

PAKISTAN'S QUEST FOR INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY UNDER THE AMBIT OF UNITED NATIONS PEACE KEEPING MISSIONS

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ABSTRACT

Peacebuilding is associated with the measures taken to determine and provide backing to the structure that would in turn reinforce and build up peace so as to fend off recurrence of conflict. Historians of the coming generation would undoubtedly note one of the remarkable features of our tormented times, the prevalent pursuit of security in which all human beings are busy. Seeking security and preservation of peace has become a part of popular discourses of modern times. This yearning among nations, led to orchestration of different strategies of alleged 'social security.' Consequently, nations resorted to institute an order to be known as 'collective security.' With the same objectives United Nations has been established to promote and maintain world peace and security by setting up a system of collective security. The system of collective security demands the member state to make available its forces whenever necessary. The paper further argues that the United Nations make use of these forces to provide security to the people of war ridden areas in the backdrop of 'collective human security.' This paper contends and validates that due to the change in the nature of the conflicts, the scope of UN peacekeeping has also enlarged from merely the means of dealing with inter-State conflict to intra-State conflicts and civil wars. Pakistan realizing the significance and utility of peacekeeping missions, is actively participating in these missions to transform UN objectives into concrete line of action and contribute to international peace and security.

Keywords: United Nations, Peacekeeping, Peacebuilding, Collective Security, Collective Human Security.

1. INTRODUCTION

Efforts have always been made for peaceful settlement of disputes among the nations. Attempts have been made to avoid reoccurrence of war almost after every war in one way or the other. The first provocative effort in this regard was the establishment of the League of Nations after World War I with the aim to preserve peace through collective efforts. It was commonly believed that by using this platform socio-economic and political problems of the nation could be addressed. Indeed, it could be termed as a "first candle in the wind". However, because of inherent flaws, League could not succeed to achieve its core objective i.e. the preservation of peace.

During WWII, efforts were geared up to form an international organization to meet the challenges of insecurity, consequently, the first declaration was issued on October

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30, 1943 after the Moscow Conference. USA, UK, former USSR and China (the Big Four) issued the declaration emphasizing the need for the establishment of international organization for the preservation of global peace and security while giving due consideration to sovereign equality of all the states (Brittin, 1986).

In 1946, League of Nations was formally dissolved and the United Nations (UN) came into being after taking over its resources and functions. Nonetheless, the League cannot be labeled as a fiasco. In fact, it proved as a harbinger and provided the much-needed experience to the UN in promotion and preservation of peace among the states by collaborating in political, economic and social fields. The first chapter of UN Charter precisely enumerates the idea behind the establishment of the international organization.

The main objective of the UN is to conserve peace and security. The same objective has also been given due weightage in the Preamble, the Purposes, and the Principles of UN. In order to achieve this purpose, the UN maintains peace-keeping forces where there is trouble across the globe (United Nations, 2017).

In peace missions, forces are employed either to establish neutral zones or to monitor military forces confronting each other. Peace-keeping forces have been deployed in many parts of the world, for example, Lebanon, Democratic Republic of Congo, Liberia, Sierra Leone, East Timor, Sudan, Ivory Coast, Kashmir, Western Sahara (Morocco) etc. (Brittin, 1986).

UN peacekeeping operations are unparalleled to the normal military operations conducted in the states. The reason is that these peace missions are confronted with number of challenges, like varying nature of skirmishes to the possibility of reversion of war, composition of multicultural forces and magnitude of logistic supply. Peacekeeping missions often cause bloody rendezvous, leading to loss of life. One of the tests of UN peacekeeping missions is renascent of war or lingering state vulnerability that can permit, open up or leads to cascading effects expose a state to relentless global hazardous. The nature of these missions is convoluted and requiring services of highly skilled peacekeepers.

This paper is an attempt to spring up understanding about the role of UN in peacekeeping and peacebuilding, and how these peacekeeping operations are significant for preservation of global peace and security. It further excavates that chapter 6 and 7 spelled out peaceful means and coercive means for dispute settlement respectively. For the practical execution of these means all the member states are bound to provide its air, naval and ground forces as may be essential for the prevailing conditions. Pakistan being a member of United Nations owns the responsibility to promote world peace and security. This paper hashes out the role played by Pakistan in peacekeeping operations. In order to develop better understanding about UN peacekeeping mission and contribution made by Pakistan, this paper is divided into five parts. The first part introduces the subject under consideration. The second part develops the theoretical explanation of system of collective security as envisaged in the UN Charter. The third part examines the role of UN in peacekeeping operations

Pakistan's Quest for International Peace and Security Under the Ambit of United Nations Peace Keeping Missions

and its core principles. The fourth part excavates the role of Pakistan in peacekeeping operations. The last part concludes the whole debate.

