

GENERATIONS OF PEACE OPERATIONS

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Developments of peace operations under UN auspices, led to the use of new names for different types of missions for peace – generations of peace operations.

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The peace missions carried on by the UN or the regional organizations have considerably evolved in the past 60 years regarding the mandate and their completion, as well as the conflicts in which they have been involved.

In order to facilitate the identification of the different types of peace missions, presently the „generations of peace operations” expression is frequently utilized.¹

The definition of „first generation operations” refers to the peace upkeeping operations which are considered traditional or classical. These operations are generally authorized by the UN Security Council and have the main function to ensure that the cease-fire principles are being correctly pursued by the belligerent parties. UN has adopted this type of operations mainly during the Cold War.

The first generation operations have the following patterns or characteristics: they are created in conformity with the UN’s Chapter VI provisions, usually by unanimous decision of the Security Council; The Blue Helmets? intervene in a conflict that involve two states recognized by the international community, excluding the civil wars and revolutions; Interested parties had signed an cease-fire agreement before the mission’s inception; The international forces have the authority to create a buffer-zone between the conflicting states, with the purpose of avoiding a recurrence of conflict; UN’s decrees are considered neutral and objective with regards to conflicts; The states that are currently involved in conflict in one way or another are not

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¹ Teodor Frunzeti, *op.cit.*, p. 80.

contributing to the ongoing operation so that the criteria of neutrality and objectivity will not be compromised.

To the end of the Cold War, this silent agreement has been generally followed with only few exceptions. This conduct was chiefly monitoring the avoidance of a possible conflict eruption amongst the world's great powers. Regarding the first-generation operations, the Blue Helmets is mainly composed of lightly-armed military personnel. This personnel is not authorized to use force unless if in self-defence and, in conformity with the neutrality and objectivity principle it can not open fire upon neither side of the conflict zone. The first generation model is represented by UN's Middle East Emergency Forces I (FUNU I), with the specification that it has been approved by the General Council and not by the Security Council.

Until recently, UN has authorized the following first-generation peace operations: UN Body charged with the Monitorization of the Middle East Cease-fire Operations – ONUST (June 1948); UN's Group of Military Observers in India and Pakistan – UNMOGIP (January 1949); UN's Emergency Force in the Middle East I – FUNU I (November 1956 - June 1967); UN's Observatory Group in Libya – GONUL (June 1958 - December 1958); UN's Security Forces in the New Occidental Guinea UNSF (Oct. 1962 - Apr. 1963); UN's Observatory Mission in Yemen – UNYOM (July 1963 - Sept. 1964); UN's Force for Peace Sustainment in Cyprus – UNFICYP (Mar. 1964); Representative General Secretary's Mission in the Dominican Republic – DOMREP (May 1965 - Oct. 1966); UN's Observatory Mission in India and Pakistan – MONUIP (Sept. 1965 - Mar. 1966); UN's Emergency Forces in the Middle East II – FUNU II (Oct. 1973 – July 1979); UN's Observation Force for Disengagement – FNOUD (June 1974); UN's Interim Forces in Libya – FINUL (Mar. 1978); UN's Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea – MINUEE (Dec. 2000 – Apr. 2002).²

In the last years, the first-generation's peace operations are less and less frequent. Basically, MINUEE, created in 2000, is the only UN mission after the end of the Cold War that meets all the criteria that representative of this category.

The second-generation peace operations have become active after the fall of the Berlin wall. At the beginning of the '90, the international community had witnessed an explosion in the number of missions created by the UN as a result of inner-state religious and ethnical conflicts.

Considering the possibility that the UN will hold firmer actions, the 1992 Peace Agenda, through its innovatory proposals regarding this matter, led to the initiation of the second-generation peace missions, different from the first-generation ones. They are created based on UN's Ch. VII principles,

² *Les Casques Bleus. Les operations de maintien de la paix des Nations Unies*, Departement de l'information des Nations Unies, New York, 1996, pp. 4-5.

which assumes the frequent implication of the Blue Helmets in hostile environments, where open fire is not excluded, in order to accomplish the operation's purpose. In these missions, the UN's body are not neutral and objective, and they can opt to use force, including force in the inner conflicts, and identifying the states involved is no longer a problem.

The emergence of the second-generation peace operations does not involve the parties' agreement, which could lead to two paradoxical results: On one hand, this allows for a rapid intervention, contributing to the regional stability before conflict is expanded. On the other hand, Blue Helmet's actions without the parties agreement, could turn them into targets of the rival action.

The objective of this kind of missions does not consist of maintaining a fragile peace but instead of creating auspicious conditions that will generate a long-lasting peace. To attain this substantial objective, an amplified body is assumed. Additionally, the body will be comprised of military as well as civil personnel.

For example, MINAUR was not capable of stopping the genocide that devastated Rwanda, and also there were both military and civilian personnel losses, having unfortunate consequences for the UN concerning the Organization's credibility and the members' availability to participate in new missions. For a remediation of these limitations, UN and its members have accomplished a variety of initiatives, among which the creation of the International Brigade of Rapid Reaction Defense and the development of cooperation involving regional organizations.

As a consequence of the failure of few important operations led by the second generation, UN had decided to revise the missions' structure and mandates, concomitantly with the designation of coercive operations towards other international and better adapted organizations.

This way, the configuration of operations with diverse and complex objectives, involving long-term perspectives in the concerned areas, realized what later received the name of „peace consolidation”. Even if this concept is at the beginning, the first third generation peace operation could be identified in the UN's Administration of Interim Missions in Kosovo – MINUK, created in 1999. This mission commenced right after NATO cesed the airborne bombing in the region. MINUK's main objective is Kosovo's rehabilitation and aid for the population in order to build a strong administration. A similar operation is represented by the UN's Treasury in the Timor-Leste – ATNUTO, in the 1999-2002 period, being considered the most successful UN operation related to peace materialization. After UN's management, in the mentioned period, of the governmental body of the country, Timor-Leste became autonomous, has many democratic institutions, and has adhered to the UN in 2002.

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