

1. “Peace missions today are increasingly called on to confront politically complex and challenging conflicts, often in volatile security environments, where even operations are directly targeted”. In this context review the U.N peacekeeping missions. (150 words)

Answer:

Peacekeeping has proven to be one of the most effective tools available to the UN to assist host countries navigate the difficult path from conflict to peace. Peacekeeping has unique strengths, including legitimacy, burden sharing, and an ability to deploy and sustain troops and police from around the globe, integrating them with civilian peacekeepers to advance multidimensional mandates.

The landmark Brahimi report of 2000 charted a renewed vision for UN peacekeeping that helped make peacekeeping stronger, more effective and comparatively cost-efficient. These reforms enabled a five-fold growth in operations over the past decade. But United Nations peacekeeping is now at a crossroads. The scale and complexity of peacekeeping today are straining its personnel, administrative and support machinery. New political, military and financial challenges threaten to erode the unity of vision and purpose of the global peacekeeping partnership. A renewed partnership and a shared agenda are essential to ensuring that UN peacekeeping can meet the challenges of today and tomorrow.

UN Peacekeeping is guided by three basic principles:

- 1) Consent of the parties;
- 2) Impartiality;
- 3) Non-use of force except in self-defence and defence of the mandate.

Peacekeeping is flexible and over the past two decades has been deployed in many configurations. There are currently 16 UN peacekeeping operations deployed on four continents.

The challenges of today and tomorrow

With over 116,000 deployed personnel across 15 missions, the scale of UN peacekeeping today is unprecedented. The diversity of mission mandates stretches the UN’s capacity to deliver on all tasks. Personnel, logistics, finance and administration systems are struggling to support operations in some of the world’s most inhospitable terrain. The necessary military capabilities are increasingly scarce in the face of rising global demand. New peacekeeping tasks require high numbers of police and civilian specialists, experts that are in limited supply both at home and abroad. The budget has soared to nearly \$7.8 billion a year at the same time as the global economic crisis has diminished overall available resources. And there is no sign that the need for peacekeeping will diminish. Threats such as environmental changes, economic shocks, transnational crime and extremism threaten many States and contribute to growing political and security instability.

Today’s multidimensional peacekeeping operations are called upon not only to maintain peace and security, but also to facilitate the political process, protect civilians, assist in the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of former

combatants; support the organization of elections, protect and promote human rights and assist in restoring the rule of law.

Success is never guaranteed, because UN Peacekeeping almost by definition goes to the most physically and politically difficult environments. However, we have built up a demonstrable record of success over our 60 years of existence, including winning the Nobel Peace Prize.

UN Peacekeeping Reform:

In 2000, the UN started a major exercise to analyze its peacekeeping experience, and introduce a series of reforms to strengthen its capacity to manage and sustain field operations.

Peacekeeping has always been highly dynamic and has evolved in the face of new challenges. Recently, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon established a 17-member High-level Independent Panel on UN Peace Operations to make a comprehensive assessment of the state of UN peace operations today, and the emerging needs of the future.

Road map of reform includes:

Partnership in purpose-A shared vision of the purpose of UN peacekeeping is a prerequisite for capable and effective action on the ground. To strengthen the direction, planning and management of UN peacekeeping, we need a renewed partnership in purpose based on the unity and cohesion of all stakeholders. This partnership can be strengthened through:

- Clear political strategy and direction
- Cohesive mission planning and management

Partnership in action - Successful UN peacekeeping depends on the ability to deliver timely and practical results on the ground. To enhance delivery and confidence in UN peacekeeping to implement the tasks it has been assigned, we need a renewed partnership in action.

- Rapid and faster deployment, which is critical to the early establishment of security and to the credibility of a peacekeeping mission.
- Clarity and delivery on critical roles- The future of UN peacekeeping depends on its ability to manage volatile environments, to take on varied tasks to support States and populations in managing threats to peace, and to help put in place the critical early foundations for sustainable peace.
- Crisis management - Timely, accurate and detailed security risk assessments can provide early warning of an emerging threat and help ensure the safety and security of missions and personnel.

Partnership for the future- UN peacekeeping requires dependable and sustainable capabilities in order to meet the challenges of today and tomorrow. To build the capacity of UN peacekeeping to continue to serve as a global peace and security instrument, there is a need for a partnership for the future. This partnership can be strengthened through:

- Projecting future needs: Unknown future demands and uncertainty about available global resources render the task of defining the future needs of UN peacekeeping inherently difficult.
- A capability-driven approach: Current and likely future demands for UN peacekeeping require a high degree of mobility and specialization of military, police and civilian capabilities. Identifying, recruiting and retaining diverse police and civilian specialists for newer peacekeeping tasks are particular challenges.
- Expanding the peacekeeping partnership: UN peacekeeping cannot rely heavily on a small number of significant contributors. An expanded base of troop- and police-contributing countries is required to enhance collective burden-sharing and to meet future requirements.
- A new field support strategy: The complex, fast-paced nature of UN peacekeeping today requires a new approach that emphasizes innovation, flexibility and accountability in support systems.

PRACTICE QUESTIONS

Answer the following Questions

1. With a number of issues continuing to be a roadblock, a large section of India's rural population is still 'financially excluded'. Discuss. Analyse how these issues can be addressed and the measures taken by the government and RBI recently in this regard. (150 words)
2. What do you understand by the term 'Environmental Accounting'? Discussing the rationale behind introducing environmental accounting, highlight its status in India. (150 words)