

## Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations (C-34)

### *Introduction*

United Nations (UN) Peacekeeping Operations (PKOs) are a unique tool to help in the maintenance of international peace and security.<sup>1</sup> Given their unique nature and their involvement in delicate situations, UN PKOs operate under the following principles: “consent of the parties, impartiality and the non-use of force except in self-defense and in the defense of a mandate authorized by the Security Council.”<sup>2</sup> As conflicts evolved and missions became more complex, peacekeeping underwent a number of reviews.<sup>3</sup> In the year 2000, the *Panel on United Nations Peace Operations*, led by Lakhdar Brahimi, produced the most comprehensive report on peacekeeping at the time.<sup>4</sup> The document, known as the *Brahimi Report*, is a cornerstone document on UN peacekeeping.<sup>5</sup> Peacekeeping reform saw the adoption of other important documents, such as the Capstone Doctrine, which provides a clear definition of the guidelines and scope of action of PKOs; and *A New Partnership Agenda, Charting a New Horizon for UN Peacekeeping*, which outlines the way partners can contribute to the increasing needs of UN peacekeeping.<sup>6</sup> In 2010, the UN Secretariat established the Global Field Support Strategy (GFSS), a five-year plan to improve the provision of field services to peacekeeping missions.<sup>7</sup> Recent developments concerning the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations (C-34) and the field of peacekeeping in general call back to these foundational documents, and build upon them for the future. The past months saw important policy developments for peacekeeping, both during the 69<sup>th</sup> session of the General Assembly (GA), and with the announcement of an upcoming review panel for UN PKOs. Conversely, peacekeepers on the field experienced continued violence.

### *Recent Activities*

During the 69<sup>th</sup> session of the GA from 28 to 31 October 2014, the GA Fourth Committee, under which the C-34 operates, conducted its annual comprehensive review of UN peacekeeping.<sup>8</sup> On 28 October, the Fourth Committee received briefings from the head of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO), Hervé Ladsous, and the head of the Department of Field Support (DFS), Ameera Haq.<sup>9</sup> Both emphasized the complexities that underpin modern peacekeeping.<sup>10</sup> In the following days, Member States discussed mandates and increased mission support, the use of technology, cooperation with Troop Contributing Countries (TCCs), the role of women in peacekeeping, and the important partnership with African regional and sub-regional organizations.<sup>11</sup> The Fourth Committee’s review of peacekeeping concluded on 31 October 2014 with Member States reaffirming the importance of keeping peacekeepers safe, as they work in areas of increased risk, as well as affirming the basic tenets of peacekeeping.<sup>12</sup>

### *Recent Policy Outcomes*

#### *High-Level Independent Panel on Peace Operations*

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<sup>1</sup> UN Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations, *Report of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations (A/68/19)*, 2014, p. 9.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 10.

<sup>3</sup> UN DPKO, *Reform of Peacekeeping*.

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>6</sup> UN DPKO & DFS, *United Nations Peacekeeping Operations: Principles and Guidelines*, 2008; UN DPKO & DFS, *A New Partnership Agenda: Charting a New Horizon for UN Peacekeeping*, 2009.

<sup>7</sup> UN General Assembly, *Global Field Support Strategy: Report of the Secretary-General (A/64/633)*, 2010, p. 3-4.

<sup>8</sup> UN DPI, *Fourth Committee Approves Programme of Work in Organizational Meeting for Sixty-Ninth General Assembly Session (GA/SPD/552)*, 2014.

<sup>9</sup> UN DPI, *Scale of United Nations Peacekeeping across Massive Distances in Midst of Conflict Matched by Operational Complexity, Department Head Tells Fourth Committee (GA/SPD/567)*, 2014.

<sup>10</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>11</sup> UN DPI, *No ‘Nobler Goal or Greater Sacrifice’ than Peacekeepers’ Decision to Leave Home to ‘Serve the Cause of Peace, Security and Justice’, Fourth Committee Hears (GA/SPD/568)*, 2014; UN DPI, *Vested Interest in Operational Potential of African Peace Support Missions, Ways to Strengthen Interplay with United Nations, Central to Fourth Committee Debate (GA/SPD/569)*, 2014.

<sup>12</sup> UN DPI, *Amid New Risks Facing Blue Helmets, Delegates Call for Retooling Missions as Fourth Committee Concludes Annual Peacekeeping Operations Review (GA/SPD/570)*, 2014.

On 31 October 2014, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon announced the establishment of a High-Level Independent Panel on Peace Operations to review both political and peacekeeping missions and whose results will be available at the GA's 70<sup>th</sup> session.<sup>13</sup> The panel was established in advance of the Brahimi Report's 15-year anniversary, and will address relevant issues pertinent to peacekeeping, such as: planning and performance of operations, peacekeeping mandates and capabilities, the nature of conflict, human rights, protection of civilians, and peacebuilding.<sup>14</sup> The panel will consist of 14 experts and will be chaired by Jose Ramos-Horta, head of the UN Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau and former president of East Timor.<sup>15</sup>

#### *Summit on Peace Operations*

On 26 September 2014, during the GA's 69<sup>th</sup> session, 31 Member States came together to express their renewed support for UN PKOs during a Summit on Peace Operations.<sup>16</sup> UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon outlined "six critical necessities" for the future of peacekeeping, including rapid reaction and response, protection of peacekeepers, information sharing, and increasing peacekeeping capacities in fields like medicine and organized crime.<sup>17</sup> Several Member States committed to training more women as peacekeepers to aid in overall training efforts, while many have promised their contribution to the United States' new African Peacekeeping Rapid Response Partnership (APRRP).<sup>18</sup> The participants also recognized the importance of the Secretary-General's reports on peacekeeping, and several of them requested that the Secretary-General pay particular attention to the issues of mandate creation, peacekeeping doctrine, and the use of technology.<sup>19</sup> Member States also made individual commitments to peacekeeping: Vietnam outlined its intention to build a training center and to become a TCC; Indonesia has decided to establish a standby force, and Mexico renewed its participation in peacekeeping.<sup>20</sup> Further still, several follow-up meetings will be organized: Uruguay will hold a peacekeeping event for the Latin America and Caribbean region; Serbia will host a 'Being a Peacekeeper' event in October for Western Balkan countries; Egypt will host a meeting for African TCCs; and the Netherlands will hold a meeting for TCCs focusing on the APRRP.<sup>21</sup>

#### *Global Field Support Strategy*

The UN Secretary-General released the *Fifth Annual Progress Report on the Implementation of the Global Field Support Strategy (A/69/651)* on 9 December of 2014.<sup>22</sup> In the report, he touches on some of the key elements brought up by the 2014 C-34 report, especially the development of a Global Service Centre and the use of regional cooperation to cater to PKOs' needs in the field.<sup>23</sup> This responds to the C-34's specific request for the GFSS to "improve support to field missions."<sup>24</sup> The report also describes a significant number of measures that will be put in place to make peacekeeping support more efficient as well as cost-effective.<sup>25</sup>

#### *Implementation of Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations Outcomes*

2014 had one of the highest numbers of peacekeeping fatalities, reaching 120 by the end of the year.<sup>26</sup> In Mali, peacekeepers have been under attack: rockets attacked their camp on 29 December 2014, and on 5 January 2015 eight peacekeepers were wounded.<sup>27</sup> In Lebanon, on 31 December 2014, armed civilians attacked a patrol for the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), causing no injuries but raising concerns about the hostility of

<sup>13</sup> UN DPI, *Secretary-General establishes eminent panel to review UN peace operations*, 2014.

<sup>14</sup> Ibid.

