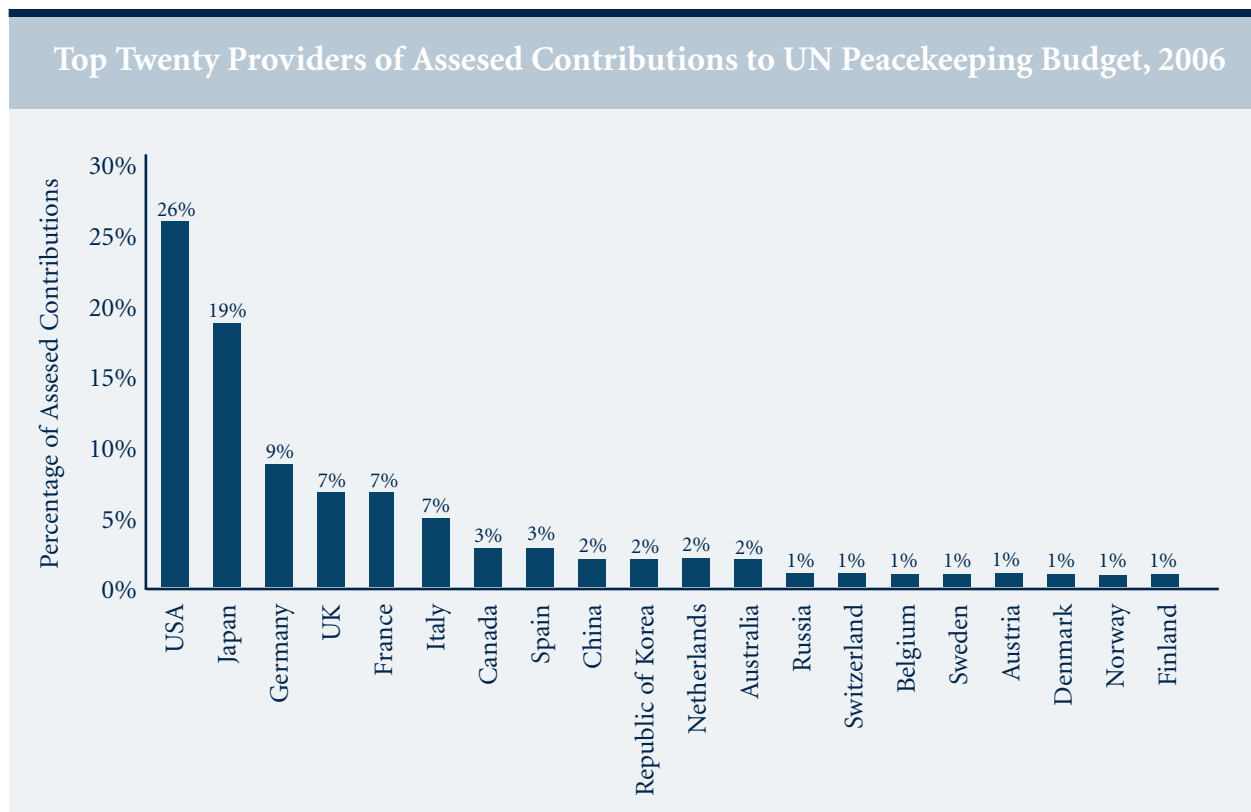
- ◆ In addition to maintaining peace and security, peacekeepers are increasingly charged with assisting in political processes, reforming justice systems, training law-enforcement and police forces, and disarming former combatants. For example:
  - Under its disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme, the UN Mission in Sierra Leone alone destroyed 42,330 weapons and more than 1.2 million rounds of ammunition, disarmed 75,490 combatants including 6,845 child soldiers and provided reintegration benefits to almost 55,000 ex-fighters.
  - The UN mission in Timor-Leste created a Gender Affairs Unit which provided training to women entering public service and worked to ensure that women have a voice in the new government and civil society structures. Today, over 25% of the country’s parliament is made up of women. This is one of the highest numbers of women in parliament in the world.
- ◆ UN electoral assistance has become a regular and increasingly important feature in UN peace operations. In 2005 alone, UN peacekeepers supported elections in five post-conflict countries – Afghanistan, Burundi, Iraq, Liberia and the Democratic Republic of the Congo – with populations totaling over 100 million people,<sup>viii</sup> giving a total of over 56 million registered voters the possibility to exercise their democratic franchise.
- ◆ DPKO continues to implement the reforms proposed by the 2000 Report of the Panel on United Nations Peace Operations (“The Brahimi Report”). The Department has strengthened its recruitment and planning functions for peacekeeping, developed a Best Practices Section within DPKO and prepositioned Strategic Deployment Stocks of crucial equipment to enable rapid deployment and help new peacekeeping operations operationalize in a timely fashion.
- ◆ Eradicating sexual exploitation and abuse became a major priority for DPKO in 2005. DPKO has adopted a comprehensive strategy to eliminate sexual exploitation and abuse in its peacekeeping missions, including the establishment of Peacekeeping Conduct and Discipline Units at UN Headquarters and in the field. The Department is working with its troop contributing countries to ensure effective follow up and full implementation of the recommendations con-

