



# BACKGROUND NOTE\*

## United Nations Peacekeeping

### VITAL

#### A central element of international conflict response

- ◆ UN peacekeeping provides essential security and support to millions of people as well as fragile institutions emerging from conflict.
- ◆ Peacekeepers deploy to war-torn regions where no one else is willing or able to go and prevent conflict from returning or escalating.
- ◆ The international character of UN Security Council-authorized peacekeeping missions provides unparalleled legitimacy to any UN peace operation.
- ◆ UN peacekeeping is an impartial and widely accepted vehicle for both burden-sharing and effective action.
- ◆ UN peacekeeping provides a secure environment that enables peace efforts to proceed; but it is not the only solution to every crisis situation.
- ◆ Peacekeeping supports a peace process; it is not a substitute for one.
- ◆ “The other alternative to the UN is that we do nothing and that these conflicts fester, spill over, and create an environment where criminals can operate and where terrorists can find a safe haven.” Ambassador Susan Rice, U.S. Permanent Representative – “Can UN Keep the Peace” [<http://www.pbs.org/now/shows/520/index.html>]

### ROBUST

#### A massive enterprise

- ◆ The UN is the largest multilateral contributor to post-conflict stabilization worldwide. Only the United States deploys more military personnel to the field than the United Nations.
- ◆ As of 31 January 2012, there were almost 121,000 personnel serving on 16 peace operations led by the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) on four continents directly impacting the lives of hundreds of millions of people. This represents a nine fold increase in UN peacekeepers since 1999.
- ◆ In addition, the Department of Field Support (DFS) – which provides support and expertise in the areas of personnel, finance and budget, communications, information technology and logistics - supports another 15 special political and/or peacebuilding field missions managed by the Department of Political Affairs, as well as a number of other UN peace offices requiring administrative and logistical assistance from UN Headquarters.
- ◆ The UN does not have its own military force; it depends on contributions from Member States. As of 31 January 2012, 115 countries contributed military and police personnel to UN peacekeeping.
- ◆ More than 84,000 of those serving were troops and military observers and about 14,500 were police personnel. In addition, there were more than 5,500 international civilian personnel, nearly 12,500 local civilian staff and some 2,300 UN Volunteers from over 160 nations.

### EFFECTIVE

#### A high success rate

- ◆ Since 1948, UN peacekeepers have undertaken 66 field missions, which, among many other things, enabled people in dozens of countries to participate in free and fair elections; and helped disarm more than 400,000 ex-combatants in the past decade alone.
- ◆ “With the proper mandate and resources, peacekeepers can be a pivotal force in encouraging slow, steady progress in some of the world’s weakest states.” [[www.foreignpolicy.com/story/cms.php?story\\_id=4350&page=2](http://www.foreignpolicy.com/story/cms.php?story_id=4350&page=2)]
- ◆ The UN is an efficient and cost-effective force provider. Its specialists, particularly in integrated missions, possess a wide range of civil and military capabilities needed to stabilize and help develop post-conflict situations. <sup>i</sup>

#### Footnote:

\* In January 2011 the title of this document was renamed from ‘UN Peacekeeping Factsheet’ to ‘UN Peacekeeping Background Note’



## COST EFFECTIVE

### UN peacekeeping is inexpensive

- ◆ UN peace operations cost much less than other forms of international intervention and their costs are shared more equitably among UN Member States.
- ◆ The approved peacekeeping budget for the period from 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2012 is approximately US \$7.84 billion. This represents less than 0.5 per cent of global military spending (estimated at US\$1.630 trillion in 2010).
- ◆ When costs to the UN per peacekeeper are compared to the costs of troops deployed by the United States, other developed states, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) or regional organizations, the United Nations is the least expensive option by far. <sup>ii</sup>
- ◆ A survey by Oxford University economists found that international military intervention under Chapter VII of the UN Charter is the most cost-effective means of preventing a return to war in post-conflict societies. <sup>iii</sup>
- ◆ A study by the US Government Accountability Office estimated that it would cost the United States approximately twice as much as the UN to conduct a peacekeeping operation similar to the UN Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) – \$876 million compared to the UN budgeted \$428 million for the first 14 months of the mission.<sup>iv</sup>
- ◆ “If the US was to act on its own – unilaterally – and deploy its own forces in many of these countries; for every dollar that the US would spend, the UN can accomplish the Mission for twelve cents.” [Ambassador Susan Rice, U.S. Permanent Representative – “Can UN Keep the Peace” <http://www.pbs.org/now/shows/520/index.html>]



