UNITED NATIONS PEACEKEEPING

Prospects in the Multipolar World

Adapting to Geopolitical Paralysis and Global Instability

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EVOLUTION OF PEACE OPERATIONS

Cold War Era

Bipolar rivalry; neutral monitoring of ceasefires and buffer zones.

Post-Cold War

An Agenda for Peace (1992); expansion into multidimensional mandates.

Systemic Reform

Brahimi Report (2000); Capstone Doctrine; robust peacekeeping and use of force.

Modern Era

New Agenda for Peace (2023); Networked multilateralism and primacy of politics.

A SYSTEM UNDER STRAIN

Geopolitical Paralysis

- Security Council division ruled out missions in sensitive conflicts like Syria.
- Disregard for international law in strategic competition.
- Erosion of neutrality and impartiality norms.

Financial Collapse

- Unpaid assessments reached **$1.57 Billion** by early 2026.
- The United States responsible for approx. 95% of regular budget debt.
- Mandatory 15% budget cuts and 25% personnel reductions.

PERFORMANCE EVALUATION

50%

Reduction in War Recurrence

Presence of UN missions significantly deters the resumption of civil war.

17%

Long-term Success Rate

Missions lasting >10 years show drastically lower effectiveness.

The Capability-Expectations Gap: Broad objectives often lack the standardized command and resources required for success, leading to mission failure and eroded trust.

MODERN SECURITY CHALLENGES



Technology

Weaponized AI, drones, and quantum tech in the hands of non-state actors.



Climate Risks

Resource competition and displacement exacerbating local conflict triggers.



Fragmented Crime

Transnational organized crime and weaponized misinformation undermining peace.

"A 28% rise in state-based conflicts over the past decade recorded the highest levels of battle deaths since 1989."

A PARADIGM SHIFT

The Modular Subsidiarity Model

Instead of massive, unsustainable multidimensional missions, the UN must transition to:

- **Specialized Modules:** Target specific tasks (cybersecurity, human rights, mine action).
- **Regional Subsidiarity:** Facilitate interventions by regional actors like the African Union (Resolution 2719).
- **Strategic Autonomy:** Grant field missions power to adjust to ground realities independently.



Questions?

United Nations Peace Keeping

"Only by aligning universal ambitions with operational realities can the UN preserve its credibility in a fragmented world."