2. CONCEPTUALIZING COLLECTIVE SECURITY AND HUMAN SECURITY AS FOUNDATION OF UNITED NATIONS PEACEKEEPING MISSION

The twentieth century has given birth to the concept of “Collective human security”, a term coined in the 1930s, primarily to address the outbreak of violence consequent to war. The concept became obscured in 19th century but in 20th century international law again became concerned about the security of individuals. Hague Conventions (1907) and Charter of London (1943) are clear examples that justify significance and status of individual in international law. This concept led to the institutionalization of international organization with the hope that it might prevent war or may defend the states in case of armed attacks. Collective security hinges upon “*imbalance of power*” (Marie-Claude Smouts and Guillaume Devin) as against security through *balance of power*, which implied assembly against any aggressor by the member states in the 20th century (Guieu, 2016).

Since World War I international organization was perceived to maintain and operate collective security system so as to provide protection to the lives of the people. This has been the central idea of any thinking in the 19th century. This has however, not been the only instrument by which peace and stability could be achieved: rather the system of collective security is perceived to be orchestration of such arrangements that reinforce the idea of peaceful settlement of dispute on the ground that both the apparatuses complement and strengthens each other (Claude, 1984). This signifies that the states will be liable to refrain from taking coercive action against other states.

Basically the international law binds the states (the prime subject of International Law) to adhere to the principles of *collective security* to ensure that peace and stability prevails (Sarooshi, 2000). Critics of the concept argue that international peace can be maintained without the operationalizing *collective security system*. However, it seems to be educating the children without formal schooling or treating the patients in the absence of hospitals (Claude, 1984). Hence, the idea of collective security system was first manifested in the shape of covenant of League of Nations (L of Ns) in the aftermath of the WWI and was later institutionalized in 1945 by the United Nations (UN) (Guieu, 2016).

Collective security has mostly been termed as a midway milestone between *international anarchy* and *world government*. Critics argue that these are unachievable goals. To some scholars' collective security is a tool to become a hegemon. Scholars have been divided on the question that, should it be considered as a transitory means to achieving the ultimate goal of world government or an everlasting answer to the problem of world order, thereby, negating the need for a world government. The two schools of thought, however, agree that the idea of collective security seems possible in the multi-state system (Claude, 1984).

3. THE UN CHARTER AND COLLECTIVE SECURITY & HUMAN SECURITY

With the adoption of the UN Charter, the member states took the allegiance for adoption of collective security measures (Sarooshi, 2000) The founders, however, were cognizant of the of failure of the L of Ns, and they tried to refine the tools of *collective security* and *collective human security*. They emerged with the concept of permanent members of the UN Security Council (UNSC). These are China, France UK, USA, and erstwhile USSR commonly known as the P5. These were the main victors of WWII.

Within this new international system, the P5 have the power of “veto” and could be termed as the “world policemen” with “*the primary responsibility for maintenance of international peace and security*” (Article. 24) (Guieu, 2016).

Chapter 6 of the UN charter employs peaceful means for settlement of the disputes while chapter 7 of the UN charter employs the *use of force* against the oppressor member state(s). Since the adoption of collective security system, the interstate warfare has declined because of the fact that the very idea of collective security determines that attack against any state (part of collective protective web) will be consider attack against all (Mack, 2005). The end of Cold War also brought together the big power to enforce peacekeeping and peace-building across the world. The challenging environment of post-Cold War era enhanced the significance, scope and outlook of peacekeeping missions. Under the challenging environments, the number of peacekeeping troops enlarged in scope and outlook.