## DYNAMIC

### UN peacekeeping continues to evolve

- ◆ In addition to maintaining peace and security, peacekeepers are increasingly charged with assisting in political processes, reforming judicial systems, training law enforcement and police forces, disarming and reintegrating former combatants, and supporting the return of internally displaced persons and refugees.
- ◆ UN electoral assistance has become an increasingly essential feature in UN peace operations. UN peace missions have supported elections in several post-conflict countries, including Nepal, Afghanistan, Burundi, Côte d’Ivoire, Haiti, Iraq, Liberia, the DRC, Sudan and Timor-Leste, with populations totalling over 120 million people, giving more than 57 million registered voters the chance to exercise their democratic rights.
- ◆ The UN increasingly works in peacekeeping partnerships with other international and regional organizations, such as the African Union (AU), the Economic Community of the West African States (ECOWAS) or the European Union (EU), for maximum effect.
- ◆ Holding its personnel accountable to the highest standards of behavior is a major priority for UN peacekeeping. The UN has adopted a comprehensive three-pronged strategy (prevention, enforcement and remediation) to address the issue of sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) by UN personnel, has established conduct and discipline units at Headquarters and in the field, and is working with its troop-contributing countries to ensure that the troops strictly abide by the Secretary-General’s zero tolerance policy against SEA.
- ◆ “We are painfully aware that SEA continues to be a major challenge for the peacekeeping family and one of our goals is to take every possible preventative measure to ensure no harm comes to those we serve,” said Susana Malcorra, Under-Secretary-General for the Department of Field Support.
- ◆ “The vast majority of troops conduct themselves in a professional and admirable manner, but there are some instances where misconduct occurs. This is simply unacceptable when you serve under the UN flag and we convey this message on every interaction we have with our Troop Contributing Countries, with whom we are working closely,” added Alain Le Roy, Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations.

