United Nations Security Council (UNSC) Background Guide

I. Supporting Global Cooperation on Artificial Intelligence

II. Threats to International Security and Peace: Peacebuilding in Unstable and Sensitive Regions

Cleveland Council on WORLD AFFAIRS

United Nations Security Council Background Guide

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The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) is the primary global organization for the maintenance of international peace and security. It has 15 members, and each member has one vote. The Security Council has five permanent members—the United States, China, France, Russia, and the United Kingdom—collectively known as the P5. Each of these states retains the right to veto a resolution. The Security Council's ten elected members serve two-year, nonconsecutive terms and are voted in by the General Assembly.[1] A 1963 reform increased membership from 11 to 15 and set geographic parameters on members, requiring that the 10 remaining seats be allocated as follows: five from African and Asian states, one from Eastern European states, two from Latin American states, and two from Western European and other states.[2] All UNSC resolutions are binding, meaning all member states have agreed to implement the decisions.

Under the United Nations Charter, the Security Council takes the lead in distinguishing if a conflict is classified as a threat to the peace or an act of aggression. It is tasked with calling the conflicting parties to settle it by peaceful means and recommending methods of adjustment or terms of settlement.[3] If these methods fail, the Security Council can, in some cases, resort to imposing sanctions or authorizing the use of force to maintain or restore international peace and security.[4]

I.   Supporting Global Cooperation on Artificial Intelligence

Statement of the Issue:

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[1] "The UN Security Council." Council on Foreign Relations. https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/un-security-council.
[2] "Security Council Membership." United Nations Dag Hammarskjöld Library. https://research.un.org/en/unmembers/scmembers
[3] "The UN Security Council." UNSC. https://www.un.org/securitycouncil/.
[4] Ibid.

Artificial intelligence (AI) is a computer science technology in which systems can replicate human intelligence and problem-solving abilities.[5] The systems analyze data, process it, and learn from their past to streamline and improve in the future. Modern definitions have clarified the original broad definition of "the science and engineering of making intelligent machines" to machines that can learn, make decisions, and perform tasks to a human-like level.[6] The change in definition is representative of the larger shift in AI technology as it becomes more advanced and widespread. The field is rapidly growing and holds potentially significant implications for national and global security. A number of nations are developing and implementing AI applications for a range of military functions, and advancement continues to progress rapidly. AI research is underway in a number of different fields including, but not limited to, intelligence collection and analysis, logistics, cyber operations, information operations, command and control, and in a variety of semiautonomous and autonomous vehicles.

Already, AI has been incorporated into military operations in Iraq and Syria, being utilized for a number of different operations. Individuals–including potentially bad actors–have, on many levels, the potential to further shape the development of these technologies, with budgetary and legislative decisions influencing the growth of military applications as well as the pace of their adoption, both within the private and the federal sectors.

What sets the current progress in AI technology apart from past innovation is its widespread use and intelligence level. There has been a surge in common-use AI tools, such as virtual assistants and search engines. Currently, AI is used by billions of people around the world in their daily lives. AI-powered personal assistants, such as Siri, Google Assistant, and Amazon Alexa, are integrated into smartphones, smart speakers, and other devices, and can perform a wide range of tasks. Social media sites utilize AI to examine user preferences and behavior, and curate individualized user experiences.[7] It is utilized in transportation, communication, and entertainment technology, among other things. On a fundamental level, AI functions by taking in data, processing it, and implementing different algorithms to learn from patterns found in the

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[5] "What is the history of artificial intelligence (AI)?" Tableau. https://www.tableau.com/data-insights/ai/history#general-ai

[6] "The Ultimate Guide to Artificial Intelligence (AI): Definition, how it Works, Examples, History, & More." Tableau. https://www.tableau.com/data-insights/ai/what-is.