<sup>15</sup> Ibid; UN DPI, *Secretary-General Appoints José Ramos-Horta of Timor-Leste Special Representative in Guinea-Bissau*, 2013.

<sup>16</sup> UN DPKO, *2014 Year in Review*.

<sup>17</sup> UN DPI, *In summit-level meeting, Ban announces review of UN 'blue helmet' operations*, 2014.

<sup>18</sup> UN DPKO, *Highlights from the 2014 Summit on Peace Operations*, 2014, p. 2.

<sup>19</sup> Ibid.

<sup>20</sup> UN DPKO, *Summit on Strengthening International Peace Operations: Informal Pledges*.

<sup>21</sup> Ibid.

<sup>22</sup> UN General Assembly, *Fifth Annual Progress Report on the Implementation of the Global Field Support Strategy: Report of the Secretary-General (A/69/651)*, 2014, pp. 7-8.

<sup>23</sup> Ibid.

<sup>24</sup> UN Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations, *Report of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations (A/68/19)*, 2014, p. 55.

<sup>25</sup> Ibid.

<sup>26</sup> UN DPKO, *2014 Year in Review*.

<sup>27</sup> UN DPI, *Mali: UN Mission condemns attack that wounded 8 peacekeepers*, 2015; UN DPI, *UN Mission condemns rocket attack against its camp in northern Mali*, 2014.

civilians towards the force.<sup>28</sup> Already in 2013, the high number of attacks against peacekeepers prompted the Security Council (SC) to adopt a resolution on the safety of peacekeeping personnel.<sup>29</sup> SC resolution 2086 condemned attacks against peacekeepers and requested better assessment of peacebuilding needs, solid preparation before creating mandates, and collaboration with partners as a result of the recent increase in attacks.<sup>30</sup>

In addition to Member States, the UN DPKO and DFS bear the brunt of implementing significant changes to peacekeeping, incorporating the recommendations by the C-34.<sup>31</sup> In his address to the Fourth Committee on 28 October 2014, Hervé Ladsous emphasized the importance of safety for peacekeepers, explaining that the DPKO would work with TCCs to ensure that training prior to deployment acknowledged the increasingly risky environment that peacekeepers deploy into.<sup>32</sup> Citing events in South Sudan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and the Central African Republic, Mr. Ladsous explained how mission flexibility and new strategies, including the Secretary-General's Rights Up Front approach, have enabled the protection of civilians.<sup>33</sup> He also celebrated the completion of the Office for the Peacekeeping Strategic Partnership, which evaluates the performance of missions based on mandates and safety, and makes recommendations for improvement.<sup>34</sup> The DPKO and DFS have begun implementing a "uniformed capability development agenda," a strategy designed to improve peacekeeping capabilities in the fields of information, mobility, deployment, medicine, and planning.<sup>35</sup> In her speech Ms. Haq first announced that the DFS had managed to reduce their yearly costs by 20% in comparison to previous years.<sup>36</sup> She also announced the establishment of an "Expert Panel on Technology and Innovation" by both DPKO and DFS to advise on how to harness technological advances in favor of peacekeeping.<sup>37</sup> Finally, the reimbursement rates for TCCs have been adjusted to better match Member States' contributions to peacekeeping.<sup>38</sup>

### **Conclusion**

2015 will see continued action for peacekeepers given the progress of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA) in its protection of civilians mandate; as well as the recent call for the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) to use "all necessary measures" to disarm the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR).<sup>39</sup> Overall, the recent developments in the field of peacekeeping respond to three main trends: a response to increased violence against peacekeepers, the need to work effectively in complex theaters of conflict, and a call back to cornerstone peacekeeping documents. Upcoming reviews and reevaluations of peacekeeping are not only a response of the current situations, they are also elaborating on the documents of the past. Over the next months, delegates should play close attention to the work of the C-34 and individual Member States, to ensure that they follow further advances concerning these three trends.

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<sup>28</sup> UN DPI, *UN investigates civilian obstruction of peacekeepers in southern Lebanon*, 2014.

<sup>29</sup> UN Security Council, *Resolution 2086 (S/RES/2086(2013))*, 2013.

<sup>30</sup> Ibid.

<sup>31</sup> UN DPI, *Scale of United Nations Peacekeeping across Massive Distances in Midst of Conflict Matched by Operational Complexity, Department Head Tells Fourth Committee (GA/SPD/567)*, 2014.

<sup>32</sup> UN DPKO, *Statement of Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations Hervé Ladsous: Debate of the Fourth Committee on Peacekeeping*, 2014, p. 4.

<sup>33</sup> Ibid.

<sup>34</sup> Ibid, p. 6.

<sup>35</sup> Ibid.

<sup>36</sup> UN DPKO, *Statement at the Fourth Committee Opening Debate: Under Secretary-General for Field Support, Ms. Ameerah Haq*, 2014, pp. 2-3.

<sup>37</sup> Ibid, p. 4.

<sup>38</sup> Ibid., pp. 4-5.

<sup>39</sup> UN DPI, *Senior UN envoy 'hopeful' over prospects for peace in Central African Republic*, 2014; UN DPI, *DR Congo: as deadline for surrender passes, UN and partners urge action against rebels*, 2015.

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*This Background Note, published by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations is a helpful factsheet on UN peacekeeping. It includes a basic description of what peacekeeping is, along with the arguments that support the use of UN peacekeeping over any other military action. It explains that peacekeeping is a dynamic and cost-effective activity. Additionally, there is a section on the role of women in peacekeeping, as well as the most recent appraisal of financial and troop contributions.*

United Nations, Department of Peacekeeping Operations. (2014). *Highlights from the 2014 Summit on Peace Operations* [Report]. Retrieved 23 December 2014 from: <http://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/documents/140926-Highlights-2014-Summit-Peace-Operations.pdf>

*The 26 September 2014 Summit on Peace Operations saw a number of important developments in peacekeeping policy. This document provides a useful summary of the main topics discussed and, moreover, outlines the main pledges by Member States. It identifies new troop commitments, the provision of new equipment, and any policy developments. Several countries expressed a renewed commitment to peacekeeping, with many others planning meetings on peacekeeping for 2015. This summary is very important, as the summit is the most recent political development in the field of peace operations.*

United Nations, Department of Peacekeeping Operations & Department of Field Support. (2008). *United Nations Peacekeeping Operations: Principles and Guidelines*. Retrieved 23 December 2014 from: [http://pbpu.unlb.org/pbps/Library/Capstone\\_Doctrine\\_ENG.pdf](http://pbpu.unlb.org/pbps/Library/Capstone_Doctrine_ENG.pdf)

*This document, known as the Capstone Doctrine, provides a comprehensive explanation of what UN peacekeeping is and the scope of what it can do. It begins with the political background of UN peacekeeping, discussing the Charter of the United Nations, the General Assembly, and the Security Council. Chapter 2 explains the evolution of peacekeeping into multidimensional operations. Chapter 3 outlines the principles of peacekeeping. The rest of the chapters outline the process through which a mission is established, managed and supported. Delegates can use this document to help in their understanding of how different UN bodies relate to peacekeeping, how peacekeeping is enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, and how current peacekeeping missions operate.*

United Nations, Department of Peacekeeping Operations & Department of Field Support. (2009). *A New Partnership Agenda: Charting a New Horizon for UN Peacekeeping* [Report]. Retrieved 23 December 2014 from: <http://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/documents/newhorizon.pdf>