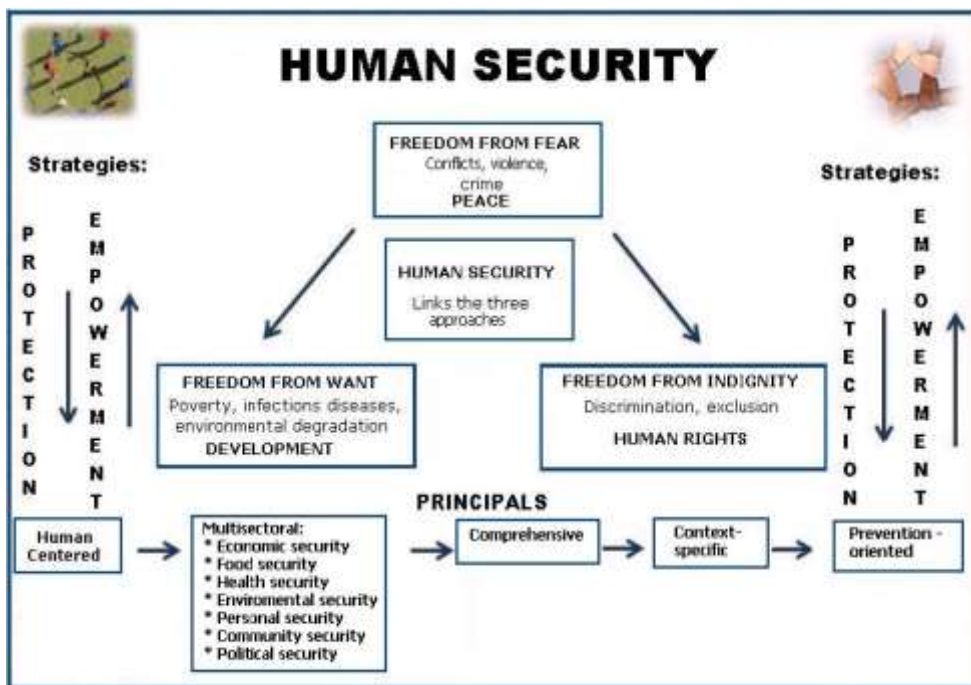
Ever since the end of the Cold War, the UNPKOs have grown exponentially in number and size. The ever-growing need of peace missions in conflict ridden zones has forced the policy makers to not only fulfill the demand of peacekeeping but also peacemaking and peace-building besides *humanitarian intervention*. This policy making includes planning, designing and enforcement of the peace missions for resolution of not only interstate but also intra- state conflicts (Paris, 2000).

Theoretically, the UN peace operations are based on the concept of ‘*collective human security*’. The concept gave impetus to the peace movements from the 1980s onwards and became synonymous to positive peace. Boutros-Ghali’s *Agenda for Peace* of 1992 further stimulated the concept of human security which is unlike national security. The referent point of the former is individual (major subject of international law) whereas the referent point of the latter is the state. However, the UN looks at the human security as a wholesome concept. Besides, the fulfillment of the basic human needs, collective participation is required to achieve the human security goals. It embodies social justice, respect for human rights, political emancipation and participation at will.

Human security, as a matter of fact, is people-centric and is a holistic approach to security, which emphasizes to address the insecurities and the *empowerment of people*. The UNSC took up the issue of human security as a policy matter in 1994 on the indication of the UN Development Program (UNDP). Today we see the manifestation of human security in the shape of Millennium Development Goals

Pakistan's Quest for International Peace and Security Under the Ambit of United Nations Peace Keeping Missions

(MDGs) and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), commonly known as “2030 Agenda” which basically revolve around basic human needs, social justice and human dignity. In this regard, the UNDP report talks of three things: freedom from *want*, freedom from *fear*, and freedom to *live in dignity*.



Based on: Mostafavi, Mehrnaz, Human Security Unit, OCHA at the CMC Finland organized Human Security Training on 21 April, 2009, Tuusula, Finland. Retrieved from https://www.iidh.ed.cr/multic/default_12.aspx?contentidoid=ea75e2b1-9265-4296-9d8c-3391de83fb42&Portal=IIDHSeguridadEN

Nevertheless, there is no formal theory to gauge the success or failures of peacekeeping missions. There are however, few variables which could be investigated and be able to formulate a workable framework. The most important among all variables is the role of states and individuals (having international legal personality). The reason is that international law is primarily concerned with the rights and interests conferred upon the states and individual. Consequently, the concept of collective security and collective human security provides bases for analyzing the significance of peacekeeping and peace building missions, since these missions are deployed for the protection and preservation of states in general and individuals in particular.

League of Nations was raised in the aftermath of World War I to maintain peace worldwide; it however, failed in achievements of its goals as World War II broke out. Nevertheless, its concept of *collective human security* was borrowed by the UN.

Moreover, the UN charter also includes the non-use of force for achievement of national goal as well as *international objectives*. The UNSC has been empowered to determine, if the world peace has been breached or otherwise and has the authority to inflict sanctions. The UNSC resolutions are binding in nature even for those states, who oppose these.

Chapter 6 of UN charter pertains to the peaceful settlement of disputes through negotiations which may even include the third party. It opposes the use of force and emphasis on *pacific* means. The UN has been instrumental in avoiding interstate conflicts and cultivates the principles of collaboration among the member states to ensure preservation of peace and non-violation of human rights.