[7] Ivey, Alice. "7 Artificial Intelligence Examples in Everyday Life." Cointelegraph, March 23, 2023. https://cointelegraph.com/news/7-artificial-intelligence-examples-in-everyday-life.

data, and then react to it in a specific way.[8] AI continues to grow, becoming a more integral part of modern societies by the day.[9]

There is a lot of concern about the potential dangers of AI. More than 1,000 technology leaders, researchers, and other pundits working in and around AI signed an open letter warning that AI technologies present "profound risks to society and humanity."[10] The letter stressed the need for better understanding of the dangers behind the technology and urged AI labs to halt development of their most powerful systems for six months, stating, "Powerful AI systems should be developed only once we are confident that their effects will be positive and their risks will be manageable."[11] The letter represented a growing concern among AI experts that the latest systems, most notably GPT-4 (a large multi-model AI), could cause harm to society. Many of these systems are open source, and can even generate the code necessary to create new AI systems. Those same generative AI technologies that can be used to save people time by automating tasks can also be used by criminals to generate deep fakes or malicious code. AI poses a massive risk to national security, and if implemented in a military capacity, could allow for bad actors to obtain an immense amount of power. Some of the risks have already arrived, such as the rise of disinformation as most AI cannot distinguish the validity of source. Others, such as the risk of AI powered weaponry and defense systems and the longer-term loss of control are serious concerns in the future.[12]

History:

The concept of modern AI began in 1950 and has seen marked progress throughout the past seven decades making it what it is today. Although the history of AI dates back over a century, it may seem new as it becomes streamlined. With this increased access to AI, the UN has focused on establishing international frameworks and adopting international agreements on its use.

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[8] "The Ultimate Guide to Artificial Intelligence (AI): Definition, How it Works, Examples, History, & More." Tableau. https://www.tableau.com/data-insights/ai/what-is.

[9] Ibid.

[10] Metz, Cade. "What Exactly Are the Dangers Posed by A.I.?" The New York Times, May 1, 2023. https://www.nytimes.com/2023/05/01/technology/ai-problems-danger-chatgpt.html.

[11] Ibid.

[12] Ibid.

In 2017, Canada became the first country to adopt a national AI strategy. Since then, at least 60 countries have adopted some form of policy for AI.[13] With the uptick in use and attention to AI, global cooperation has also increased in the technical, ethical, and policy dimensions of responsible AI development and use. International organizations have worked to address the growing potential–both positive and negative–of AI. This includes the G-7 establishing the Global Partnership on AI and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, which launched AI policy development.[14]

In 2020, the UN established the Inter-Agency Working Group on AI (IAWGAI), co-led by UN International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), to bring together UN system expertise on AI.[15] UNESCO focuses on the ethics of AI while ITU oversees the UN's strategic approach and road map for supporting capacity development.[16] The AI for Good platform, organized by ITU in partnership with 40 UN sister agencies and co-convened with Switzerland, launched in 2022. It is composed of over 180 countries, making it the leading action-oriented, global, and inclusive United Nations platform on AI.[17]

Potential international rivals in the AI market are creating pressure for a number of countries to compete for innovative military AI applications. China is a leading competitor in this regard, having released a plan in 2017 with the full intent of capturing the global lead in AI development by 2030. China is primarily focused on using AI to make faster and more well-informed decisions, as well as on developing a variety of autonomous military vehicles. Russia has also long been active in military AI development, with a primary focus on robotics. Additionally, AI is growing increasingly accessible, with a number of programs and variants

[13] Fanni, Rosanna, Andrea Renda, Cameron F. Kerry, Joshua P. Meltzer, and Alex Engler. "Strengthening International Cooperation on AI." Brookings, October 25, 2021. https://www.brookings.edu/articles/strengthening -international-cooperation-on-ai/.
[14] Ibid.
[15] "Inter-Agency Working Group on Artificial Intelligence." UN System Chief Executives Board for Coordination. https://unsceb.org/inter-agency-working-group-artificial-intelligence.
[16] "Press Release: Global Summit on AI Takes Action to Ensure Artificial Intelligence Benefits Humanity." International Telecommunication Union, June 20, 2023. https://www.itu.int/en/mediacentre/Pages/PR-2023-06-20 Global-summit-on-AI-takes-action-to-ensure-AI-benefits-humanity.aspx.
[17] Qamar Afzal Rizvi, Syed. "Global Concern about AI's Misuse." Pakistan Observer, June 15, 2023. https://pakobserver.net/global-concern-about-ais-misuse-by-syed-qamar-afzal rizvi/#:~:text=In%202022%2C%20the%20AI%20for,broad%20based%20international%20media%20coverage%2C .

