



## UN PEACEKEEPING: INTERNATIONAL RELATION

**NEWS :** The world needs blue helmets who act as blue helmets

### WHAT'S IN THE NEWS ?

The role of the United Nations (UN) in global peacekeeping and its failures in certain conflicts.

### UN's Stand on Peacekeeping: Detailed Overview

#### Relevant UN Chapters:

- **Chapter VI:** Focuses on the peaceful resolution of disputes through diplomacy, negotiation, mediation, and arbitration. The goal is to prevent conflict escalation.
- **Chapter VII:** Authorizes the use of armed force by the UN Security Council to maintain or restore peace, especially in situations of aggression or threats to peace.
- **Chapter VIII:** Encourages the use of regional organizations for peace enforcement, complementing UN efforts to promote regional stability.

#### Successes of UN Peacekeeping:

- **Cambodia:** Helped stabilize the country post-Khmer Rouge era and assisted in elections.
- **Mozambique:** Played a key role in the peace process following the civil war.
- **Sierra Leone:** Supported disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration efforts after the civil war.
- **Angola:** Facilitated the end of decades-long conflict.
- **Timor-Leste:** Assisted in the country's transition to independence from Indonesia.
- **Liberia:** Helped bring stability after years of civil war.
- **Kosovo:** Supported post-conflict reconstruction and established international administration.

#### Failures of UN Peacekeeping:

- **Rwanda (1994):** The UN failed to prevent the genocide where over 800,000 people were killed due to inaction.
- **Bosnia (1995):** The UN could not protect civilians during the Srebrenica massacre, where thousands were killed under UN watch.

#### Improvements in Later Missions:

- Missions in **Sierra Leone, Darfur, and South Sudan** have shifted focus towards protecting civilians, which became a core element of modern UN peacekeeping mandates, emphasizing human rights and civilian safety in conflict zones.



## Current Criticism of UN Peacekeeping:

- **Russia-Ukraine Conflict:** The UN has faced criticism for its inability to deploy peacekeepers or take decisive action to protect civilians due to geopolitical tensions.
- **Israel-Palestine Conflict:** Similarly, the UN's lack of effective intervention in protecting civilians has been highlighted despite ongoing violence in the region.



## UN Security Council & Veto Power:

- The **Permanent Five (P5)** members—China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States—hold veto power. This veto has often been used to block resolutions, even in critical situations.
- **Example:** During the Rwandan genocide, the veto power resulted in inaction, allowing mass civilian deaths.

## Proposed Reforms to the UN Security Council:

- Expanding the number of **permanent members** to include countries like **India, South Africa**, and other emerging powers.
- Reforming the veto system by introducing a rule that requires a majority decision among the expanded permanent members (e.g., a "P7" system), to limit the use of vetoes in situations of humanitarian crises.



## Blue Helmets (UN Peacekeepers):

- **Symbol of Peacekeeping:** The **blue helmet** and insignia are globally recognized symbols of UN peacekeeping, first adopted in 1947.
- **First Mission:** The UN's first peacekeeping mission was launched in May 1948 during the **Arab-Israeli conflict**.
- **India's Contribution:** India is one of the largest contributors to UN peacekeeping operations, with over 275,000 troops deployed to various missions since its inception. Currently, around 5900 Indian personnel are serving in 12 missions worldwide.

## Key Aspects of UN Peacekeeping Operations:

### Mandate:

- Monitoring ceasefires in conflict zones.
- Protecting civilians under threat.
- Supporting the implementation of peace agreements between warring parties.
- Assisting with stabilization, state-building, and post-conflict reconstruction.

### Composition:

- Peacekeeping forces include military, police, and civilian personnel, voluntarily contributed by UN member states.
- Currently, around 90,000 personnel from various nations are deployed in conflict zones globally.

### Core Principles:

- **Consent of the parties involved** in the conflict.
- **Impartiality:** UN peacekeepers must not favor any party in the conflict.
- **Non-use of force**, except in self-defense or in defense of the mission mandate.

Source : <https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/lead/the-world-needs-blue-helmets-who-act-as-blue-helmets/article68784163.ece>