*The New Horizon initiative was created with the purpose of bringing together peacekeeping partners. It is based on past experience in peacekeeping, and has a view to improving the performance of peace operations across the board. Section IV addresses an issue that was a priority outlined in the C-34's most recent report: capability-driven approaches to peacekeeping. The paper intends to provide guidance for partners on how better to use their resources to enhance the planning and performance of missions.*

United Nations, General Assembly, Sixty-ninth session. (2014). *Fifth Annual Progress Report on the Implementation of the Global Field Support Strategy: Report of the Secretary-General (A/69/651)*. Retrieved 24 November 2014 from: [undocs.org/A/69/651](http://undocs.org/A/69/651)

*The Global Field Support Strategy underpinned the way the Department of Field Support has operated over the past five years. This strategy was devised to improve the provision of services to missions in the field. The latest report by the Secretary-General outlines considerable improvements, including a better strategy for the provision of resources using regional organizations. It also outlines the ways in which peacekeeping has become more cost-effective. This source will help delegates track the most recent technical developments for peacekeepers in the field, and will influence their policies accordingly.*

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## I. Strengthening Regional Arrangements in Africa

### *Introduction*

With crisis ongoing in Libya, northern Mali, Darfur, the Central African Republic, South Sudan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Somalia, cooperation with regional arrangements for peacekeeping in Africa has remained one of the most important issues of the current debates on strengthening peacekeeping efforts and capabilities.<sup>40</sup> While recent developments on this topic have largely occurred outside of the forum of the United Nations Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations (C-34), much has still had an impact on the committee's work as will be evaluated in this update paper.

Recently the topic has been addressed both in the General Assembly (GA), which adopted resolution 69/261 on the financing of the African Union (AU)-United Nations (UN) Hybrid Operation in Darfur and in the Security Council, which considered the topic in its 7343<sup>rd</sup> meeting and released a presidential statement on the UN-AU partnership after debate.<sup>41</sup> On that occasion the Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon, addressed the Council underlining the importance of reform and development on this issue.<sup>42</sup> Also during the debate of the General Assembly Fourth Committee on Peacekeeping, Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations Hervé Ladsous stated that cooperation with regional organizations was a priority of the development of today's peacekeeping, further highlighting the relevance of the issue.<sup>43</sup>

The key documents which continue to underpin this topic include the *Policy Framework for the Establishment of the African Standby Force and the Military Staff Committee* formulated by the African Union in 2013, and on the side of the UN, the 2008 *Report of the African Union-United Nations panel on modalities for support to African Union peacekeeping operations (A/63/666-S/2008/813)*, also known as the Prodi Report, and the 2009 *Report by the Secretary-General on Support to African Union peacekeeping operations authorized by the United Nations (A/64/359)*.<sup>44</sup> The issue is also more directly addressed in the mandates of specific missions<sup>45</sup> Two recent reports build on this framework. Both reports were written by the Secretary-General, one submitted to the General Assembly in November 2014 addressing the budget performance on the financing of support for the AU Mission in Somalia for the period from 1 July 2013 to 30 June 2014 (A/69/592).<sup>46</sup> The other report (S/2014/852) addressed the status and performance of the United Nations-African Union Mission in Darfur (UNAMID), and was submitted to the Security Council in November 2014.<sup>47</sup>

Besides the sessions held at the GA and the Security Council, the AU as well as sub-regional organizations like the Economic and Social Council of West African States (ECOWAS) continued to actively participate in peacekeeping activities on the African continent.<sup>48</sup> In terms of strengthening these efforts the Department of Peacekeeping Operations is in constant contact with regional African organizations.<sup>49</sup> Also, among others, the EU, the United

<sup>40</sup> UN Security Council, *7343rd meeting, (S/PV.7343)*, 2014, p. 3, 7; UN DPI, *Mismatch between Peacekeeping Mandates, Funds, Centrality of Charter-Based Principles Spotlights in Security Debate on Regional Partnerships*, 2014

<sup>41</sup> UN General Assembly, *Financing of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (A/RES/69/261)*, 2014; UN Security Council, *Statement by the President of the Security Council (S/PRST/2014/27)*, 2014.

<sup>42</sup> UN DPI, *Mismatch between Peacekeeping Mandates, funds, Centrality of Charter-Based Principles Spotlights in Security Council Debate on Regional Partnerships*, 2014.

<sup>43</sup> UN Peacekeeping, *Speech by Hervé Ladsous Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations at the Debate of the Fourth Committee on Peacekeeping*, 28 October 2014.

<sup>44</sup> UN General Assembly, *Support to African Union peacekeeping operations authorized by the United Nations: Report of the Secretary-General (A/64/359)*, 2009; 2014; UN General Assembly, *Identical letters dated 24 December 2008 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council (A/63/666-S/2008/813)*, 2008.

<sup>45</sup> UN Security Council, *Resolution 2182 (2014)*, 2014; UN Security Council, *Resolution 2173 (2014)*, 2014; UN Security Council, *Resolution 866 (1993)*, 1993.

<sup>46</sup> UN General Assembly, *Budget performance on the financing of support for the African Union Mission in Somalia for the period from 1 July 2013 to 30 June 2014 (S/2014/852)*, 2014.

<sup>47</sup> UN Security Council, *Report of the Secretary-General on the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (S/2014/852)*, 2014.

<sup>48</sup> United Nations Peacekeeping, *Current Peacekeeping Operations*, 2015.

<sup>49</sup> deleGate, *Building the African Union's capacity in security sector reform*, 2013.

States (UN), and China contributed or pledged to contribute to the efforts to strengthen African peacekeeping capabilities.<sup>50</sup>

On 26 September 2014 the US mission to the UN organized a meeting called the Summit on Strengthening International Peacekeeping at the UN Headquarters in New York.<sup>51</sup> During the summit the US pledged to provide \$110 million per year over a period of three to five years for the African Peacekeeping Rapid Response Partnership with the aim to build up the capacity of six leading African militaries to rapidly deploy peacekeepers.<sup>52</sup> Also several European States, including Ireland, Japan, Latvia, and Norway pledged to support the planned US-African rapid response initiative.<sup>53</sup> In addition Finland, the United Kingdom, Denmark, Latvia, Norway, and Spain pledged to support African troop contributing countries (TCC) financially as well by providing training.<sup>54</sup>

### ***Recent Developments***

#### *Security Council Session on the Cooperation between the UN and regional and subregional organizations*

At its 7343rd meeting the Security Council addressed the Cooperation between the UN and regional and subregional organizations in maintaining international peace and security.<sup>55</sup> The meeting, which was organized by Chad, was attended by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon who addressed the body at the beginning of the session and stressed that the partnership between the UN and its regional partners should be based on a common understanding of the respective organization's capabilities.<sup>56</sup> However the Secretary-General also stressed that the UN and its regional partners need to do more in terms of cooperation in preventive actions as well as in the field of robust peacekeeping efforts.<sup>57</sup> Ban also announced that he will submit an assessment report with recommendations on the progress of the partnerships between the UN and relevant regional organizations in the field of peacekeeping operations.<sup>58</sup> The Secretary-General also pointed out four key issues that must be achieved in order to ensure the effective functioning of peacekeeping: the buildup of stronger political partnerships; agreement on a clear role for the AU and subregional organizations; increased cooperation between the UN and regional organizations in the field of logistical capabilities; and finding creative ways to increase the financial basis for African peacekeeping capabilities.<sup>59</sup> Also Pierre Buyoya, AU High Representative for Mali and the Sahel, reiterated the importance of further deepening the strategic partnership between the UN and the AU.<sup>60</sup> Buyoya especially drew attention to the issue of financing the AU's efforts and called for a flexible, sustainable, and predictable funding mechanism to be established.<sup>61</sup> He also demanded greater coherence in the UN's and the AU's peacekeeping efforts, which is based on a set of principles that prioritizes African ownership and priority setting and on consultative decision-making.<sup>62</sup> The two statements were followed by an open debate with speakers agreeing on the need to increase the effectiveness of the relationship between the UN, the AU, and respective regional and subregional organizations.<sup>63</sup> However the Council did not find common ground on the question of financing AU operations with some Members supporting the use of assessed contributions as suggested by the Prodi Report; for example, the US warned of possible oversight problems.<sup>64</sup> Instead the US pledged to continue its financial support for operation-specific and capacity-building

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<sup>50</sup> Africa-EU Partnership, *Training for African Standby Forces*; EU-Africa Summit, *Roadmap 2014-2017*, 2014; The White House, *FACT SHEET: Summit on UN Peacekeeping*, 2014; Xinhua, *China supports African rapid response forces*, 2014.

