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# **Promoting the Global Peace: The Nexus between** Pakistan and UNO

## **Muhammad Tavvab Usman**

Lecturer (Civics), Govt. Islamia Associate College,

Lahore Cantt.

Email: tayyabusman866h@gmail.com

Dr. Mukhtar Ahmad

Deputy Director Colleges, District Nankana Sahib.

Email: alikmukhtar1963@gmail.com

Dr. Muhammad Munib Khalid

Assistant Professor, Department of

Political Science, Minhaj University Lahore

Email: munibkhalid@mul.edu.pk

#### Abstract

Post-World War II peacekeeping missions have played a significant role in sustaining global peace and resolving conflicts in ambiguous regions and states. These missions are supported by contributions from numerous UN members, including Pakistan. This study's primary objective is to investigate Pakistan's commitments and participation in UN peacekeeping missions. This study aims to elucidate Pakistan's participation in UNPKOs and its contributions to these operations. Maintaining international peace and security is one of Pakistan's top foreign policy priorities. As a consequence, it has participated actively in United Nations peacekeeping missions since its inception. Pakistan has participated in 46 missions in 28 countries and regions, all of which were vital to the maintenance of international peace and security. Due to their patient demeanours and high level of professionalism, Pakistani peacekeepers have completed numerous successful missions, gained the hearts and minds of the local populace, and received a great deal of international praise. To date, 157 Pakistanis have also lost their lives for this noble cause.

Key Words: UN peacekeeping operations (UNPKOs), CIPS, Pakistan, peace building, peace characterization.

#### Introduction

United Nations peacekeeping missions operate in the most dangerous and dismal environments on earth. They face conflict situations that traditional national response mechanisms have been unable to resolve and that have the potential to escalate out of control, posing threats to peace and security. The UN peacekeeping mechanisms have matured and garnered praise, including the Nobel Peace Prize, over the years. Contribution to UN peacekeeping missions contributes to a country's peaceful status. Numerous factors have prevented Pakistan from being

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identified as a contributor to international peace in the international literature on peacekeeping. The Pakistani nation joined the United Nations on September 30, 1947. Since then, it has been one of the world's leading contributors of personnel to United Nations peacekeeping missions worldwide, particularly in conflictaffected regions of Africa. Despite its contentious relations with its neighbouring nuclear state, India, the Pakistani army has the second greatest number of personnel serving in various UN peacekeeping missions. Pakistan has responded to cries for global peace despite its history and its perpetually threatening neighbour. Mohammad Ali Jinnah, the founder of Pakistan, set the groundwork for Pakistan's peace policy when he declared, "We are prepared to make our utmost contribution to the promotion of world peace and prosperity." Pakistan will never fail to provide material and moral support to oppressed and repressed peoples around the world and to uphold the principles of the United Nations Charter. In the past, Pakistan has consistently adhered to the governing principles of Quaid-i-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah regardless of the administration in power. Pakistan has actively participated in numerous UN peacekeeping missions, thereby making a significant contribution to attaining global peace and security. It has contributed more than 200,000 soldiers to over 46 UN peacekeeping missions around the globe. This generous participation and willingness of Pakistan in maintaining global peace, despite internal and external challenges on both its eastern and western borders, has demonstrated one fact; as a responsible nation, Pakistan values peace and abhors war; consequently, it has the capacity and capability to establish itself as a global peacekeeping and peace-building architect. The extent to which a country honours its international obligations within the community of nations and participates in global peacekeeping missions is indicative of its peace status. In his Theory of International Politics, Kenneth Waltz emphasises the structural factor and asserts that "the distribution of capabilities is not a unit attribute, but rather a system-wide concept." Due to the absence of trends highlighting Pakistan's contribution to international peace missions, the nation is characterised as not being peace-oriented. The purpose of this paper is to promote Pakistan's image as a global peace builder and peace facilitator by highlighting Pakistan's contributions to United Nations peacekeeping missions. The primary objective is to determine how Pakistan's contribution to United Nations peacekeeping missions can result in a peace description of Pakistan. The significance of this analysis is not limited to issues and crises in Pakistan's political structure; rather, this paper focuses on incorporating new avenues for the country's peace definition. To this end, we analyse UN peacekeeping missions, highlighting the peace classification of contributing states and their relationship. The situation calls for proactive capacity building to promote Pakistan's peaceful character. The paper also argues that the significance of Pakistan's numerous successful UN peacekeeping missions has not been appropriately recognised, particularly in academic forums. The final objective of this paper is to characterise Pakistan's contribution to UN peacekeeping missions as a source of strength in the context of its peace status.