existing as Open Source technology. Combined with an increase in weapons technology and the accessibility or potential for bad actors to source weapons materials and schematics, the implementation of Artificial Intelligence in the context of the military, and in weaponry, could prove to be potentially catastrophic and infinitely detrimental.

Analysis:

AI touches many different aspects of life, each requiring its own approach and relevant stakeholders. For example, UNESCO hosted a discussion on ensuring inclusivity and equity in the future use of AI.[18] While more technical aspects of it require cooperation between standards development organizations, policy and ethical implications are being handled at multiple levels across many regions of the world.[19] Many issues within private and government sectors have arisen, as many private companies are hesitant to partner with government sanctioned military or defense operations. AI research and development is an increasingly complex and resource-intensive endeavor for which scale is a significant advantage.[20]

There is an issue of equity and the division of access in the Global North versus South as more developed countries. AI has had a profound impact on global issues in agriculture, healthcare, education, and more, all of which already experience global discrepancies in equity. There is tremendous economic potential for AI, but the economic and social benefits of this technology remain geographically concentrated, primarily in the Global North.[21] It is projected that AI could contribute up to $15.7 trillion to the global economy by 2030 and while all regions of the global economy stand to benefit from AI, North America and China will see the largest GDP gains.[22] Due to the much lower rates of adoption of AI technologies, countries in the Global

[18] "International Cooperation Is Key to Inclusive AI." UNESCO. Accessed July 17, 2023. https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/international-cooperation-key-inclusive-ai.

[19] "Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence." UNESCO. Accessed July 17, 2023. https://www.unesco.org/en/legal-affairs/recommendation-ethics-artificial-intelligence.

[20] Fanni, Rosanna, Andrea Renda, Cameron F. Kerry, Joshua P. Meltzer, and Alex Engler. "Strengthening International Cooperation on AI." Brookings, October 25, 2021. https://www.brookings.edu/articles/strengthening -international-cooperation-on-ai/.

[21] "The 'AI Divide' Between the Global North and Global South." World Economic Forum. Accessed July 19, 2023. https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2023/01/davos23-ai-divide-global-north-global-south/.

[22] Ibid.

South will experience more moderate increases. This is not an easy endeavor, however, as one of the main reasons countries in the Global South struggle to break into the AI market is their structural limitations due to the history of development and global trade that advanced the Global North countries through the exploitation of countries now characterized as the Global South.[23]

All the member states of UNESCO adopted the first-ever global agreement on the Ethics of AI in 2021. With the increased use of AI, there is an increased bias, and poses significant threats to privacy, dignity, and agency. Additionally, the increased use of unreliable AI technology in law enforcement investigations, which poses issues for victims and malicious actors alike. [24] Due to this, the agreement seeks to mitigate the potential risks of AI. It addresses transparency, accountability and privacy in action-oriented policy chapters on data governance, education, culture, labor, healthcare, and the economy.[25] The aim of the agreement is to guide the construction of the necessary legal infrastructure to ensure the ethical development of AI technology in each member state. The critical caveat to the agreement however is that individual member states have the responsibility of applying the agreement.[26]

Moving forward with the Secretary-General's High-level Panel on Digital Cooperation convened from 2018-2019, the UN gathered information from relevant actors, including governments, the private sector, civil society, international organizations, academic institutions, and the technical community, to create a set of goals for the future regarding AI.[27] One of these goals is explicitly about supporting global cooperation on AI, supporting measures to ensure its development is trustworthy, human rights-based, safe, sustainable, and encourages the promotion of peace.[28] Furthermore, many of the other goals work towards achieving digital cooperation and ensuring equitable access to resources, which can be expanded to encapsulate goals related to AI as well. For example, one of the UN's goals for digital cooperation is promoting digital trust and

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[23] Ibid.