<sup>51</sup> The White House, *FACT SHEET: Summit on UN Peacekeeping*, 2014; Charbonneau & Nichols, *U.S., others vow U.N. peacekeeping upgrade amid new threats*, 2014.

<sup>52</sup> The White House, *FACT SHEET: Summit on UN Peacekeeping*, 2014.

<sup>53</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>54</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>55</sup> UN Security Council, *7343rd meeting, (S/PV.7343)*, 2014.

<sup>56</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 3.

<sup>57</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>58</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>59</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 4.

<sup>60</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 5.

<sup>61</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>62</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 6.

<sup>63</sup> UN DPI, *Mismatch between Peacekeeping Mandates, Funds, Centrality of Charter-Based Principles Spotlights in Security Debate on Regional Partnerships*, 2014.

<sup>64</sup> ; UN Security Council, *Identical letters dated 24 December 2008 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council (A/63/666-S/2008/813)*, 2008.



initiatives.<sup>65</sup> The Council also passed a presidential statement on the issue, which commended the AU's efforts in settling conflicts throughout the continent and reviews the current state of UN-AU cooperation in the field.<sup>66</sup>

### ***Conclusion***

The topic of strengthening regional arrangements in African peacekeeping continues to be one of the main issues in today's efforts to strengthen peacekeeping capabilities and make peacekeeping fit for the challenges of today's multidimensional conflicts. The topic is therefore also intertwined with other issues on the agenda of the C-34 such as the use of modern technologies, the improvement of training methods, and the development of rapid response capabilities. Ultimately the question of financing AU peacekeeping missions remains unsolved though being paramount for the further development of African peacekeeping capacities. Because of this delegates should be especially aware of the upcoming report of the Secretary-General, which will provide suggestions on these and various other issues to guide the work of C-34.

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<sup>65</sup> UN DPI, *Mismatch between Peacekeeping Mandates, Funds, Centrality of Charter-Based Principles Spotlited in Security Debate on Regional Partnerships*, 2014;

<sup>66</sup> UN Security Council, *Statement by the President of the Security Council (S/PRST/2014/27)*, 2014.

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*This letter contains the Report of the African Union-United Nations panel on modalities for support to African Union peacekeeping operations also known as Prodi Report. Although the report was published in 2008 the financing mechanisms for African Union peacekeeping missions suggested in the report are still one of the main issues in the political debate on the issue of strengthening African peacekeeping capabilities. While some Member States especially endorse the mechanism suggested by the Prodi Report others, especially the US, strictly oppose the model as was again shown in the December's open debate in the Security Council.*

United Nations Peacekeeping. (2014). *Year in Review* [Website]. Retrieved 28 January 2015 from: <http://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/news/yir2014.shtml>

*The year in review page of the UN Peacekeeping Website is a useful tool for all delegates to get an overview of the most important news in the field of UN peacekeeping in the past year. Organized in the form of a time bar it is possible to access all UN peacekeeping related press releases from the UN news sites. The overview includes both mission specific as well as general items and is therefore useful for research in various dimensions.*

United Nations, Security Council. (2014). *Report of the Secretary-General on the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (S/2014/852)*. Retrieved 2 January 2015 from: <http://undocs.org/S/2014/852>

*This report is a crucial document in the assessment of the current problems of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur mission, to date the only hybrid AU-UN peacekeeping mission. The report should also be seen as part of a bigger debate concerning the effectiveness of the model of a hybrid mission in general. Furthermore, the report presents the Secretariat's views on the controversy concerning alleged misreporting by UNAMID and harassments of the Sudanese government against UN personnel. As the situation in Sudan is constantly changing and the possibility of a retreat of the mission is still looming, delegates should closely follow the situation and its possible implications on the concept of hybrid missions in general.*

United Nations, Security Council, 7343rd Meeting. (2014). *7343rd meeting: Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations in maintaining international peace and security (S/PV.7343)*. Retrieved 29 January 2015 from: <http://undocs.org/S/PV.7343>

*This meeting record of the Security Council contains both statements of the UN-Secretary-General and the African Union High Representative for Mali and the Sahel speaking on behalf of the African Union on the issue of cooperation between the UN and regional organizations. Both statements are highly important for the understanding of the current status of the debate on the issue of UN-African peacekeeping efforts. While the UN Secretary-General provides a larger picture of subfields to address and improve, the African Union formulates clear expectations concerning the further development. After those two briefing statements the Council held an open debate on the issue, which delegates should review in order to understand the different concepts and policies that are promoted by Member States.*

United Nations, Security Council, 7343rd Meeting. (2014). *Statement by the President of the Security Council (S/PRST/2014/27)*. Retrieved 2 January 2015 from: <http://undocs.org/S/PRST/2014/27>

*This Presidential Statement documents the most recent compromise of the Member States of the Security Council concerning the issue of cooperation between the UN and African regional arrangements in the field of peacekeeping. The statement commends the African Union's efforts in settling conflicts throughout the continent and reviews the current state of UN-AU cooperation in the field. Delegates can thus use the Presidential Statement as a starting point on which further ideas can be developed.*

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## II. Enhancing Robust Mandates to Deal with Complex Crises

### *Introduction*

Civilian protection is a complex operation that involves numerous stakeholders; as such, United Nations (UN) peacekeeping operations have been given increasingly robust mandates to address the civilian protection need and to address political development and promote civil order.<sup>67</sup> Specifically, since 1999, when the Security Council (SC) passed resolution 1270 to expand the mandate of the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone to protect citizens, peacekeeping mandates have included this as a requirement.<sup>68</sup> Further, since that time, there has also been an increase in the number of peacekeeper casualties.<sup>69</sup> Nearly two-thirds of peacekeeping personnel are deployed in the midst of ongoing conflict, where peace agreements remain unstable or absent.<sup>70</sup> While the idea behind robust peacekeeping has good intentions, it continues to draw criticism, notably around questioning the authorization of offensive force for use in peacekeeping.<sup>71</sup> Nonetheless, there remains agreement among Member States “that the classic model of peacekeeping has ceased to exist” and more robust efforts are needed to combat today’s complex crises.<sup>72</sup>

Addressing the growing number of active peacekeeping operations brings a number of challenges for their maintenance, ranging from logistical to tactical, and the increased implementation of robust operations puts more peacekeepers in danger.<sup>73</sup> This trend continued into 2015, when an attack in Mali wounded eight peacekeepers.<sup>74</sup> As robust mandates put peacekeepers at increased risk, Member States have become even more reluctant to contribute the necessary troops to peacekeeping operations.<sup>75</sup> Given this, there is an increasing need to implement robust peacekeeping operations; both the discussion at the UN around robust mandates and their criticism will continue for years to come, and the developments in recent months is clear evidence of this.<sup>76</sup>

### *Recent Developments*

The General Assembly (GA) Fourth Committee, the supervisory committee of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations (C-34), addressed the topic of peacekeeping in its 69<sup>th</sup> session, debating a range of themes regarding peacekeeping operations.<sup>77</sup> The Guatemalan representative noted the importance of the C-34 “as the only appropriate forum for assessing fully the UN Secretariat’s policy.”<sup>78</sup> Addressing the Fourth Committee, Hervé Ladsous, Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, outlined a number of challenges facing peacekeeping.<sup>79</sup> He noted that “the scale of peacekeeping is matched by its complexity,” as missions support political processes and interact with communities caught in violence.<sup>80</sup> Ladsous further noted three interlinked challenges the international community must address: “safety and security of personnel; willingness and ability to effectively protect civilians across missions; and the imperative to help advance political dialogue and to create the

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<sup>67</sup> Hultman, *Robust Peacekeeping: A Desirable Development?* 2014.