tained in the report of Prince Zeid Ra'ad Zeid al-Hussein, the Secretary-General's Special Advisor on Sexual Exploitation and Abuse.

- ◆ Recruiting and retaining professional, capable and accountable personnel is a major priority for DPKO. To this end, the Department has created an Integrated Training Service that brings together military, police and civilian training capacities in Headquarters and the field. It is also setting up new training curricula and senior leadership training programmes.



Source: DPI



Source: PFD

## Current DPKO-led Peace Missions

YEAR LAUNCHED	LOCATION	NAME OF MISSION
1948	JERUSALEM	UNTSO — UN Truce Supervision Organization
1949	INDIA/PAKISTAN	UNMOGIP — UN Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan
1964	CYPRUS	UNFICYP — UN Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus
1974	SYRIA	UNDOF — UN Disengagement Observer Force
1978	LEBANON	UNIFIL — UN Interim Force in Lebanon
1991	WESTERN SAHARA	MINURSO — UN Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara
1993	GEORGIA	UNOMIG — UN Observer Mission in Georgia
1999	KOSOVO	UNMIK — UN Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo
1999	DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO	MONUC — UN Organization Mission in the Dem. Rep. of the Congo
2000	ETHIOPIA/ERITREA	UNMEE — UN Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea
2002	AFGHANISTAN	UNAMA — UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan
2003	LIBERIA	UNMIL — UN Mission in Liberia
2004	COTE D'IVOIRE	UNOCI — UN Operation in Côte d'Ivoire
2004	HAITI	MINUSTAH — UN Stabilization Mission in Haiti
2004	BURUNDI	ONUB — UN Operation in Burundi
2005	SUDAN	UNMIS — UN Mission in the Sudan
2005	TIMOR-LESTE	UNIOTIL — UN Office in Timor-Leste
2006	SIERRA LEONE	UNIOSIL — UN Integrated Office in Sierra Leone

### Endnotes:

- <sup>i</sup> James Dobbins et al., “The UN’s Role in Nation-Building: From the Congo to Iraq”, RAND Corporation Publications, 2005.
- <sup>ii</sup> Paul Collier and Anke Hoeffler, “The Challenge of Reducing the Global Incidence of Civil War”, Centre for the Study of African Economies, Department of Economics, Oxford University, 26 March 2004.
- <sup>iii</sup> William J. Durch et al., “The Brahimi Report and the Future of UN Peace Operations”, The Henry L. Stimson Center, 2003.
- <sup>iv</sup> “Peacekeeping: Cost Comparison of Actual UN and Hypothetical U.S. Operations in Haiti”, United States Government Accountability Office, Report to the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, Committee on International Relations, House of Representatives, GAO-06-331, February 2006, p. 7.
- <sup>v</sup> The Challenges Project, “Meeting the Challenges of Peace Operations: Cooperation and Coordination”, Phase II Concluding Report 2003-2006, Elanders Gotab, Stockholm, 2005.
- <sup>vi</sup> James Dobbins et al., “The UN’s Role in Nation-Building: From the Congo to Iraq”, RAND Publications, 2005; Andrew Mack, “Peace on Earth? Increasingly, Yes.” *The Washington Post*, 28 December 2005.
- <sup>vii</sup> James Dobbins et al., “The UN’s Role in Nation-Building: From the Congo to Iraq”, RAND Publications, 2005; Andrew Mack, “Peace on Earth? Increasingly, Yes.” *The Washington Post*, 28 December 2005.
- <sup>viii</sup> “Annual Review of Global Peace Operations 2006”, Center on International Cooperation (2006), p. ix.