



# INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND THEIR ROLE IN THE PREPARATION AND PROGRESS OF POST-CONFLICT OPERATIONS

Lieutenant Petrică-Crinu ȘINCARI, PhD candidate\*

**Abstract:** *The influence of current global geopolitical and geostrategic environment over the organization and development of the multinational operations results in a multitude of situations in which these interrelations are found, covering all levels of military art. A great part of these influences regarding the organization, progress and planning of these types of operations is already found in strategies, policies and regulations elaborated by NATO and its member states.*

**Keywords:** *NATO, European Union; Post-conflict; Organization.*

The preparation, coordination, and execution of post-conflict operations proceed according to some standards and rules included in the documents that regulate both generally and concretely each action according to its specific. These regulations are meant to unequivocally define the competences of different international organisms, of the internal ones from the states participating in the operation and of the military command structures. The authorities, which make use of the military force for deployment in post-conflict operation and that invest the commander with the exercise of the command, are those international organizations with consolidated legal status, that have prestige and unanimous recognition and that assume the role of solving conflicts (UN, OSCE, EU). Once the leading position assumed, the political organization sets up the purpose and the objectives of the operation, the allotted resources, the final targeted status and elaborates the mandate of the force that, mainly, contains: *“general issues, the purpose of the operation, the objectives that are to be accomplished, the mission of the force and the reference terms of the mission, the composition of the United Multinational Force, the appointment of the commander and of other special mediators, the nominalization of the structure responsible for the supervision of the operation ( upper echelon), provisions regarding the logistic and financial support, specifications regarding the actions of*

*the supporting organizations and the national responsibilities, the deadline of the mandate, the conditions and the terms that the host country intends to impose in connection to the presence of the force, regulations for the rights and immunities of the force staff.”*<sup>1</sup>

Regarding the current geopolitical and geostrategic environment, at a global level, considering the ongoing conflicts and comparing it with the previous periods, we can state that this one is in a relative stability. Thanks to the efforts and, maybe to the weaknesses of the main important actors on the world scene, without doubt, the humanity is in a condition of relative peace and stability. The European space enjoys this period due to the existence, at the areal and regional level, of the two important organizations, NATO and EU, but also of the “step back” made by the Russian Federation. Nevertheless, the last events taking place in the East of Europe (the crisis in Ukraine) send us towards the idea that the relative condition of peace and stability tends to end. A clear proof that the states are trying to prevent a possible conflict is the substantial increase of the budgetary military allowances of the states in the immediate area of the crisis and not necessarily. From this perspective, NATO and EU, besides the fact that they generate a high level of economic development, they also approach in a modern manner the security phrase, by targeting the increment of the international cooperation level in order to solve the crises, on

\*Ministry of National Defense, 300  
Logistic Battalion, “Sarmis”, Bucharest  
Crinusincari1989@yahoo.com

<sup>1</sup> Lucian Stăncilă, Eugen Constantin, Ion Pîrgulescu, *Operațiile postconflict (Post-conflict operations)*, „Carol I” Natinal Defence University Publishing House, Bucharest, 2010, p. 76.



the grounds of some democratic values and that are led by common institutions.

Although reaching an unprecedented number for the interactions between the military organisms pertaining to EU and NATO, the efforts to define a defense policy common to the two organizations, was never materialized in an official document. Nevertheless, merging from the wish of becoming, in time, an important actor at global level, as its economic power is, the European Union focused its efforts to develop a European strategy in the field of the foreign policy. Thus, in 2003 the document "*A secure Europe in a better world. European Security strategy*" was drafted, highlighting the wish of the member states of the European Union to "get separated" from NATO and the USA in terms of regional, area and global security.

Also, regarding the highlighting of the European Union's efforts in the field of security and of the international relationships system, according to the dispositions of the Maastricht Treaty, the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP)<sup>2</sup> of the European Union represents one of the three pillars of the organization alongside Justice and Home Affairs, as well as alongside the European Economic Community. Also, by the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP), document proposed for ratification within the European Council in Helsinki, back in 1999, the member states of the EU defined the objectives of the organization on the military capabilities line, as well as over an extended area of military missions.

With an equally important role, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe/OSCE, is an organization meant to prevent the conflicts and to administrate the crises and the post-conflict reconstructions, in the current security architecture, this is redefined as being an organization that promotes the continuous cooperation, but that develops an intervention civil component, meant to complete the military one held by NATO and EU, this being, in our opinion, a fair and credible process<sup>3</sup>.