<sup>68</sup> UN SC, *Resolution 1270 (S/RES/1270(1999))*, 1999; Hultman, *Robust Peacekeeping: A Desirable Development?* 2014; UN DPKO, *United Nations Peacekeeping Fatalities By Year*, 2014; Seet & Burnham, *Fatality Trends in United Nations Peacekeeping Operations, 1948-1998*, 2000.

<sup>69</sup> Ibid.

<sup>70</sup> UN DPI, *Scale of United Nations Peacekeeping across Massive Distances in Midst of Conflict Matched by Operational Complexity, Department Head Tells Fourth Committee (GA/SPD/567)*, 2014.

<sup>71</sup> Sloan, *UN Peacekeeping in Darfur: A ‘Quagmire’ That we Cannot Accept*, 2014.

<sup>72</sup> UN DPI, *No ‘Nobler Goal or Greater Sacrifice’ than Peacekeepers’ Decision to Leave Home to ‘Serve the Cause of Peace, Security and Justice’, Fourth Committee Hears*, 2014.

<sup>73</sup> Hultman, *Robust Peacekeeping: A Desirable Development?* 2014.

<sup>74</sup> UN DPI, *Mali: UN Mission condemns attack that wounded 8 peacekeepers*, 2014.

<sup>75</sup> Fleshman, *Tough UN line on peacekeeping abuses*, 2005.

<sup>76</sup> UN DPI, *No ‘Nobler Goal or Greater Sacrifice’ than Peacekeepers’ Decision to Leave Home to ‘Serve the Cause of Peace, Security and Justice’, Fourth Committee Hears*, 2014.

<sup>77</sup> UN DPI, *Fourth Committee*, 2014.

<sup>78</sup> UN DPI, *No ‘Nobler Goal or Greater Sacrifice’ than Peacekeepers’ Decision to Leave Home to ‘Serve the Cause of Peace, Security and Justice’, Fourth Committee Hears*, 2014.

<sup>79</sup> UN DPI, *Scale of United Nations Peacekeeping across Massive Distances in Midst of Conflict Matched by Operational Complexity, Department Head Tells Fourth Committee (GA/SPD/567)*, 2014.

<sup>80</sup> Ibid.



condition for reconciliation.<sup>81</sup> A fourth problem that continually arises is also the need for financial support with a current trend of diminishing financial contributions.<sup>82</sup>

#### *Peacekeeping Personnel and United Nations Police*

Peacekeepers have now become targets.<sup>83</sup> In 2014, peacekeepers were the subject of violent attacks in Mali, Haiti, Darfur, and the Central African Republic (CAR), among others.<sup>84</sup> Further adding to this threat are the increased capabilities of armed groups that now have access to sophisticated armaments and techniques.<sup>85</sup> In light of these trends, Mr. Ladsous stated that moving forward it would require host governments, the UN, and Member States to address these growing challenges.<sup>86</sup> To accomplish this he urged the UN to “update policies, tactics, techniques, and procedures,” calling on Troop- and Police Contributing Countries (TCCs/PCCs) to adapt pre-deployment training for the new security environment.<sup>87</sup>

Moreover, supporting robust missions requires manpower and equipment. To meet this need, 31 Member States continued their support of or joined UN Peacekeeping Operations on 26 September 2014.<sup>88</sup> For the first time in its history, China contributed personnel to a peacekeeping mission by sending 700 infantry to support the United Nations Mission in South Sudan; troops arrived 9 January 2015.<sup>89</sup> Building on the momentum of Member States’ commitments, the SC looked to expand the role of UN police to better maintain international peace and security.<sup>90</sup>

Peacekeeping encompasses a range of actions; promoting peace and training local police to maintain stability is one element that supports the political component now commonly found in peacekeeping operations.<sup>91</sup> The SC reaffirmed its aim to develop standards for UN policing-related work, including training, streamlined recruiting, and stronger coordination of work in the UN system around reforming policing and law-enforcement institutions.<sup>92</sup> It would focus on building capacity of governance, oversight and evaluation; operational policing; policy formulation; administration, management and leadership; and coordination of partners with local governments.<sup>93</sup> This commitment will further address the challenge created by the composition of UN policing.<sup>94</sup> Particularly, diversity among UN Police brings a variety of perspectives on policing, making effective implementation difficult.<sup>95</sup>

#### *Protection of Civilians*

Addressing the second challenge, the willingness and ability to effectively protect civilians across missions, Mr. Ladsous reaffirmed the necessity to not back down when confronted by armed opposition forces.<sup>96</sup> He highlighted the work of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo (MONUSCO) in protecting civilians in 2014, and its success in extending state authority to areas previously held by armed groups.<sup>97</sup> The Bangui Task Force in the CAR was also noted as a successful example of stabilizing a state capital.<sup>98</sup> As a result of such successes, it is thought that there will be a change in expectations of peacekeepers to a

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<sup>81</sup> UN DPI, *Scale of United Nations Peacekeeping across Massive Distances in Midst of Conflict Matched by Operational Complexity, Department Head Tells Fourth Committee (GA/SPD/567)*, 2014.

<sup>82</sup> UN DPI, *No ‘Nobler Goal or Greater Sacrifice’ than Peacekeepers’ Decision to Leave Home to ‘Serve the Cause of Peace, Security and Justice’, Fourth Committee Hears*, 2014.

<sup>83</sup> UN DPI, *Scale of United Nations Peacekeeping across Massive Distances in Midst of Conflict Matched by Operational Complexity, Department Head Tells Fourth Committee (GA/SPD/567)*, 2014.

<sup>84</sup> Ibid.

<sup>85</sup> Ibid.

<sup>86</sup> Ibid.

<sup>87</sup> Ibid.

<sup>88</sup> UN DPKO, *Highlights from the 2014 Summit on Peace Operations*, 2014.

<sup>89</sup> Huang, *China’s Role in UN Peacekeeping: A Robust Shift*, 2014; Smith, *China to send 700 combat troops to South Sudan*, 2014.

<sup>90</sup> UN SC, *Resolution 2185 (S/RES/2185 (2014))*, 2014.

<sup>91</sup> Ibid.

<sup>92</sup> Ibid.

<sup>93</sup> Ibid.

<sup>94</sup> UN SC, *United Nations Peacekeeping Operations (S/PV.7317)*, 2014.

<sup>95</sup> Ibid.

<sup>96</sup> UN DPI, *Scale of United Nations Peacekeeping across Massive Distances in Midst of Conflict Matched by Operational Complexity, Department Head Tells Fourth Committee (GA/SPD/567)*, 2014.