Collective security envisages use of diplomacy rather than coercive means against the aggressor state. It may mean imposing sanctions against the tyrant. The collective security, unlike the peaceful settlement, doesn't talk about the reasons of war (Claude, 1964). It rather asserts that war should be avoided, and when broke out, must be stopped. In the light of Articles 42 and 43, the UNSC is authorized to the use of forces (land, sea and air) as deemed appropriate, to ensure preservation of the world peace. It requires the member states to contribute to such missions as per requirement.

There however, seems to be a non-coherence between the theory and its application when it comes to the idea of collective security. While we may say that war among smaller or the so-called *weaker states*, is not considered a security threat to the world peace, it definitely has violent effects of its people. World peace could be endangered if the stronger states either join the conflict or partake in the conflict. Hence the concept of collective security considered synonymous to world peace becomes superfluous when it comes to the conflicts among the weak states. By the same token, its application is redundant as far as conflict is concerned between the *great powers*. Launching of military operation would be catastrophic and this could lead to world war, which the UN is endeavoring to prevent.

To avoid such a scenario, the UN has given authoritative status to the great powers in the Security Council. They are bestowed to exercise the veto power which not only implies 'significant decision making' of these great powers but also put a check on the unbridle decision making on the permanent members (Claude, 1964).

3.1. UN Peacekeeping Role

In order to help the conflict-ridden states to the path of peace, the most significant organ of its functioning is the peacekeeping operations. It has multiple strengths. It has the ability to deploy and sustain the peacekeeping troops over a protracted period of time. The UNPKOs has the strength of its legitimacy and the ability for integration of civilian peacekeepers beside the uniformed personnel which helps in sharing the burden of the two components. The operations help provide the war zones not only with the security but also help in the political stability and reconstruction of its institutions (United Nations Peacekeeping, 2018).

Since its inception, the UN has been able to deploy 70 peace operations. The concept of PKOPs has evolved beyond what it used to be considered as pure military domain.

Pakistan's Quest for International Peace and Security Under the Ambit of United Nations Peace Keeping Missions

In fact, the PKOPs have broadened in scope and are now multidimensional in nature. Being effective tool of conflict management in the last decade, these missions have witnessed an upward trend in terms of the deployment of peacekeepers (Salvatore & Ruggeri, 2017).

Notwithstanding the primary task of maintaining peace and stability, the multifaceted operations of this kind facilitate the political transition through fair and transparent electoral process, assist the former combatants in Disarmament, Demobilization, Repatriation, Reintegration, and Resettlement commonly known as DDRRR (MONUC, 2016) besides protecting and promoting the human rights as well as assist in upholding the rule of law.

The UNPKOs are mostly deployed in the hostile and inhospitable regions, hence success is never guaranteed. Nonetheless, the efforts of last 60 years have brought fruition in the shape of winning the Nobel Peace Prize (United Nations Peacekeeping, n.d.).

Needless to say, these operations are undertaken in conflict or post conflict regions where peace is in stalemate. Therefore, restoration of peace remains a primary concern for the peace keepers. Consequently, peacekeeping is considered to have achieved success where it is able to bridle the conflict in many aspects. The success could also be measured in terms of managing the conflict, providing protection to the civilians, and recurrence of violence in the post-conflict phase.

It may be noted that the mandate for each mission varies considerably, hence all the missions are governed by different rules. Depending upon the prevalent conditions, the operation's ability is affected to manage the conflict. Hence the success is contextual. It is opined that success is more likely when large contingents are deployed with *robust mandates* (Salvatore & Ruggeri, 2017). PKOPs have drawn great attention after the Cold War era due to increasingly active role of the UN.

We may not ignore the successes of UNPKOs operations despite some of its failures in few missions. In the recent past, we observed Kosovo, East Timore, Sudan, Chad, Liberia, Sierra Lone, Somalia and Cambodia etc. returning to normalcy.

4. PRINCIPLES OF PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS

There are total of six principles enshrined in the UN Charter as advocated by the Secretary General Dag Hammarskjold; three of these get added importance. These are interconnected and reinforce each other: -

1. Consent of the Parties
2. Impartiality
3. Non-use of force except in self-defense ("Principles of Peacekeeping" n.d.)

It is important for all those who are involved in the planning and execution to fully understand these so that these principles are followed in letter and spirit. These have

been termed as *navigational aid for* practitioners on the ground as well as at the UNHQ.