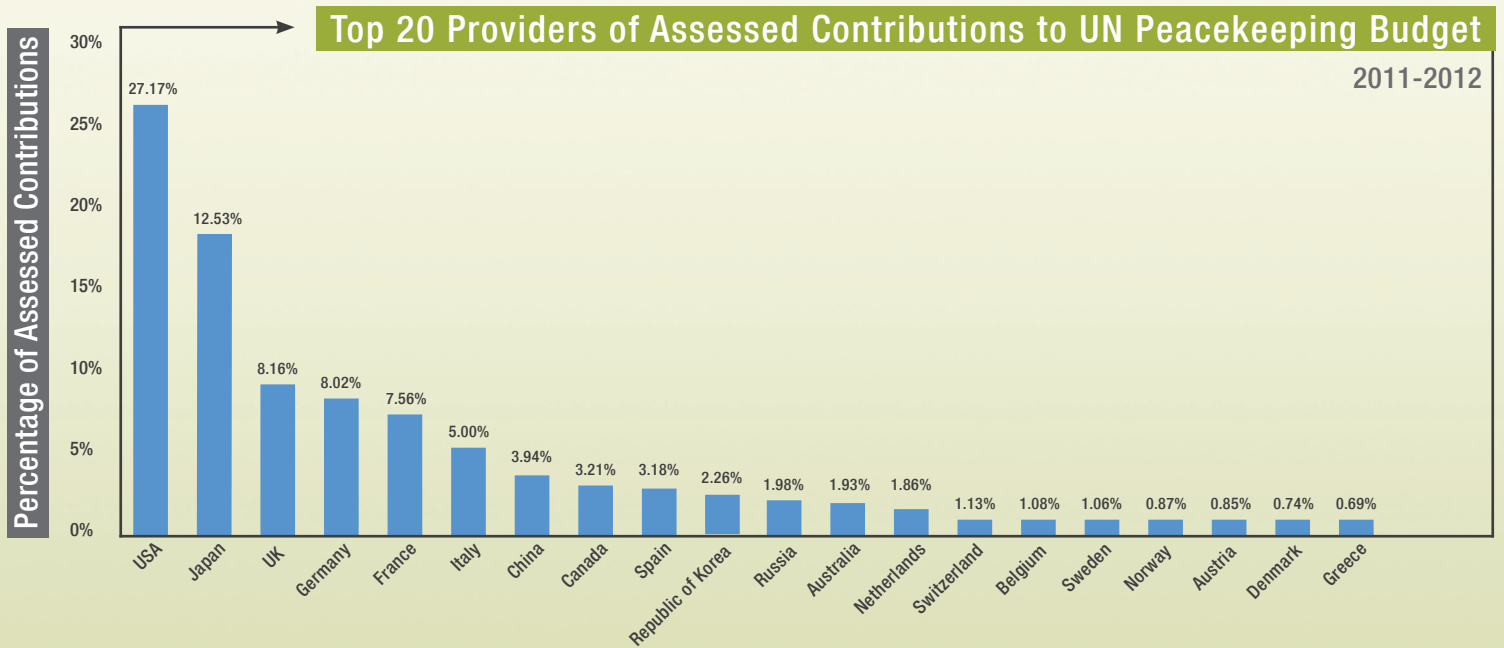
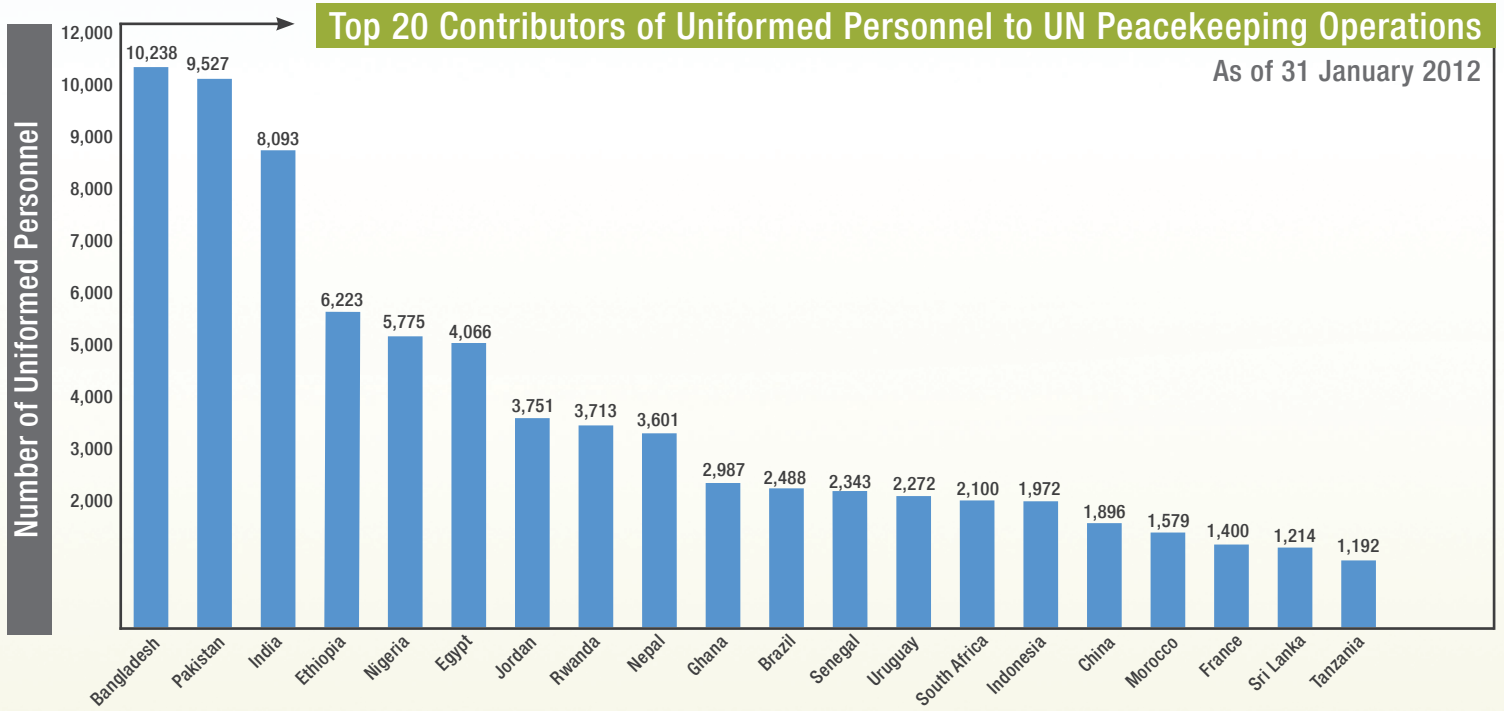