<sup>97</sup> Ibid.

<sup>98</sup> Ibid.

more proactive posture in an attempt to better identify threats to and protect civilians in future years.<sup>99</sup> Persons displaced due to conflict are also at risk of human rights violations, and disease, with this threat heightened for women and girls.<sup>100</sup> This security issue is highlighted by acts of extremism directed towards women and girls, which includes abduction, hostage taking, kidnapping, enslavement, and sexual slavery.<sup>101</sup> The SC emphasized at the 28 October 2014 meeting that failing to include women as active participants at all the stages of peacebuilding is problematic.<sup>102</sup> To address this, the UN must continue designing better training strategies and involving women in peacekeeping forces and in the process.<sup>103</sup>

#### *Enhancing Robust Mandates in Africa*

Given that all peacekeeping missions with a robust mandate are currently located in Africa, the UN and African Union (AU) have continued to strengthen relations, which remains important to strengthening security capabilities and stability in Africa.<sup>104</sup> The AU-UN Joint Task Force (JTF) met on 1 February 2015.<sup>105</sup> In addition to updates about peacekeeping operations, there was discussion regarding lessons learned in the transitions from AU to UN operations.<sup>106</sup> Within the discussion, the JTF agreed to develop a transition toolbox for AU to UN transitions and to conduct a ‘lesson learned’ exercise to identify benchmarks for determining when a transition should take place.<sup>107</sup> To promote conditions for stability, the JTF also encouraged all parties concerned to “ensure that full operational capability for the [African Standby Force]” be achieved by 2015.<sup>108</sup>

Challenges remain ahead for missions in Africa, however. On 16 December 2014, the head of the African-led International Support Mission in Mali, Pierre Buyoya, identified the need for a new *Joint Framework for an Enhanced Partnership in Peace and Security* as well as for both organizations to agree on a set of basic principles around African ownership and priority setting.<sup>109</sup> The SC recognized that a major constraint for the AU is securing predictable funding, a concern reaffirmed by both Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and Mr. Buyoya.<sup>110</sup> While there is an emphasis on promoting self-sufficiency in African peacekeeping, the SC is working pragmatically to transfer programs between the two bodies based on needs to promote mandate fulfillment.<sup>111</sup> This was underpinned by two new initiatives: the AU – China Strategic Dialogue for Peace and Security in Africa, which is an agreement to work together in addressing peace and security challenges in Africa, and the African Peacekeeping Rapid Response Partnership, which seeks to strengthen African countries’ ability to rapidly deploy peacekeepers.<sup>112</sup>

#### **Conclusion**

Robust peacekeeping mandate are becoming commonplace in UN peacekeeping operations. Missions go beyond peacekeeping troops maintaining security and now include actions like rebuilding infrastructure to reforming the judicial system.<sup>113</sup> With greater responsibilities comes an increased need for resources, which includes great financial requirements from Member States.<sup>114</sup> Similarly, robust missions will require Member States to increase

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<sup>99</sup> UN DPI, *Scale of United Nations Peacekeeping across Massive Distances in Midst of Conflict Matched by Operational Complexity, Department Head Tells Fourth Committee (GA/SPD/567)*, 2014.

<sup>100</sup> UN SC, *Statement by the President of the Security Council (S/PRST/2014/21)*, 2014.

<sup>101</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>102</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>103</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>104</sup> *Ibid.*; UN SC, *Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and sub-regional organizations in maintaining international peace and security (S/PV.7343)*, 2014; UN DPI, *Mismatch between Peacekeeping Mandates, Funds, Centrality of Charter-Based Principles Spotlighted in Security Council Debate on Regional Partnerships (SC/11705)*, 2014.

<sup>105</sup> AU, *Communiqué of the 10<sup>th</sup> meeting of the AU – UN Joint Task Force on Peace and Security*, 2015.

<sup>106</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>107</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>108</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>109</sup> UN DPI, *Mismatch between Peacekeeping Mandates, Funds, Centrality of Charter-Based Principles Spotlighted in Security Council Debate on Regional Partnerships (SC/11705)*, 2014.

<sup>110</sup> UN SC, *Statement by the President of the Security Council (S/PRST/2014/27)*, 2014.

<sup>111</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>112</sup> AU, *Commission Chergui concludes official visit to China; Launches AU- China Strategic Dialogue for Peace and Security in Africa*, 2014; UN SC, *Statement by the President of the Security Council (S/PRST/2014/27)*, 2014.

<sup>113</sup> UN DPKO, *About Us*.

<sup>114</sup> UN DPKO & DFS, *A New Partnership Agenda: Charting A New Horizon for UN Peacekeeping*, 2009.

participation in peacekeeping operations and continue to develop long-term plans for mission success and innovation such as rapid response peacekeeping.<sup>115</sup> Peacekeeping in Africa remains a high priority, with the majority of peacekeeping operations and all current robust mandates present on the continent, Delegates should continue to monitor the AU-UN JTF, which will meet again in February 2015 following the conclusion of their current meeting.<sup>116</sup> Leading up to the conference, delegates should be aware of new peacekeeping missions and significant changes in peacekeeping mandates as the discussion of robust mandates is hotly debated.

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<sup>115</sup> Sartre, *Making UN Peacekeeping More Robust: Protecting the Mission, Persuading the Actors*, 2011.

<sup>116</sup> AU, *Communiqué of the 10<sup>th</sup> meeting of the AU – UN Joint Task Force on Peace and Security*, 2015.

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*Author Lisa Hultman provides an overview of robust peacekeeping operations in this article, examining looks both the positives and negatives of engaging in such operations. By doing so, the article provides insight into the challenges that the UN faces when implanting robust strategies. A major challenge is the difficulty in balancing the traditional nature of peacekeeping and the increased responsibilities that come with a robust mandate. As the title suggests, the article discusses whether the movement towards robust mandates is the best option for the success in peacekeeping operations. Delegates should review this source for a broad outline of robust peacekeeping in a current context.*

United Nations, Department of Public Information. (2014, December 16). *Mismatch between Peacekeeping Mandates, Funds, Centrality of Charter-Based Principles Spotlights in Security Council Debate on Regional Partnerships* [Meeting Coverage]. Retrieved 30 January 2015 from:

<http://www.un.org/press/en/2014/sc11705.doc.htm>

*Summarizing the debate in the Security Council, this article provides highlights on discussion of UN – AU relations. Important to mission stability is the continued coordination between the UN and the AU. The article outlines the strategies discussed to strengthen the relationship and compares best practice to create better opportunities for mission success. It also discusses the importance of African states and the AU having greater financial stability and responsiveness. Understanding the debate around regional partnerships will be crucial for delegates as they draft their own recommendations on the subject of robust mandates.*

United Nations, Security Council, 7317<sup>th</sup> meeting. (2014). *Resolution 2185 (S/RES/2185 (2014))*. Retrieved 31 January 2015 from: [http://undocs.org/S/RES/2185\(2014\)](http://undocs.org/S/RES/2185(2014))

*This resolution examines the continued effort to develop strategies for UN police to increase their effectiveness. It demonstrates the importance of personnel outside the traditional image of a peacekeeper and sets long-term goals for the program. The resolution outlines goals and requirements to improve on current practices, taking specific note about the challenges of the diversity among the members of the UN police force and the necessity to adapt to each situation. The document thus provides insight into an aspect of peacekeeping outside the conventional image of peacekeepers and peacekeeping.*