4.1. Consent of the Parties

It is imperative that all the parties to the conflict have consent to the operations before the forces are deployed. The parties involved give a commitment to the political process. The consent implies freedom of action in order to fulfill the mandated tasks. As a MILOB, this scribe observed no restriction on the movement in the conflict-ridden zone.

Nonetheless, the consent does not guarantee the consent at the local level as well, especially when the armed groups are divided within and have weak *command and control system*. As a matter of fact, across the board application of this principle is less probable where the warring factions are not under the control of any of the parties (United Nations Peacekeeping, 2018).

4.2. Impartiality

It is imperative for the UN peacekeepers to remain neutral while dealing with all the stake holders. It doesn't mean "*inaction or overlooking violations*" Mr. Miller in his book, *Organizing Mankind* is of the view that "*impartiality*" is sometimes difficult to maintain in the complex events (Miller, 1972). My experience in the field shows that the military observers were absolutely impartial in their dealings while interacting with the fighting factions. This implies that the peacekeeper needs to act a referee does in a match; he penalizes the offenders. They should not ignore the law breakers. So the peacekeepers need to remain impartial throughout the negotiation process and follow the given mandate. At the same time, the peacekeepers must not compromise their image of being impartial. Otherwise, this will undermine the mission's credibility and may compel the withdrawal of a party to the conflict.

4.3. Non-use of Force except in Self-defense and Defense of the Mandate

Since the UNPKOs are volunteer and impartial in nature, it implies that the UN peacekeepers must not use force unless required in self-defense. The history of this principle could be traced back to the first deployment in 1956. It includes the coercive means to check the peacekeepers from performing their duties in accordance with the mandate. They may use force if it is in self-defense or while defending the mandate of the UNSC. It has also been observed in certain cases that the UNSC has allowed *use of all necessary means* whosoever jeopardizes either the political process or disturbs law and order of the land in addition to protecting the lives of civilians (United Nations Peacekeeping, 2018).

Peace enforcement must not be intermingled with *robust peacekeeping*. The former does not need the permission of the host nation and / or the main parties to the conflict and involves the use of force at international level. The later however, involves tactical level, use of force with the consent of the UNSC as well as the warring factions.

Pakistan's Quest for International Peace and Security Under the Ambit of United Nations Peace Keeping Missions

Use of force, is primarily a judgment, call used by the Force Commanders (FC) and several factors contribute to it. While using force, mission capability itself, safety of the personnel involved, the backlash expected from the public and above all the impact on the whole of the mission may be taken into account.

5. PAKISTAN'S CONTRIBUTIONS IN UN PEACEKEEPING MISSION

24 October is celebrated as the United Nations day however; these celebrations cannot be completed without acknowledging the sacrifice made by Pakistan Army in UN efforts of peacekeeping missions. Pakistan joined the United Nations on September 30, 1947, just over a month after its independence. Pakistan is committed to the cause of collective human security and wants a global system where upholding human dignity is the highest value and maintaining global peace a sacred duty. Pakistan envisages a world which is free of want, hunger and deprivation. A world that is full of justice, fair play governs the human affairs and inequality, oppression, and war are abhorred.

Over the last 70 years, Pakistan has put this vision into practice by making significant contributions to the principles and purposes of the UN Charter. It has been an ardent advocate of multilateralism and the primacy of the United Nations in international affairs (Pakistan Mission to United Nations, 2020).

5.1. Quest for Global Peace

Since its creation, Pakistan has played a significant role as UN member, in bringing peace through active diplomatic, moral and material support in various regions of the world. Therefore, this very day also reminds Pakistan Armed Forces role in UN Peacekeeping Operations (UNPKOs), during war and peace time. Hence, Pakistan Armed Forces are considered the best organized institution. Today, Pakistan's position as one of the largest troops contributing country in the world with one of the highest peacekeepers' casualty figure is testimony to its commitment and endeavors towards promoting the noble cause of global peace. It is not easy to achieve peace in world's conflict-ridden areas. But, Pakistan Army's history is replete with sacrifices, services to humanity and promoting collective human security for human prosperity (Shaukat, 2016).

The services rendered by Pakistan in UN mission earned an unchallenged status of worthiest troops in every peacekeeping operation (APP, 2015).

Pakistan's obligation towards upholding international peace and prosperity stems from the vision of its founding father Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah who said,

“Our foreign policy is one of friendliness and goodwill towards all the nations. We believe in ... honesty and fair play ... and are prepared to make our utmost contribution to the promotion of peace and prosperity. (We) will never be found lacking in extending (all out) support to the oppressed and suppressed peoples ... and in upholding the principles of United Nations Charter” (Anka, 2016).