[24] "UNESCO Member States Adopt the First Ever Global Agreement on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence." UNESCO. Accessed July 17, 2023. https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/unesco-member-states-adopt-first-ever global-agreement-ethics-artificial-intelligence.

[25] "UNESCO Adopts First Global Standard on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence." UNESCO.org. Accessed July 19, 2023. https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/unesco-adopts-first-global-standard-ethics-artificial-intelligence.

[26] Ibid.

[27] "Secretary-General's High-Level Panel on Digital Cooperation." United Nations. Accessed July 17, 2023. https://www.un.org/en/sg-digital-cooperation-panel.

[28] "Artificial Intelligence | Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Technology." United Nations. Accessed July 17, 2023. https://www.un.org/techenvoy/content/artificial-intelligence.

security by advancing global dialogue to advance the Sustainable Development Goals which touches on larger global cooperation measures that would advance the AI dialogue as well.[29]

Conclusion:

In our modern age, AI is everywhere, and it comes with both the potential for amazing advancement as well as significant threats. It can assist in everything from mundane, commonplace activities to ones that can save lives, but also significantly compromise the safety and agency of users worldwide.[30] Due to this, enhanced efforts between stakeholders around the world are needed to build global capacity for the development and use of AI in a manner that is trustworthy, human rights-based, safe, and sustainable, and promotes peace, and protects national and global security.[31]

Questions:

1. How can the Security Council use its unique role and capabilities to address global concerns and cooperation on AI development and use?
2. The UN recognizes areas of potential benefits and consequences for expanded AI use. Do you believe the benefits outweigh the costs? What policies could the UN develop to offset the negative effects of AI?
3. What regulations, if any, do you believe should be placed on AI? How can the UN regulate the use of AI when each state has their own development capabilities?
4. How can artificial intelligence capabilities be equitably shared globally, especially in such a rapidly developing field?

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https://www.un.org/techenvoy/content/artificial-intelligence.

Fanni, Rosanna, Andrea Renda, Cameron F. Kerry, Joshua P. Meltzer, and Alex Engler.

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[29] Ibid.

[30] "Supporting Global Cooperation on Artificial Intelligence." Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Technology. https://www.un.org/techenvoy/content/artificial-intelligence.

[31] Ibid.

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     https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/unesco-member-states-adopt-first-ever-global-
     agreement-ethics-artificial-intelligence.

II.   Threats to International Security and Peace: Peacebuilding in Unstable and Sensitive Regions

Statement of the Issue:

      The UNSC's mandate under Chapter VI of the UN Charter, authorizes the Security Council to call on parties to seek solutions via negotiation, arbitration, or other peaceful means.[32] If those measures fail to peacefully resolve international disputes, Chapter VII gives the Security Council the authority to take more assertive actions, such as imposing sanctions or authorizing the use of force "to maintain or restore international peace and security." Peacekeeping missions are the most visible part of the Security Council's peace operations; as of early 2023, the Security Council oversees twelve operations across three continents, involving a total of nearly 88,000 thousand uniformed personnel.[33]

      Peacekeeping–an umbrella term–includes conflict prevention and mediation, peacemaking, peace enforcement, and peacebuilding, and generally encompasses the United Nations mission to maintain international peace and security throughout the world. Peacemaking occurs while a conflict is in progress and typically involves diplomatic action to bring hostile parties to a negotiated agreement.[34] Peacebuilding aims to reduce the risk of lapsing or relapsing into conflict by strengthening national capacities at all levels for conflict management, and to lay the foundation for sustainable peace and development.[35] As a long-term process, there are many facets of peacekeeping as it aims to create the necessary conditions for sustainable peace, addressing core issues that affect the functioning of society and the state, and enhancing the capacity of the state to effectively and legitimately carry out its core functions.[36] The nexus of these activities is often far from clearcut. Peacekeeping operations are deployed to support the implementation of a ceasefire or peace agreement; they also play a role in peacemaking efforts