#### Role of Pakistan in UNPKOs

In the preceding six decades, Pakistan has dispatched two hundred thousand personnel to 46 missions and 28 states on virtually every continent. Approximately 157 Pakistani peacekeepers, including 24 officers, have died while performing their duties. About ten percent of all casualties sustained by United Nations peacekeeping operations since their inception were Pakistanis. In recognition of their valour, 97 Pakistani peacekeepers have been awarded the Dag Hammarskjöld Medal, the highest honour bestowed by the United Nations. Pakistan currently contributes over 5,000 personnel to nine UN operations, despite its 18-year involvement in the ongoing war against terrorism and border deployments.

Pakistan is one of the largest and finest suppliers to UNPKOs. It has held prestigious peacekeeping positions, including "Special Envoy and Advisor to the UN Secretary General, Army Advisor at the Ministry of Peacekeeping Operations, Chief Military Monitor, Force and Deputy Force Commanders, and others." In fraught situations, Pakistani military have been instrumental in restoring normalcy to war-ravaged communities, upholding law and order, and facilitating peaceful political transitions.

## Pakistan's Peacekeeping Initiative

An overview of Pakistan's peacekeeping operations in "Latin America, the Balkans, West Africa, East Africa, Central Africa, the Middle East, and Southeast Asia" demonstrates the country's unwavering commitment to sustaining international peace and security. In these operations, Pakistani soldiers went above and beyond the call of duty to assist the disadvantaged, and in some instances, they even sacrificed their lives to save others. Pakistani forces participated in a number of UN operations with diverse mandates and operational contexts, which are described below:

#### **UNPKOs in Somalia**

Due to conflict in early 1990s Somalia, customary law briefly disintegrated. During the civil conflict, a sizeable portion of the population suffered from hunger. When a significant contingent of Pakistani forces eventually entered the country in September 1992, the country was fully prepared for a mechanised battalion. Eventually, the size of the force was increased to that of a brigade. To ensure the safety of humanitarian aid operations, Pakistani peacekeepers were tasked with patrolling air and sea terminals and scouring for illicit weaponry in the war-torn country. On June 5, 1993, the UN military headquarters tasked Pakistani forces with inspecting the arsenal of the warlord Farah Aideed. His adherents ambushed them along the path, using children and women as human shields to prevent a counterattack. The Pakistani military fought their way back while safeguarding the women and children, displaying an extraordinary display of fortitude. During the fire fight, 56 Pakistanis were wounded and 23 were slain. In Somalia, 43 persons perished in total. Pakistan's deft management of the security situation and assistance with supply convoys quickly won over the locals. The campaign slogan is "Pakistan and Somalia." The result of these efforts is the phrase "Walla Walla," which implies that Pakistanis and Somalis are siblings. In the Olympic Hotel incident of October 1993, American, Pakistani, and Malaysian forces collaborated to rescue one hundred Special Services Group personnel. Without the fortitude and valour of the Pakistani forces, the United States soldiers may not have survived eight hours of intense combat. According to "Major General Thomas M. Montgomery, Deputy Commander of UN forces in Somalia," many soldiers were able to survive because Pakistani soldiers operated in exceedingly dangerous and difficult combat situations. He also praised the military and people of Pakistan for producing such exceptional soldiers.