And as per ex Chief of Army Staff,

“It is not easy to achieve and promote peace in conflict ridden regions of the world. Pakistan Army has been a ‘Catalyst for Peace’ with a history replete with services to humanity and promoting collective security ----- a *sine-qua-non* for human prosperity” (Pakistan Army, 2017).

Following the guidelines of its founding fathers, Pakistan's journey to support UNPKOs began in 1960 when Pakistan deployed its first contingent in UN operations in Congo and since then Pakistan has been the most significant and consistent contributor to UN peacekeeping around the world (Hafeez, 2018).

Pakistani troops are currently performing peacekeeping duties in Congo, Darfur, Haiti, Liberia, West Sahara, Central African Republic and Sudan. Largest deployment of Pakistani troops is in the UN peacekeeping mission in Congo commonly known as MONUC (Mission de l'Organisation de Nations Unies en République Démocratique du Congo (United Nations Observer Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo). All the UNPKOs are denoted by its acronym.

An undeniable professional standing of Pakistani forces has made them the passion of every Special Representative of Secretary General (SRSG) and Force Commander (FC) in every UN mission. There are, in fact, three categories of troops contributed to any UN peacekeeping mission. It includes, Military contingents, Military Staff Officers (MSO) and Military Observers (MILOBs). Pakistan contributes in all three categories. This scribe has been a member of MONUC as MILOB. Pakistani contingents have not only restored peace and stability but have also been a forerunner of “Winning Hearts and Minds (WHAM) Activities”. This includes community rehabilitation, restoration of communication infrastructure, arranging free medical camps, and much more.

UN former Secretary General Mr. Ban Ki Moon has acknowledged Pakistan's contributions towards the UN peacekeeping missions who himself visited Pakistan in 2013 and inaugurated the Centre for International Peace and Stability (CIPS) at National University of Science and Technology, Islamabad. While recognizing Pakistan's peacekeeping efforts the honorable guest said that more than hundred countries are involved in UN peacekeeping missions, but Pakistan stands out first. He went on saying that history of UN peacekeeping mission would be incomplete without emphasizing contribution of Pakistan (Khan, 2015).

Similarly, in early 2020, President of the UN General Assembly (UNGA) Maria Fernanda Espinosa said that Pakistan has made a remarkable contribution to UN peacekeeping missions around the world. She gave these remarks during her visit to CIPS. Espinosa termed Pakistan one of the largest countries to have contributed to bringing *peace in areas marred by insecurity and unrest*.

CIPS is a comprehensive training center of peacekeeping, peacebuilding and conflict resolution. It focuses on dispute resolution through peaceful and pacific means. The institute also offers Ph. D and Master programs (CIPS, 2018).

Pakistan's Quest for International Peace and Security Under the Ambit of United Nations Peace Keeping Missions

While acknowledging Pakistan's role back in early 60s during Dutch subjugation of Indonesia, Chinese first Premier Zhou Enlai said, "The -- example ---, when (the) UN force had gone in...completed its task sincerely and came out (winning), was Pakistan's military" (Shaukat, 2016). The contribution of Pakistan in the United Nations peacekeeping mission in Somalia, which marks 25 years in 2018, should be explored and documented, to promote goodwill on behalf of Pakistan and to draw lessons for further sharpening the idea of peacekeeping. These thoughts came in during a remembrance conversation in honor of the sacrifices of the peacemaking soldiers in Somalia from 1993 to 1995. The ceremony organized by the Pakistan Institute for Peace Studies (PIPS) paid rich tributes to the participation of Pakistan and Italy in the mission.

The deadliest mission for Pakistani troops in terms of lives lost was in Somalia in 1993. This mission was in multiple phases, with number of incidents. PIPS Director Muhammad Amir Rana recalled that it was "*not an ordinary mission*".² It involved direct combat, including Pakistanis and Italians. The sacrifices of Pakistanis are not to be forgotten. The rebels attacked the Pakistani troops from all sides costing Pakistan 24 lives, 52 wounded and 17 disabilities (Hussain, 2017).

Somali Ambassador to Pakistan Ms. Khadija al Makhzoomi paid rich tributes to the martyr soldiers, saying that Pakistan was the first country to have dispatched troops to Somalia. The Italian Ambassador to Pakistan Stefano Pontecorvo said the operation exemplified Pakistan-Italy relations. It was the Italian troops who rescued Pakistani troops when they were surrounded the rebels (Daily Times, 2018).

