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Peacekeeping Operations

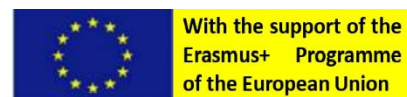
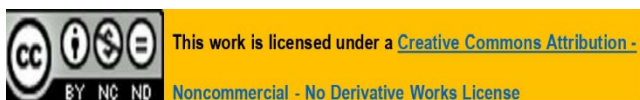
SLIDE 1

Hello, welcome. I'm Maria Carro and in this video, I'm going to talk about Peacekeeping Operations within the United Nations.

SLIDE 2

Peacekeeping Operations are one of the most effective tools the United Nations has to assist countries in conflict. They are not, however, sanctions measures involving the use of armed force, such as those that the Security Council can adopt.

These operations involve the deployment of armed contingents from several member states known as Blue Helmets. They operate under a United Nations mandate and require the prior consent of the State on whose territory they are deployed, as well as the cooperation of all parties involved. They are therefore not provided for in any provision of the Charter but depend on such consent.



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The origin of this instrument can be traced back to the Cold War when the Security Council was blocked by the exercise of the right of veto by the permanent member states.

SLIDE 3

The rationale for these operations is to achieve the primary purpose of the United Nations, i.e. to promote and maintain a peaceful settlement of the situation.

To establish them, a political agreement was reached in the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations, whereby the Security Council is competent to establish, direct and control such operations, including the number of military and civilian personnel to be deployed, the mandate and duration of the Operation, as well as the authorisation of the use of force if necessary.

The Secretary General is the commander of each Operation, and is responsible for negotiating with Member States, as well as directing the operation in question.

The issue of financing was controversial at the outset, until the International Court of Justice in 1992 issued an advisory opinion stating that the costs of these operations were United Nations expenses and therefore distributable on a pro rata basis among its members.

SLIDE 4

Peacekeeping operations are subject to three basic principles. Firstly, the creation, formation and maintenance of the armed contingents that make up each operation are subject to the prior consent of the state concerned. This distinguishes them from the coercive sanctions of Article 42 of the Charter.

The second principle is that of impartiality, which means that each Peacekeeping operation must carry out its mandate without favouring or prejudicing the interests of any of the parties to the conflict. But impartiality must not mean neutrality, which means that they must intervene using force when there are violations of a peace agreement, or of the norms and principles that, according to their mandate, the Operation is obliged to ensure respect for, in particular in terms of human rights and international humanitarian law.

The last principle is the non-use of armed force. During the Cold War, Peacekeeping operations were always prohibited from using force, except in cases of self-defence. Subsequently, in practice, military components of these Operations continue to be authorised to use armed force in self-defence, although the Security Council, acting under Chapter VII, has extended this authorisation to the self-defence of civilian components as well as to the defence of their mandate. Where the use of force

has been authorised, mixed peacekeeping and peace-enforcement operations, i.e., authorised peacekeeping operations, have been established.

By way of illustration, the Resolutions adopted for the missions in Sierra Leone and East Timor in 1999 authorised the "use of all necessary means, within their capabilities and areas of deployment" to protect both PMO personnel and facilities and the civilian population.

SLIDE 5

Briefly, it should be noted that during the Cold War, thirteen Operations were established whose mandate was limited to monitoring ceasefires or intervening between the contending sides to try to keep the peace. Since then, the number of Operations has increased. Currently, the map and data you see are taken from the official United Nations Peacekeeping website which indicates that, since 1948, seventy-one operations have taken place. With the latest data from two thousand and twenty-one, there are twelve active operations.

I hope you found this video on United Nations Peacekeeping Operations interesting.

That is all I had to say.

Thank you very much for your attention.