United Nations, Security Council, 7317<sup>th</sup> meeting. (2014, November 20). *United Nations Peacekeeping operations (S/PV.7317)* [Meeting Record]. Retrieved 1 February 2015 from: <http://undocs.org/S/PV.7317>

*Representatives examined differing areas of peacekeeping operations, with a particular focus on post-conflict peacebuilding. Representatives provided both their perspectives and updates on UN missions. There is also discussion about plans to strengthen post-conflict operations. Combined, it gives delegates insight to the robust nature of peacekeeping operations including peacebuilding process and the varying concerns of the Member States on such processes.*

United Nations, Security Council, 7343<sup>rd</sup> meeting. (2014, December 16). *Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and sub-regional organizations in maintaining international peace and security (S/PV.7343)* [Meeting Record]. Retrieved 1 February 2015 from: <http://undocs.org/S/PV.7343>

*The transcript of the 7343<sup>rd</sup> meeting provides the representatives' perspective on the cooperation between the UN and regional and sub-regional organizations in maintaining international peace and security and updates on the topic. Their discussions provide significant detail into the relationships between the UN and AU as well as updates on various UN Missions. This allows a detailed understanding about the UN-AU relationship and the programs they operate, which is important to be familiar with since all current instances of robust mandates exist in Africa.*

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### III. Enhancing the Use of Technology in Peacekeeping Missions

#### Introduction

United Nations (UN) Peacekeeping Missions operate in dangerous and increasingly complex conflict zones.<sup>117</sup> However UN Peacekeeping Missions do not compare, in terms of access to technology and innovation to modern militaries.<sup>118</sup> Military technological advancements have led not only to the production of new and powerful weapons, but also advanced the possibilities of preemptive actions due to the ability to monitor the actions of opponents.<sup>119</sup> Because of this, the use of modern technology in peacekeeping missions is acknowledged to be of paramount importance to improve situational awareness and enhance the safety and security of peacekeepers in today's missions.<sup>120</sup> This update will therefore review recent work done by the UN System on the issue of enhancing the use of technology in peacekeeping missions.

The General Assembly Fourth Committee discussed the issue of technology use in peacekeeping missions in General Debate in late October.<sup>121</sup> Speakers in the General Debate, including Under-Secretary-General Hervé Ladsous, underlined the importance of the expansion of the use of modern technologies in modern peacekeeping and highlighted the success of the use of drones in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC).<sup>122</sup> However no draft resolution on the agenda item of a comprehensive review of peacekeeping operations was put on the floor.<sup>123</sup> The issue of technology use in UN operations was also raised in the context of the post-2015 development agenda with the Secretary-General's Independent Expert Advisory Group on a Data Revolution for Sustainable Development (IEAG) presenting their culminating report *A World That Counts: Mobilising the Data Revolution for Sustainable Development* in November 2014.<sup>124</sup> The importance of the enhanced use of new technologies in peacekeeping operations was further underlined in two debates in the Security Council, one held in October on the protection of civilians through peacekeeping missions and the other one held in November on the aim of making policing an essential part of UN peacekeeping mandates.<sup>125</sup>

Beyond the Fourth Committee, in September 2014, the topic was prominently discussed as the Department of Field Support (DFS) held the first international symposium on *Technology and Peacekeeping: Exploring New Partnerships- Future challenges and opportunities for strategic partnership*.<sup>126</sup> This “was the first information sharing conference on information and communications technology (ICT).”<sup>127</sup> One of its main aims was to establish a high-level strategic partnership network designed to meet yearly to keep track of, and discuss the progress of the projects, which were a result of the conference.<sup>128</sup> Key outcomes as a result of the symposium include the establishment of a UN ICT Regional Training Centre in Uganda, with the aim of providing centralized ICT education and training for UN Military Signal Units, and improving camp security through detecting threats by using surveillance aerostat technology.<sup>129</sup> A Peacekeeping Technology Roadmap Think Tank was created, as an outcome of the same conference, through the collaboration of experts and analysts of Member States and the UN, which provided recommendations on ways to move forward in the path of having a “technology enabled peacekeeper.”<sup>130</sup> The workshop also assessed ways of taking the dialogue a step further by the establishment of

<sup>117</sup> Dorn, *Technology for Peacekeeping: Tools of the Trade?*, 2007.

<sup>118</sup> Ibid.

<sup>119</sup> Dorn, *Keeping Watch*, 2011, p. 1.

<sup>120</sup> UN General Assembly, *Report of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations (A/68/19)*, 2014.

<sup>121</sup> UN DPI, *GA Fourth Committee Sixty-ninth session, 18th Meeting (AM) (GA/SPD/570)*, 2014; UN DPI, *GA Fourth Committee Sixty-ninth session, 17th Meeting (AM) (GA/SPD/569)*, 2014; UN DPI, *GA Fourth Committee Sixty-ninth session, 16th Meeting (AM) (GA/SPD/568)*, 2014; UN DPI, *GA Fourth Committee Sixty-ninth session, 15th Meeting (AM) (GA/SPD/567)*, 2014.

<sup>122</sup> UN DPI, *Sixty-ninth session, 15th Meeting (AM) (GA/SPD/567)*, 2014.

<sup>123</sup> Ibid.

<sup>124</sup> UN Secretary-General's Independent Expert Advisory Group on a Data Revolution for Sustainable Development (IEAG), *A World that Counts. Mobilising the Data Revolution for Sustainable Development [Report]*, 2014.

<sup>125</sup> UN DPI, *Security Council 7317th Meeting (AM) (SC/11661)*, 2014; UN DPI, *Security Council 7275th Meeting (AM) (SC/11594)*, 2014.

<sup>126</sup> UN deleGATE, *New Partnerships on Technology and Peacekeeping*, 2014.

<sup>127</sup> Ibid.

<sup>128</sup> Ibid.

<sup>129</sup> Ibid.

<sup>130</sup> UN deleGATE, *New Partnerships on Technology and Peacekeeping*, 2014.

information governance frameworks, concentrating on policy gaps and making the operational guidance strong.<sup>131</sup> The DFS-Department for Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) information systems was also presented for feedback and discussion.<sup>132</sup>

In all of these areas, discussion on this topic continued to be grounded in key resolutions and frameworks on this topic, which include the first report on *Scientific and Technological Developments and their Impact on International Security* (45/568) which was adopted in 1990, and resolution 45/60 on “Scientific and technological developments and their impact on international security,” which was adopted on the 4<sup>th</sup> of December 1990.<sup>133</sup>

Finally, recently civil society also addressed this topic. In support of the DPKO Expert Panel established earlier this year, the Center for International Peace Operations (ZIF) in cooperation with the DPKO organized a Partner’s Dialogue on Technology and Innovation in Peace Operations on 21 and 24 of August 2014.<sup>134</sup> The seminar brought together the members of the panel, representatives of other international organizations, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and private businesses, as well as practitioners from a number of UN peace operations.<sup>135</sup> They discussed the potential of new technologies and innovations for peace operations as well as the related risks and challenges.<sup>136</sup>