Pak Army's contributions in restoration of peace in the Middle East are also worth mentioning. In the backdrop of withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Kuwait in 1991, the UN Iraq-Kuwait Observer Mission (UNIKOM) was set up. This scribe has the honor to be part of the force deployed to prevent the onslaught of Iraqi forces. The force received admirations from all over the world for the devotion and its professionalism. When it comes to South East Asia, Pakistan military carried out peacekeeping operations from 1992 to 1993 while being part of the UN Transitional Authority on Cambodia (UNTAC) in the most difficult of terrains (Shaukat, 2016).

Throughout the 21st century, Pakistan has been maintaining its leading role as far as contributions to the UNPKOs are concerned. Its major contributions include UN Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL), Ivory Coast (UNOCI), Liberia (UNMIL), and Democratic Republic of Congo (MONUC / MONUSCO) (Rahman, 2014).

We may also take into account Pakistan's support to the international peace in South America. The country provided an infantry battalion in Haiti, known by its acronym 'PAKBAT'. The contingent was deployed in 1995 at Cape Haitien- the area that remained highly unstable due to political unrest and volatile security situation. The unit performed extremely well and restored peace through extensive patrolling all

² Pakistan institute for peace studies (PIPS) is a research and advocacy think-tank based in Islamabad, Pakistan.

over the area. All these contributions bear witness of Pakistan's role in restoring peace in some of the toughest regions of the world (Shaukat, 2016).

Pakistan is actively working with the international community in its fight against international terrorism. It has extended full support in fighting this scourge. Pakistan has suffered the most due to this menace. The entire Pakistani nation is united in its fight to eliminate terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. Pakistan has served seven times in the United Nations Security Council (UNSC). Peace and stability in Afghanistan, peacekeeping and counterterrorism are the special areas of interest to Pakistan. During its Presidency of the Council in January 2013, the country initiated two special debates, namely *comprehensive approach to counter-terrorism*; and the *UN Peacekeeping: a multidimensional approach*, which led to adoption of a landmark resolution on peacekeeping operations (CIPS, 2018).

Mr. Neil Buhne, Resident Coordinator of the UN in Pakistan termed Pakistan's role in the UNPKOs as extraordinary. He expressed these views in a radio interview. He appreciated not only the professional competence of Pakistani soldiers but also lauded the role as one of the largest contributors. Besides other mission commanders from Pakistan, he recalled that Lieutenant General Maqsood Ahmad has been the Military Adviser to the UNSG for UNPKOs until recently (2016) which is a testimony to Pakistan's commitments to the global peace. He highlighted that these appointments are not based on geographical location but on the basis of professionalism (Jabri, 2017).

On July 2, 2018, UN appreciated Pakistan Army's role in peacekeeping missions. The UN Under-Secretary-General Jean-Pierre Lacroix while calling on the Chief of Army Staff General Qamar Jawed Bajwa at the General Headquarters (GHQ) lauded the role of Pakistan in the words, "We value the sacrifices of the Pakistani nation. Pakistan is the largest contributor to UNPKOs". The visiting dignitary was assured that Pakistan will continue to play its due role in UNPKOs.

"We are --- grateful to Pakistan for a --- welcome and -- for Pakistan's outstanding contribution to the UN peacekeeping. This visit is -- an opportunity to pay tribute to (the) Pakistani peacekeepers who lost their lives (in the cause of humanity). We express --- thought for them and --- their families ... we also --- like to extend our--- gratitude to all the Pakistani peacekeepers --- serving in our missions" (Daily Times, 2018) (The UN Under- Secretary -General Jean-Pierre Lacroix).

6. ROLE OF PAKISTANI WOMEN IN UN PEACEKEEPING MISSIONS

As stated earlier, Pakistan's has been one of the largest troops contributing countries to the UNPKOs. Pakistani women are equally shouldering the responsibility of peacekeeping along with men. They are performing as doctors, police officers, and nurses. This women force has been instrumental in winning the confidence of the

Pakistan's Quest for International Peace and Security Under the Ambit of United Nations Peace Keeping Missions

local women and girls as they create conducive environment for the rehabilitation of the womenfolk.

Deputy Superintendent of police commonly known as Civ Pol (Civil Police) as per the UN terminology, the first-ever UN International Female Police Peacekeeper award was given to Shahzadi Gulfam from Pakistan in 2011 for her outstanding performance. Pakistani police officers while serving in the UN missions bring a cultural change in their department besides getting a chance to serve again on the UN missions in prestigious appointments. One of the Deputy Police Advisors at the UNHQ has served twice as Civ Pol in the UN missions.