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[32] "The UN Security Council." Council on Foreign Relations. https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/un-security-council.
[33] Ibid.
[34] "Terminology: Peacekeeping." United Nations. Accessed July 17, 2023. https://peacekeeping.un.org/en/terminology.
[35] "The UN Security Council." Council on Foreign Relations. https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/un-security -council.
[36] Ibid.

and may also be involved in early peacebuilding activities based on the necessity of the circumstances.[37]

As part of the UN's work to support peace efforts in conflict-affected countries, the General Assembly and the Security Council jointly established the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) in 2005 as a new intergovernmental advisory body of the United Nations.[38] The PBC is a key addition to the international peacebuilding community; Its aim is "to propose integrated strategies for post-conflict peacebuilding and recovery, bring together all of the relevant actors, and marshal resources."[39]

History:

United Nations Peacekeeping began in 1948 when the Security Council authorized the deployment of UN military observers to the Middle East. The mission's role, which became known as the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO), was to monitor the Armistice Agreement between Israel and surrounding countries. Each new mission in its early years advanced the role of peacekeepers. The earliest armed peacekeeping operation was the First UN Emergency Force (UNEF I), deployed successfully in 1956 to address the Suez Crisis. The UN Operation in the Congo (ONUC), launched in 1960, was the first large-scale mission with nearly 20,000 military personnel being deployed at its peak.[40]

The role of the UN peacekeeping forces continues to change with the evolving crises globally as well as the political situation of the UN. Constrained by U.S.-Soviet rivalry, the Security Council acted infrequently in the 45 years between the founding and the end of the Cold War. During that time, it authorized a mere seventeen peacekeeping operations.[41] However, with the end of the Cold War, the strategic context for UN Peacekeeping changed dramatically, shifting from "traditional" missions to multidimensional peace implementation processes.[42] After

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[37] "Terminology: Peacekeeping." United Nations. Accessed July 17, 2023. https://peacekeeping.un.org/en/terminology.
[38] "Peacebuilding Commission Security Council." United Nations. Accessed July 17, 2023. https://www.un.org/securitycouncil/content/repertoire/peacebuilding-commission.
[39] "Peacebuilding Commission." United Nations. Accessed July 17, 2023. https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/commission.
[40] "Our History." United Nations Peacekeeping. Accessed July 17, 2023. https://peacekeeping.un.org/en/our-history.
[41] "The UN Security Council." Council on Foreign Relations. https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/un-security-council.
[42] "Our History." United Nations Peacekeeping. Accessed July 17, 2023. https://peacekeeping.un.org/en/our-history.

the Cold War ended, there was a rapid increase in the number of peacekeeping operations. However, in the mid 1990s, some operations faced backlash as not-yet settled conflicts put peacekeepers in extremely dangerous positions without sufficient resources or robust mandates from the Security Council in areas such as the former Yugoslavia with the UN Protection Force, Rwanda with the UN Assistance Mission for Rwanda (UNAMIR) and Somalia during the UN Operation in Somalia II (UNOSOM II) where there was no peace to keep.[43] After a period of reassessment and reform, the Security Council established large and complex peacekeeping operations throughout the world in direct response to conflict.[44] Throughout its history, the UN has deployed more than 70 peacekeeping forces. However, since Russia's invasion and annexation of Crimea in 2014, tensions have flared between Russia and the Western members of the P5, leading to concerns that the body is less able to defuse the crisis. Although some attribute the lower number of peacekeeping missions and personnel to the rise of more peacebuilding operations, only two peacekeeping missions– one in the Central African Republic and the other in Haiti–have been authorized since 2014.[45]

