



Iowa High Model United Nations  
Political and Security  
Comprehensive review of peacekeeping operations  
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## **Background:**

UN Peacekeeping was started in 1948 after WWII. The United Nations Truce Supervision Organization was established and deployed to the Middle East to assist in honoring armistices, reduce the impact of isolated incidents, in addition to maintaining any other UN missions in the region. Since 1948 there have been over 50 missions operated by the Department of Peacekeeping (DPKO). The first missions undertaken by the DPKO were mainly observational. The purpose of the DPKO is to remain objective and maintain a peaceful environment they did not carry weapons or intervene in conflict. They only tried to promote negotiations.

In 1992 the role of the DPKO changed with the genocide in Rwanda. They now use diplomacy to reduce or end violence, assist in peace negotiations, help to rebuild infrastructure and institutions in times of humanitarian crisis, pass out and protect aid, as well as try to address the underlying causes of conflict and violence in the region affected. It has had mixed success in its over 60 years of existence. Each state or region that a mission is deployed to is different with complex issues keeping it in turmoil. In order to try and make the DPKO more efficient the UN has made many different changes to the policy and composition of the DPKO.

## **What has been done/ past actions taken:**

The UN has been looking at the effectiveness of peacekeeping operations for more than ten years. In March 2000, the Secretary-General appointed the Panel on United Nations Peace Operations. The panel was comprised of qualified individuals who analyzed conflict prevention, peacekeeping and peace building. The panel's task was to assess the failures of UN peacekeeping operations around the world and to create realistic recommendations as to how to improve the efficiency of the UN peacekeeping intervention. The panel's findings are outlined in the Brahimi report.

In addition to the Brahimi report there are a number other efforts that have been made by the UN to improve the effectiveness of its peacekeeping operations. The Capstone Doctrine outlines the most important principles and guidelines that the peacekeepers should follow; it was written in 2008. Peace operation 2010 was written in 2006 which contains specific plans and a strategy on how to reform the peacekeeping operations already in existence. The World Summit 2005 dealt with many of the peacekeeping problems that the UN was facing at the time and its results can be found in '60/1 World Summit Outcomes 2005.' In 2004 at the follow-up of the Millennium Summit the UN put together the High Level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change. All of these different reforms maintained that the peacekeeping forces need renewed commitment by members, more funding, proper equipment, institutional change and every mission must be legitimate and have realistic goals in order to be efficient.

In 2009, the UN released a paper (A new partnership agenda: charting a new horizon for UN peacekeeping) to its member states. The purpose of that paper is to reopen the discussion on the needed reforms of the UN peacekeeping. It has since had two progress reports stating more change is needed.

**Possible solutions:**

The UN could put more funding into its peacekeeping operations.

The UN could choose to stop sending troops and use other member states' troops to work towards peace.

Use smaller more realistic goals as benchmarks for troops.

**Questions to consider:**

Where would the money come from?

Would member states provide the UN with more troops?

Can the UN rely on members to recommit to peacekeeping operations?

**Consulted/ recommended:**

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