CIPS in collaboration with the UN Women (the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women) has been imparting pre-deployment training to the Pakistani UN peacekeepers to ensure gender responsive UNPKOs, a sine quo non in gender perspectives while working under the banner of the UN. Gender-sensitive 'policing' is necessary to address the security needs on gender basis. This is also essential from the point of view of responding to sexual violence in conflict zone and human rights abuses. The training modules are based on actual scenarios (case studies) so as to enable the peacekeepers to bring out practical solutions to gender-sensitive transformation after the conflict (United Nations, 2016).

7. RATIONALE BEHIND PAKISTAN PARTICIPATION IN UN PEACEKEEPING MISSION

The decision making to contribute troops to the UNPKOs lies primarily with the Prime Minister. Based on the input from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA), the decision is made while taking several factors into account. This includes the Mission mandate, parties to the conflict and geopolitical environment of the conflict zone (Rahman, 2014).

Political Imperatives: MOFA normally favors the contributions to UNPKOs as it considers it an essential tool for *maintaining international peace and stability*. This also enhances Pakistan's diplomatic profile at the UN besides helping Pakistan exhibiting its *commitment to peace around the globe*.

Economic Benefits: It is estimated that an amount of US\$220 million per annum is roughly earned by Pakistan from its participation in UNPKOs. The contribution to the national exchequer may not be meaningful but at the individual level, it is once in a lifetime opportunity for somewhat better livelihood of a soldier, as the selection procedure entails only one chance for serving at the UN missions abroad. It is also noteworthy that all UN remunerations go directly to the individual bank accounts and the government does not deduct any amount from these payments. It is true that the individuals get paid well but it is at the perils of their lives. About 137 officers and soldiers have so far laid down their lives in the cause of service to humanity. Moreover, families of these troops deployed abroad also suffer due to their long absence from family lives. The children also suffer, and their upbringing and education is affected.

Security Compulsions: Pakistan also views its participation in UN missions as a counterbalance to India's ambitions at the regional and global level. Due to Pakistan's active involvement in the UNPKOs, it has a "say" in the world affairs and persistently raises voice at the UNSC on the issue of Kashmir. Pakistan considers UN Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP) as a key actor to have kept the Kashmir issue alive at the international fora despite India's opposition to it.

Institutional Response: The Military brass considers it a national obligation to contribute troops to the UN missions abroad. The participation is considered in institutional interest. Pakistan Army has always been a significant player in state-building such as internal security, natural calamities and development of communication infrastructure. It also has experience implementing quick-impact projects in troubled zones within the country. Pakistan army is, therefore, very well suited to undertake UN peace-building tasks.

Participation in UNPKOs has provided Pakistan with vital international experience in emergency medical and engineering services, aviation, and de-mining etc. It has also enabled Pakistan to explore new avenues in non-UN peacekeeping missions. For instance, Pakistan has been the only non-European country to contribute troops to the NATO-led Implementation Force (IFOR) in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

8. CONCLUSION

The foundation of the UN was laid to provide international platform for policy making and execution of policy. It is aimed to remove the uncertainty in a constantly changing world. Symbolic in nature, the UN emblem in itself represents a quest for a unified secure world. It is the place where you can convert words into action. Due to its presence, the world is now more *secure place to live* (Thakur, 2006).

After the successful operations completed in Namibia and other regions, the UN was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1988, which earned it a good reputation in the world.(Chawla Shalini 2001) In the operation, the mandate in Namibian was very complex and diverse in terms of the task assigned to the peacekeepers ranging from administration and conduct of elections and referendums. Similarly, in Western Sahara the task assigned was to release the political detainees. As of today, the Peacekeeping has a long history transformation with unique characteristics. Neutrality is the central theme of any UN peacekeeping mission. Therefore, the use of military boots is non-coercive and is volunteer in nature as well. It is primarily limited by the mandate assigned and has to work without the pressures of the big powers. The UN, however, architecting a system of collective security, immune the permanent members of UNSC from cardinal responsibility while keeping their sovereignty intact. By granting this immunity the UN Charter tried to guard it from any sought of transgression. At this same point, they failed to defend the member states, major or minor, against the sole alarming hostility. To make it a success, it looks forward to the continuous support of the international community.

Pakistan's Quest for International Peace and Security Under the Ambit of United Nations Peace Keeping Missions

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Pakistan's Quest for International Peace and Security Under the Ambit of United Nations Peace Keeping Missions

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