



FACT SHEET

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.
- ◆ There are almost 116,000 personnel serving on 17 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 an eight 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 peace-building 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 30 April 2009, 117 countries contributed military and police personnel to UN peacekeeping.
- ◆ More than 82,000 of those serving were troops and military observers and about 10,000 were police personnel. In addition, there were more than 6,000 international civilian personnel, nearly 15,000 local civilian staff and some 2,200 UN Volunteers from over 160 nations.

EFFECTIVE

A high success rate

- ◆ Since 1945, UN peacekeepers have undertaken 63 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]
- ◆ 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. ⁱ



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 2008 to 30 June 2009 is approximately US \$7.1 billion. This represents about 0.5 per cent of global military spending (estimated at US\$1,232 trillion)
- ◆ 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. ⁱⁱ
- ◆ A recent 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. ⁱⁱⁱ
- ◆ 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.^{iv}
- ◆ “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/shows/520/index.html>]



DYNAMIC

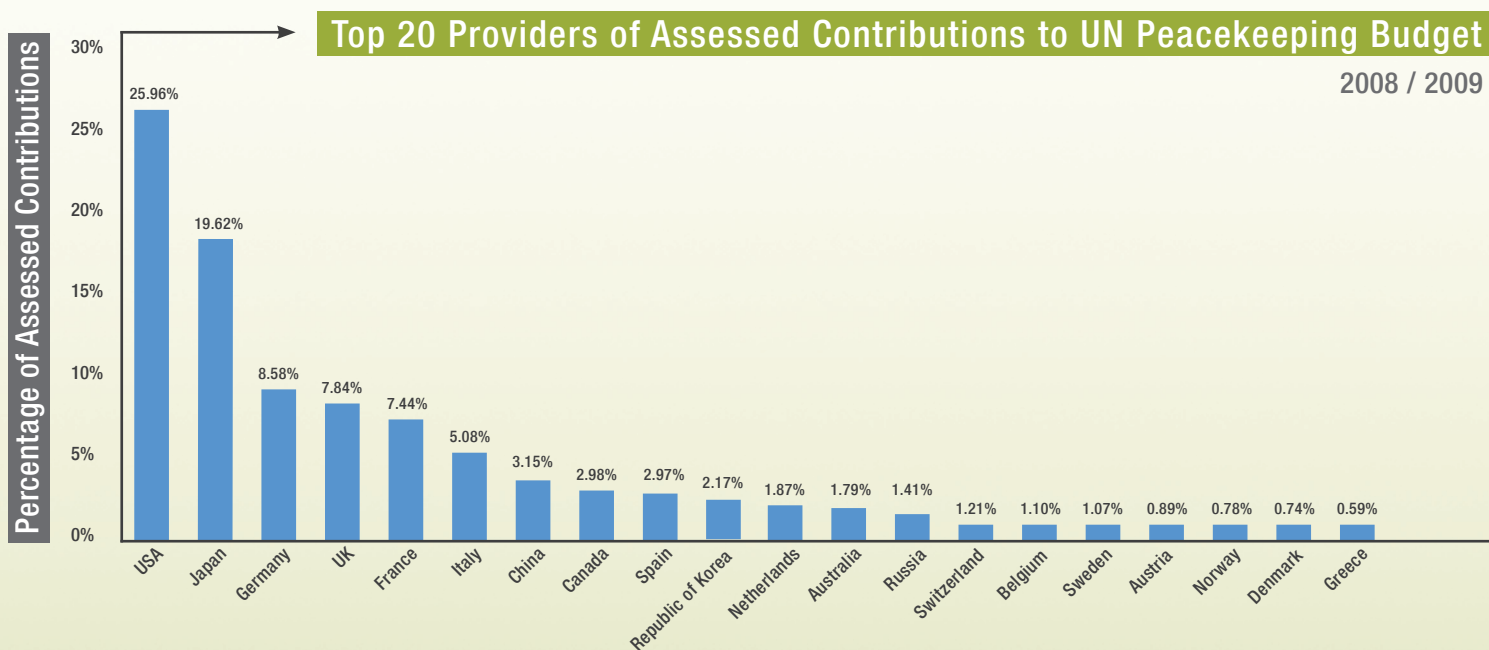
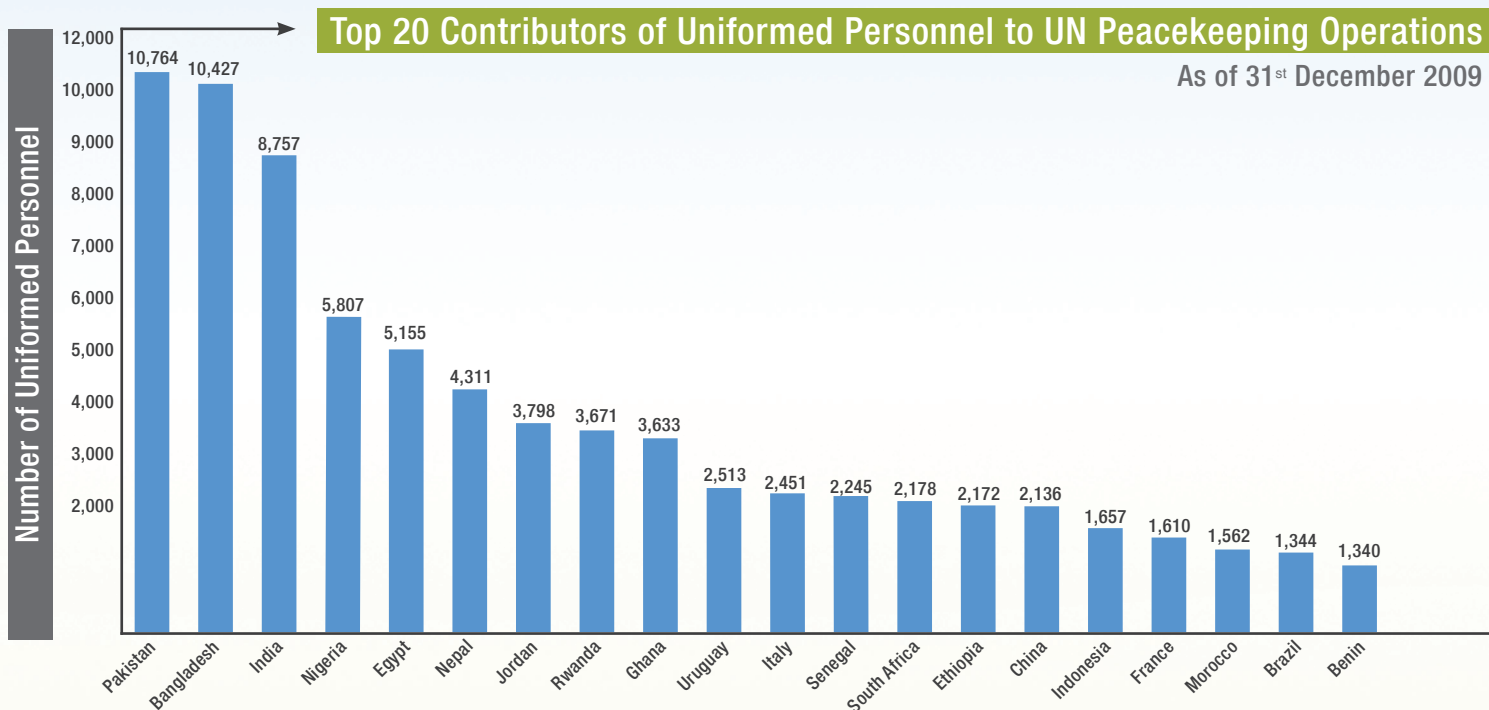
UN peacekeeping continues to evolve

- ◆ 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, Haiti, Iraq, Liberia, the DRC and Timor-Leste, with populations totaling 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) 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.
- ◆ SEA allegations have decreased for the third consecutive year. Allegations declined 35 percent to 83 in 2008, from 127 in 2007. This compares to 357 such allegations in 2006.



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, one woman leads a peace operation as a Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) and four 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 peacekeeping operations. Eight per cent of the 10,000 police officers and two per cent of the 80,000 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. More recently, a woman has been appointed as a Deputy Force Commander.



Current DPKO-led Peace Missions

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
1999	DEMOCRATIC REP. OF CONGO	MONUC— UN Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo
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
2005	SUDAN	UNMIS — UN Mission in the Sudan
2006	TIMOR-LESTE	UNMIT — UN Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste
2007	BURUNDI	BINUB — UN Integrated Office in Burundi
2007	DARFUR (Sudan)	UNAMID —AU-UN Hybrid Operation in Darfur
2007	CENTRAL AFRICAN REP./CHAD	MINURCAT— UN Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad

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.