As for crises management, the United Nation Organization has a languishing role, indeed; also the international system where this organization acts

includes both the State and Non-State Actors, with legitimate character, but which in some situations act in an anarchical manner, without a certain purpose. Furthermore, we may state that both in the past and in present, no international security organization shall possess the instruments needed in order to force the great powers to have positive feelings if their national interests are violated. UN is recognized as being the sole organization possessing all the prerogatives necessary to convince the great powers to act, diplomatically, if their security and or their national interests are endangered. At the geopolitical and geostrategic level, the influence of the United Nations Organization over the states, as small as it is at the moment, as much it is foreseen to diminish in the future, given the fact that the decision making organism, the Security Council, shall certainly enlarge the number of members, which will lead to lack of efficiency in making decisions meant to limit the actions of a global actor or of a non-state one.

Regarding the organizations participating in the post-conflict operations, NATO could be the solution for various problems that emerge in this period of the crisis, the Alliance already holds unique expertise as for the military stabilization, also engaging in the civil-political field, quite carefully and slowly, as the "field" is almost unknown.

Even if the position of NATO is another one, with an international effort of creating post-conflict reconstruction capabilities, NATO could transform in a reconstruction international organization, along with this position assuming the main role within a reconstruction network, of global partnerships with states that are not members, but also with regional and international organizations.

We consider that post-conflict reconstruction needs a combination of military and civil expertise, aspect that is not met for any of the existent organizations. Thus, the achievement of a real interface within the cooperation between the civil and military staff represents a real provocation from the coordination point of view, but also in cultural terms.

We have sufficient reasons to believe that NATO represents the adequate organization for realizing this "hybrid". One of them would be the fact that NATO, even if it is a major actor within the reconstruction of the states, in this case, the reconstruction would be a priority, as are security,

<sup>2</sup> [http://europa.eu/legislation\\_summaries/institutional\\_affairs/treaties/treaties\\_maastricht\\_ro.htm](http://europa.eu/legislation_summaries/institutional_affairs/treaties/treaties_maastricht_ro.htm), accessed on May 24th, 2015, 6.00 PM

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.osce.org/what/military-reform>, accessed on May 24th, 2015, 6.20 PM



deterrence, and defense, aspect that would lead to a change in the organizational character of the Alliance, as well as to a major extension of NATO missions.

From NATO point of view, within the cooperation between agencies, the civil organizations are responsible for a large series of activities such as: distribution of humanitarian aid, observance of the human rights, protection of minorities, refugees and displaced persons, legal assistance, medical care, economic reconstruction, agriculture, education, art, science and general funding projects.

The private or governmental and non-governmental international organizations of volunteers are based, most of them, on humanitarian principles. These can differ, from example, from the reduction of poverty up to the support of the medical system in the communities affected by conflict or up to the improvement of the living conditions of children.

The missions and the implication level of these organizations are usually recognized by the authorities of the origin state, by UN, by the government and by the authorities of the regional public administration of the state where they activate. The coordination and the cooperation with these groups may lead to the reduction of costs of the operations, to the prevention of duplication of effort, to the reduction of the possible contradictions or rivalries and to the improvement of the final results.

In the practice of the post-conflict reconstruction operations, acting in the fields where NATO (but also UN) engaged and continues to engage, three main types of civil organizations are to be distinguished:

1. *International organizations* (IOs) – these are set by inter-governmental agreements that operate at international level, as the different UN and OSCE organizations. Amongst the main UN organizations, most frequently implied in humanitarian actions within a post-conflict context, there are mentioned:

- UNHCR – *United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees*;
- UNOCHA – *UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs*;
- WFP – *World Food Program*;
- UNICEF – *UN International Children's Fund*;
- International Organization for Migration (IOM).