## WOMEN IN PEACEKEEPING

- ◆ The need for women peacekeepers is more pressing than ever. In many cases, women are better-placed to carry out a number of crucial peacekeeping tasks, including interviewing victims of sexual and gender-based violence, working in women’s prisons, assisting female ex-combatants during the process of demobilizing and reintegration into civilian life and mentoring female cadets at police academies.
- ◆ The percentage of women deployed as civilians in peacekeeping operations has reached 30 per cent. Currently, two women lead peace operations as Special Representatives of the Secretary-General (SRSG) and three women are Deputy SRSGs.
- ◆ Although progress has been slower with the uniformed components of UN peacekeeping operations, the UN continues to engage with Police and Troop Contributing Countries in efforts to increase the numbers of uniformed women in peacekeep-

ing operations. Nine per cent of the 14,000 police officers and two per cent of the 85,000 military personnel are women.

- ◆ The first all-women contingent to serve in a peacekeeping mission, a Formed Police Unit from India, was deployed in 2007 to the UN operation in Liberia. Since then, three more all-female UN police units have been deployed: Bangladeshi in Haiti, Samoan in Timor and Rwandans in Sudan. More recently, a woman has been appointed as a Deputy Force Commander.



## Current DPKO-led Peace Missions (as of 31 January 2012)

Year Launched	Location	Name of Mission
1948	MIDDLE EAST	UNTSO – UN Truce Supervision Organization
1949	INDIA/PAKISTAN	UNMOGIP – UN Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan
1964	CYPRUS	UNFICYP – UN Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus
1974	SYRIA	UNDOF – UN Disengagement Observer Force
1978	LEBANON	UNIFIL – UN Interim Force in Lebanon
1991	WESTERN SAHARA	MINURSO – UN Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara
1999	KOSOVO	UNMIK – UN Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo
2002	AFGHANISTAN*	UNAMA – UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan
2003	LIBERIA	UNMIL – UN Mission in Liberia
2004	CÔTE D'IVOIRE	UNOCI – UN Operation in Côte d'Ivoire
2004	HAITI	MINUSTAH – UN Stabilization Mission in Haiti
2006	TIMOR-LESTE	UNMIT – UN Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste
2007	DARFUR, SUDAN	UNAMID – AU-UN Hybrid Operation in Darfur
2010	THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO	MONUSCO – UN Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo
2011	ABYEI, SUDAN	UNISFA – UN Interim Security Force for Abyei
2011	SOUTH SUDAN	UNMISS – UN Mission in the Republic of South Sudan
	*political missions directed by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations	

## Endnotes

- i. James Dobbins et al., “The Beginner’s Guide to Nation-Building”, RAND Corporation, 2007.
- ii. William J. Durch et al., “The Brahimi Report and the Future of UN Peace Operations”, The Henry L. Stimson Center, 2003.
- iii. Paul Collier and Anke Hoeffler, “The Challenge of Reducing the Global Incidence of Civil War”, Centre for the Study of African Economies, Department of Economics, Oxford University, 26 March 2004.
- iv. “Peacekeeping: Cost Comparison of Actual UN and Hypothetical U.S. Operations in Haiti”, United States Government Accountability Office, Report to the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, Committee on International Relations, House of Representatives, GAO-06-331, February 2006, p. 7.