### **Recent Developments**

#### *Creation of the Expert Panel on Technology and Innovation in Peacekeeping*

Most UN discussions on peacekeeping in 2014 were focused on country-specific situations; however, two recent open debates in the Security Council, which were organized by Russia and Rwanda, provided opportunities for a discussion on new peacekeeping trends and the importance of regional partnerships for peacekeeping.<sup>137</sup> An open debate was held on 11 June 2014, under the Russian presidency, on new trends in peacekeeping missions such as the use of technology, enhancing robust mandates, inter-mission cooperation, and multidimensional mandates.<sup>138</sup> The UN Under-Secretaries-General Hervé Ladsous (DPKO) and Ameerah Haq (DFS) announced the appointment of a five-member expert panel in order to advise them on the best ways to use new technologies and innovations in order to benefit UN Peacekeeping.<sup>139</sup> The members are experienced in the understanding of peacekeeping and the considerable need for the use of new technology and innovation.<sup>140</sup> The initiative is part of a concerted effort by both departments with the aim of realizing cost savings and efficiency gains as a result of recent emerging innovations and technology.<sup>141</sup> The panel will advise on how technologies can be used in order to allow peacekeepers to have effective responses to the increasing number of complex, multidimensional tasks and challenges.<sup>142</sup> It will also examine how these technological innovations could lead to the improvement of operational effectiveness, increasing impact, and enhancement of safety and security of both peacekeepers and host communities.<sup>143</sup>

#### *Addressing New Technologies*

By the time the panel convened to discuss technology and peacekeeping, innovations in technology and innovation had already been introduced by DPKO.<sup>144</sup> There is a need to expand signal intelligence and regional Member States are pressed to gather human intelligence in a better and more effective way.<sup>145</sup> There was also talk about expanding signal intelligence to gather as much information as possible in order to make missions more effective.<sup>146</sup> A panel of technology experts, which is separate from the new high-level group, was formed with the aim of advising the

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<sup>131</sup> ICT4Peace Foundation, *ICTs and New Media for UN Peacekeeping and Peace-building*, 2014.

<sup>132</sup> Ibid.

<sup>133</sup> UNODA, *The Role of Science and Technology in the Context of International Security and Disarmament*, 2014.

<sup>134</sup> UN Center for International Peace Operations, *Workshop on New Technologies in UN Peace Operations*, 2014.

<sup>135</sup> Ibid.

<sup>136</sup> Ibid.

<sup>137</sup> Security Council Report, *Peacekeeping: October 2014 Monthly Forecast*, 2014.

<sup>138</sup> Ibid.

<sup>139</sup> UN Center for International Peace Operations, *Workshop on New Technologies in UN Peace Operations*, 2014.

<sup>140</sup> Ibid.

<sup>141</sup> UN Peacekeeping, Press Release, *USGs Announce Expert Panel on Technology and Innovation in UN Peacekeeping*, 2014.

<sup>142</sup> Ibid.

<sup>143</sup> Ibid.

<sup>144</sup> Crossette, *UN Peacekeeping Upgrades Its Reactions to Conflicts and Adds Surveillance Tools*, 2014.

<sup>145</sup> Ibid.

<sup>146</sup> Ibid.

department and reporting to the Under-Secretary-General.<sup>147</sup> Also, UN peacekeeping missions are increasingly gathering sources of information, including radar satellite imagery to improve awareness and planning.<sup>148</sup> For example, geographic information system (GIS) experts in the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon have established a mobile platform and the United Nations Mine Action Service developed a mobile application, which raises awareness about explosives and landmines.<sup>149</sup> With the rise in technology there are also technical drawbacks, for example, a UAV operated by MONUSCO crashed in Goma due to technical faults.<sup>150</sup>

### ***Conclusion***

The need to operate peacekeeping missions in higher risk environments at remote locations with limited infrastructure and over vast areas of terrain calls for technology that can enhance the operational capacities of peacekeepers and lower vulnerabilities. The use of security technology in the form of enhanced closed circuit television, motion sensing lights, counter-improvised explosive device measures, and enhanced building materials is already expanding; however, UN peacekeeping forces still lag far behind modern militaries and even rebel groups. The effectiveness of peacekeeping missions will always be based on the extent to which Member States commit resources and therefore it is important for the UN to continue evaluating how best to enhance the use of technology by UN peacekeeping forces to improve their missions. Currently the main UN body to assess ways to enhance the use of modern technology in UN peacekeeping missions is the DPKO's expert panel. Recommendations of the expert panel will be available for consideration, according to the Secretary General, by the 2015 General Debate of the General Assembly.<sup>151</sup>

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<sup>147</sup> Crossette, *UN Peacekeeping Upgrades Its Reactions to Conflicts and Adds Surveillance Tools*, 2014.

<sup>148</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>149</sup> Unultalia, *Peacekeeping: UN Expert, How Drones Can Help Peace Mission*, 2014.

<sup>150</sup> UAS VISION, *UN Falco Crashes in Congo*, 2014.

<sup>151</sup> UN Center for International Peace Operations, *Workshop on New Technologies in UN Peace Operations*, 2014.

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*This book explains the innovation and technology being used by peacekeepers and how these contribute to the success of peacekeeping missions. It shows how technology use positively impacts peacekeeping missions. It also provides explanations of the various technological advancements that took place in peacekeeping and how they could be further used in order to improve the effectiveness of peacekeeping. It is a very good source in terms of providing background information for delegates and refreshing their minds on the issue at hand and the importance of technology use in peacekeeping.*

ICT4Peace Foundation. (2014). *ICTs and New Media for UN Peacekeeping and Peace-building* [Website].

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*This source discusses the improvements being made in terms of increasing awareness through workshops and training in DRC. It explains the cooperation, which took place between the UN Department of Field Support and DRC, in terms of improving conditions for peacekeeping through information sharing. It also discusses the objective of the practical roadmap that is to be developed. It is useful in terms of briefly explaining the cooperation that is taking place between the local government and UN peacekeeping missions*

Lamprey, C. (2007). *Engaging Civil Society in Peacekeeping. Strengthening Strategic Partnerships between United Nations Peacekeeping Missions and Local Civil Society Organisations during Post-conflict Transitions*. Retrieved 5 February 2015 from: [http://www.peacekeepingbestpractices.unlb.org/pbps/Library/Engaging\\_Civil\\_Society\\_in\\_Peacekeeping.pdf](http://www.peacekeepingbestpractices.unlb.org/pbps/Library/Engaging_Civil_Society_in_Peacekeeping.pdf)

*This source is very useful in terms of explaining what civil society is and how it is useful to incorporate it in peacekeeping and peacebuilding. It explains the conditions in which the DPKO and DFS work together in partnership with civil society. It provides an analysis of the partnership gap between civil society organizations and peacekeeping missions.*

United Nations deleGATE. (2014). *New Partnerships on Technology and Peacekeeping* [Website]. Retrieved 12 January 2015 from:

<http://www.un.int/news/new-partnerships-technology-and-peacekeeping>

*This source is vital to understanding the updates in the issue of enhancing the use of technology in peacekeeping missions as it mentions the occurrence of the first international symposium on technology and peacekeeping. The event lasted three days and marks the first time a conference on information and communications technology (ICT) sharing that specifically targeted peacekeeping missions was held. The outcomes of the symposium included the establishment of an UN ICT Regional Training Centre in Uganda, recommendations for improving camp security, and creating a peacekeeping technology roadmap think tank. All these outcomes are useful for delegates to understand the improvements and advancements that peacekeeping goes through.*

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*This source summarizes the latest sessions of the Security Council concerned with the issue of peacekeeping and the formation of council expects which provide a briefing on UN peacekeeping from Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations Hervé Ladsous and force commanders Lieutenant General Carlos Alberto dos Santos Cruz (Brazil) of the UN Organization Stabilization Mission in the DRC. It highlights the new trends in peacekeeping such as the establishment of more robust mandates, the use of new technology, inter-mission cooperation and multidimensional mandates. The panel was supposed to provide a final report in November 2014 on the decisions that took place; however, the report was delayed to 2015 and it is still not out yet.*



*It would be beneficial for delegates to research what the outcomes of the DFS symposium were and what the report talked about.*

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