The need for peacekeeping in conflicted regions has increased exponentially, with global conflict rising. Historically, Niger has experienced continuous growth in jihadist activity since 2018, with a record year for violence in 2021 measured by fatalities. While the number of political violence incidents increased further in 2022, the lethality of the violence has steadily declined, with a significant overall decrease in fatalities last year. In the first six months of 2023 alone, political violence decreased by an estimated 39% when compared to the previous six-month period from July to December 2022. Niger represents the last of the three central Sahel states to succumb to a military coup, following Mali in both 2020 and 2021, and two separate coups in Burkina Faso in 2022. This event could be linked to Russia's increasing influence or its alignment with Western military training initiatives, but the primary catalysts were essentially domestic in nature. The overall success of the junta obtaining and maintaining power and building legitimacy is not guaranteed, due to the significant opposition domestically and internationally, which could increase the need for peacekeeping missions in volatile regions such as these.

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[43] Ibid.

[44] Ibid.

[45] "The UN Security Council." Council on Foreign Relations. https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/un-security-council.

Conflict is prevalent throughout many areas of the world, and not all conflict is directly linked to military forces or direct war. Kim Jong Un regularly threatens Japan, South Korea, and the United States with missile strikes, but has not yet demonstrated any backing to these threats. Kim has silenced all opposition to his statements and threats by detaining between 80,000 and 120,000 political prisoners, purging high-ranking officials, and likely (as many scholars speculate,) ordering the assassination of his half-brother. Even in direct violation of UN Security Council resolutions, North Korea continues overt nuclear enrichment and long-range missile development efforts. While the scale of their capacity for production remains mostly unclear, United States intelligence agencies estimate that there is enough plutonium for between six to sixty nuclear weapons. The conflict, both within North Korea itself and between North Korea and the international community, continues to escalate, bringing the need for peacekeeping to an international high.

In some historical cases, the Security Council has acted by prompting others to act as subcontractors on its behalf. Notably, the Security Council authorized the use of force in Libya in 2011, collaborating with the Arab League to call for a no-fly zone, which was then executed by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) as a direct result of the anti-Qaddafi demonstrations in Libya, which would quickly escalate into an internationally condemned civil war. The regime responded to the nascent protest movement with lethal force, killing more than 100 people in the first few days, effectively sparking an armed rebellion. Furthermore, the African Union has showcased increased will and capacity as it partnered with the United Nations in carrying out missions in Somalia and the Darfur region of Sudan.[46]

In 2021, the Security Council unanimously adopted a presidential statement, recognizing that regional and subregional organizations are well-placed to understand the root causes of conflict in their respective areas and to promote confidence-building measures and political dialogue at various levels.[47] Secretary-General António Guterres said that collaborative effort with regional and subregional organizations "has grown exponentially" since 1945 on a range of

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[46] Ibid.

[47] "In Times of Global Crises, Collaboration between Regional Organizations, United Nations Has 'Grown Exponentially', Secretary-General Tells Security Council." UN Press, 2021. https://press.un.org/en/2021/sc14498.doc.htm.

crucial issues from counter-terrorism and the women, peace and security agenda to urgent efforts to confront the COVID-19 pandemic over the past year.[48]

Throughout the UN's history working with regional bodies, multilateral efforts in hotspots worldwide have showcased an increased capacity for partnership. In Bosnia and Herzegovina, the United Nations worked with the European Union, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) and the Council of Europe to advance dialogue, trust-building, and reconciliation. Following the 2020 military coup in Mali, the UN worked with the African Union to support the efforts led by the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) towards establishing a transitional Government and collaborated with the African Union in supporting Libyan-led efforts there to establish a ceasefire and promote national reconciliation. In Bolivia, the UN worked with the European Union and the Episcopal Conference of Bolivia in finding a peaceful solution to the crisis following the 2019 general elections, proving how working together and supporting complementarities helps drive political solutions.[49]

Analysis:

The definition and activities related to peacekeeping have expanded since the inception of the UN and continue to evolve to meet the rising needs of the international community to build sustainable peace globally. Peacekeeping operations today are multidimensional and include activities such as facilitating the political process, protecting civilians, assisting in the disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration of former combatants, supporting the organization of elections, protecting and promoting human rights, and assisting in restoring the rule of law. Peacebuilding includes efforts to reduce a country's risk of lapsing or relapsing into conflict by strengthening national capacities for conflict management, and to lay the foundations for sustainable peace and development.[50]

As conflicts continue to emerge and deepen worldwide, former Secretary-General of the United Nations, Ban Ki-Moon, stressed that the United Nations cannot deal with such crises on its own. Secretary-General António Guterres exemplified this need by highlighting the UN's

[48] Ibid.
[49] Ibid.
[50] "Terminology Peacekeeping." United Nations. https://peacekeeping.un.org/en/terminology.

long-term relationship with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) which has become more crucial than ever considering the crisis in Myanmar, requiring a robust international response to "help find a peaceful way out of the catastrophe."[51]

Regional, subregional, and other international organizations play a central role in preventing, managing, and resolving conflicts.[52] To build their capacity and role in peace operations, the United Nations Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs provides support to those seeking to establish or strengthen their mediation capacities.[53] Several institutional partnerships have been established in preventive diplomacy and mediation. Furthermore, approaches in each instance are tailored to the needs, mandates, and requirements of the respective partner organization which means the program is flexible and rises to meet the desired outcomes from the regional partner.[54] No peacekeeping situation operates under the same circumstances as another, so input from regional organizations and specific expertise in the area and conflict of the mission is vital to the success of each operation.

The optimal relationship between the UN and regional agencies has been intensively debated since its inception. The UN used to delegate responsibilities to regional actors using them as an intermediary to implement directives. However, this relationship has evolved into a partnership in which regional bodies have become actors in their own right and work alongside the UN to implement agreed-upon peace initiatives.[55] These relationships continue to evolve and shift as capabilities and conflicts become increasingly complex.

Conclusion:

The complexity of the world means that the Security Council's mandate to ensure peace and security in the world is complex, difficult, and requires cooperation from many entities. UN peacekeeping operations are part of a multidimensional process that can begin with conflict prevention and end with peace enforcement, but the timeline and implementation of the activities

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[51] In Times of Global Crises, Collaboration between Regional Organizations, United Nations Has 'Grown Exponentially', Secretary-General Tells Security Council." UN Press, 2021. https://press.un.org/en/2021/sc14498.doc.htm.

[52] "Regional Organizations | UN Peacemaker." United Nations. Accessed July 17, 2023. https://peacemaker.un.org/regional-organizations.

[53] Ibid.

[54] Ibid.

[55] Hettne, Björn, and Fredrik Söderbaum. "The UN and Regional Organizations in Global Security: Competing or Complementary Logics?" *Global Governance* 12, no. 3 (2006): 227–32. http://www.jstor.org/stable/27800614.

is rife with issues and setbacks. The boundaries between conflict prevention, peacemaking, peacekeeping, peacebuilding, and peace enforcement have become increasingly blurred.[56] Today, a little more than 110,000 military, police and civilian staff currently serve in 14 peacekeeping missions.[57] A decrease in both personnel and peacekeeping missions does not mean that there are less conflict areas however, but rather that the UN works in different ways to usher in periods of peaceful transitions and the rebuilding of functioning states including through the Security Council's collaboration with regional bodies.

Questions:

1. How can the UN leverage its relationships with regional bodies to become more effective in peace operations?
2. What metrics for peace operations should be used to determine when peacekeeping can transition into peacebuilding tactics?
3. Can multiple peace operations (such as assisting political processes and disarmament) happen simultaneously? Does one aspect of peacebuilding need to conclude before another begins?
4. How should the UN tailor peacekeeping operations to region and conflict and/or maintain several of the same tactics regardless? Is this an area in which regional bodies should take a leading role since they have a stronger sense of the issue or should the UNSC be the premier body since they have the most resources?

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