



## **HOW A PEACEKEEPING OPERATION IS FORMED**

To start the year 2012, it becomes important to remember how a Peacekeeping Operation is formed under the mandate of the United Nations. The structure of a Peacekeeping Mission is extremely complex, so understanding it from its genesis is very important.

The evolution of a Peacekeeping Operation involves several phases, starting from Preemptive Diplomacy and ending with Peace building. On this context, the different phases interact and can also superpose, vary, change and even return to previous points, so the correct comprehension of this dynamic is an important tool to analyze this type of international deployments.

According to the previous, there are a series of well defined phases originated on a specific place of the world where a conflict exists, which must be intervened according to the following series of actions and diligences.

### Formation of a new operation

The Security Council is responsible of deciding about the deployment of a new United Nations Peacekeeping Operation. This decision is adopted after fulfilling a series of steps.

## a) Initial consultation

When a conflict is generated or worsens, or a solution seems to be near, the United Nations frequently participates on a series of consultations to determine the best answer to the international community. On this consultations can intervene the following:

All pertinent actors from the United Nations.

The possible host government and field actors.

Member States, including the States that may contribute with military and police contingents to a Peacekeeping Operation.

Regional organizations and other intergovernmental organizations.

Other pertinent external associates.

During this initial phase, the Secretary General can request a strategic evaluation to identify all the possible participation options of the United Nations.

## b) Technical field evaluation.

As soon as the security conditions allow it, the Secretary General frequently deploys a technical evaluation mission over the country or territory in which a Peacekeeping Operation is contemplated. This mission analyzes and evaluates the general internal situation and security of the conflict area, and also the humanitarian context and human rights over the terrain and their implications on a possible operation. Over the base of the conclusions and recommendations of the evaluation mission, the Secretary General issues a report to the Security Council. On this report are presented the different options for the correct establishment of a Peacekeeping Operation, including its scope and resources. The report also contains information about financial consequences and a preliminary estimate of

implicit costs.

c) Security Council Resolution

If the Security Council determines that the deployment of a Peacekeeping Operation is the most appropriate option, it formally authorized it by the adoption of a resolution. The resolution establishes the mandate and scope of the operation, and lists the duties to be performed.

After that, the budget and resources are presented for the approval of the Organization's General Assembly.

d) Appointment of senior officials.

The Secretary General usually appoints a Chief of Mission, generally a Special Representative (SRSG), to manage the Peacekeeping Operation. The Chief of Mission is responsible of informing the Under Secretary General for Peacekeeping Operations in the United Nations Headquarters.

The Secretary General also appoints a Force Commander and Police Commissioner, and a team of high level civilians. The Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) and the Department of Field Support (DFS) are later in charge of recruiting the civilian personnel for the operation.

e) Planning and deployment

Meanwhile, the Chief of Mission, DPKO and DFS are in charge of planning the political, military, operational and support aspects (the logistics and administration) of the operation. The planning phase usually implies the establishment of a joint work group or an integrated work force established at the United Nations Headquarters, with the participation of all departments and funds pertinent to the Organization.

#### f) Deployment

Next, the deployment is carried out as quickly as possible, considering the security and political conditions in the field.

It is often started with an advance team to establish the mission headquarters and manage the gradual increase of personnel until all components and regions are covered, according to the mandate.

Regarding the formation of forces, it is inferred that the United Nations does not have a permanent army or an own police force, so the Members States are requested to provide the necessary military and police personnel for each operation. This personnel is dressed into its country uniform and is only identified as United Nations Peacekeeping Force by the blue helmet or beret with a badge.

Civilian personnel of Peacekeeping Operations is formed by international public workers, recruited and deployed by the United Nations Secretary's Office.

#### g) Reports to the Security Council

The Secretary General later presents periodical reports to the Security Council about the fulfillment of the mandate of the mission. The Security Council examines this reports and summaries and updates and adjusts the mission's mandate as necessary, until it ends, is canceled or extended, according the evolution of the mission area.

In conclusion, Peacekeeping Operations exist to stabilize, by different tools oriented to the protection of human persons, a specific place that not necessarily has to be a country, because according to the tendencies of the last half of the XX century, this type of missions have generally mutated from inter-state conflicts to intra-state ones, which implies that the victims of this social phenomena is civilian population

and all its derivatives.

The United Nations, on this context, counts with a well implemented structure that without the direct support of Member States could not complete its paramount objective, which is to maintain human peace and security on the planet.