2. *Non-governmental organizations* – NGOs, these are structures made up by volunteers and they are not always sponsored by the government (on the grounds of art. 71 of the Charter of the United Nations). Their main characteristic is the fact that they are non-profit, they do not depend on their own governments, on the international organizations and on the commercial interests. In addition, their legal functioning framework differs from the one of the UN agencies and of other international organizations, having their own missions and principles. NGOs may belong to one of the following two categories:

- *accredited* – being officially recognized by the international organization responsible for the operation or by the government of the host country and authorized to deploy their activity in the operation area or that obtained a certain type of specific mandate;

- *non-accredited* – that are not officially recognized and do not hold official authorization, and hence, their activity is strictly private. These can be employed by certain international organizations or by other non-governmental accredited organizations. In other cases, they have the possibility to obtain funds from donors or from private companies. The non-governmental organizations are becoming more and more numerous and difficult to follow, and their presence in the operation area may be estimated at a few hundreds. Generally, these organizations remain independent of any political control, with the purpose of maintaining the own efficiency. In most of the cases, the members of this organization are considered as being good professionals in their fields of activity, extremely well motivated and always ready to assume physical risks in extreme conditions.

The non-governmental organizations are usually accredited by the host nation or by the organization or agency leading the operation. Sometimes, they are not accredited and this can determine the apparition of some local tensions.

3. *Donor governmental agencies*, national and international, such as United States Agency for International Development – USAID, Department for International Development – DID-UK, Canadian International Development Agency – CIDA, European Community Humanitarian Office – ECHO, have as main responsibility financing, monitoring and assessing the development programs that, in theory, should be coordinated by



the international organizations.

4. *Other groups*. In addition to the listed types, the following groups have to be mentioned too:

- *civil development agencies* – civil organizations that are mainly implied in reconstruction. These are accredited to provide assistance for the development of the countries. The United Nations Developing Program (UNDP) administrates and coordinates the development of the technical assistance provided by UN. Normally, these agencies deploy their activity for a longer period than the military forces in the affected areas. In these cases, the task of CIMIC is to identify the requirements for reconstruction in collaboration with the local government and, when possible, together with the agencies directorate, to begin and to continue the post-conflict reconstruction work. The reconstruction agencies have allotted the necessary resources for planning and developing the projects within the affected areas on the grounds of the evaluation and of the setting of priorities for the existing needs;

- *agencies for human rights and democracy* – The main agency in this field is UNHCR – United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the Democracy and Human Rights Office within the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe - OSCE, even if the latter one operates only in Europe. These agencies aim to protect the human rights in the states where the abuses may overcome the acceptable limit. They seek to establish the democratic values and the observance of the rules in all the levels of the government.

In the perception of NATO, mere theoretical knowledge is not sufficient for understanding and dealing with crises, instead it must take into account the specific of the local structures, of those making the decisions, and of the experience of other countries (*"the history of the others shall be our future"*), situation that NATO considers also in practice, by the policies promoted. Of course, there are also failures of post-conflict reconstruction, as not only humans learn continuously, but also the institutions, that, although they reached a certain structural maturity and obvious experience, must be reformed from time to time.

In conclusion, we can state that NATO has the experience and the tools necessary for good management of post-conflict reconstruction. The management of post-conflict reconstruction requires knowledge of the threats, risks, anticipating and preparing reactions, finding the necessary advice and solutions, as well as optimal communication with the population that must be prepared and advised regarding the decisions made and the respective situation.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

1. SMG/PF-3, *Doctrina operațiilor întrunite a armatei României (Doctrine of the united operations of Romanian Army)*, Bucharest, 2014.
2. Pîrgulescu, I.; Stăncilă, L., *Comanda și controlul structurilor de forțe din armata româniei pe timpul participării la misiuni specifice stării postconflict, în context multinational (Command and control of the force structures of the Romanian army during the participation on missions specific to the post-conflict condition, in multinational context)*, in Strategic Colloquium, no. 5, "Carol I" National Defence University Publishing House, Bucharest, 2009.
3. Banshael, N.; Olikier, O.; Peterson, H., *Îmbunătățind capacitatea pentru operații de stabilizare și reconstrucție (Improving the capacity for stabilization and reconstruction operations)*, Washington, DC: Rand, 2009.
4. Flavin, W., *Planning for Conflict Termination and Post – Conflict Success*, p. 1, [www.carlisle.army.mil](http://www.carlisle.army.mil)
5. <http://www.osce.org/what/military-reform>
6. <https://www.rusi.org>
7. *Introduction to NATO*, [www.db.niss.gov.ua/docs/nato/nato/sco68.html](http://www.db.niss.gov.ua/docs/nato/nato/sco68.html);
8. [www.nato.int](http://www.nato.int)
9. [www.norway.org.et](http://www.norway.org.et)