#### **UNPKOs in Haiti**

Following the military seizure of President Bertrand Aristide's elected government, more than 10,000 people perished in political violence, while thousands of refugees fled to neighbouring nations. The United Nations adopted a resolution in November 1992 condemning the rebellion and expressing support for the Aristide government, which regained power in October 1994. The "Pakistani Battalion Group" revitalised the Haitian military, which had been gravely undermined by the protracted absence of a functioning government. They also restored calm and reestablished government institutions. This organisation contributed significantly to the seamless operation of free and fair elections in the northern regions of Haiti.

The Pakistani Blue Berets worked to enhance infrastructure such as roads and schools, as well as illumination in public areas such as parks and streets, so that students could study at night. In recognition of their efforts, the appellation "Pakistan School" was granted to a school. In a tribute to the dedication and contributions of Pakistani forces, the president of Haiti said, "I offer my deepest respect and gratitude to the people of Pakistan, the Pakistan army, and its valiant warriors for their display of absolute sincerity, friendship, and solidarity."

## UNPKOs in Bosnia-Herzegovina

In 1991, when Bosnia and a number of other former Yugoslav republics declared independence, a four-year civil conflict broke out. Muslims constituted 44% of the population of Bosnia, followed by Serbs (31%) and Croats (4%). In April 1992, the city of Sarajevo was besieged for 44 months by the Bosnian Serbs, whose skilled armed forces were supported by the local Serbs. Muslims and Croat Catholics were their primary targets. The UN mission refrained from engaging Bosnian Serbs out of concern of a severe response and instead focused on providing humanitarian assistance to the Bosnian conflict. In 1992, a detachment of three thousand Pakistanis was dispatched to the region to enhance mobility, secure relief workers, support nongovernmental organisations and United Nations agencies, and coordinate assistance for the displaced. The Pakistani contingent did an excellent job of locating, monitoring, and impartially defending all ethno religious and minority groups, refugees, and the dispossessed. They oversaw the relief efforts of international and Pakistani NGOs in addition to UN agencies. In contrast, Pakistani personnel supported the local population, especially orphans, from their own funds, clothing, food, and medical assistance. Bosnians and the international community praised the Pakistani personnel for their professionalism, fidelity to duty, and neutrality. Pakistan is still held in the utmost regard by Bosnians.

#### **UNPKOs in Sierra Leone**

Early in 1991, a civil conflict broke out in "Sierra Leone between the Revolutionary United Front (RUF)," which was supported by the administrations of Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, and Sierra Leone. The eleven-year conflict resulted in 50,000 deaths, a state apparatus in disarray, massive numbers of refugees, and widespread malnutrition. In accordance with the October 1999 UNSC mandate, the UNPK operation in the Republic of Sierra Leone was dispatched to assist in the implementation of the peace treaty between the RUF and government forces. The mission was met with ferocious opposition, and the abduction of hundreds of peacekeepers in May of 2000 compelled the United Kingdom to initiate a military operation on its former territory. Pakistani forces contributed significantly to the accomplishment of the UNPKO mission in the Republic of Sierra Leone. After the Indian contingent abandoned them, a Pakistani division group was transported in and engaged in a variety of activities, including monitoring, enticing, and improving dissidents, establishing therapeutic sites, and conducting a "winning hearts and minds" movement. Particularly for the peaceful presidential and legislative elections in May 2002, the Pakistani contingent ensured law and order. To determine the level of benevolence garnered by such actions, consider the fact that President Ahmed Kabbah of the Republic of Sierra Leone frequently dined in Pakistani restaurants frequented by the former insurgent commander.

#### **UNPKOs in Kingdom of Cambodia**

After the Paris Peace Accords were ratified in 1991, UNPKOs were initiated in the kingdom of Cambodia. In addition, this was the first time the United Nations took control of an independent state's administration, organised and conducted elections

as opposed to merely monitoring them, and undertook responsibility for promoting and defending human rights. The army consisted of 15,900 individuals from 32 different nations, as well as a Pakistani delegation. There were numerous armed insurgents in a remote region where Pakistani soldiers were deployed. They conducted peacekeeping missions and coerced the belligerent parties to submit under difficult conditions. Peacekeepers began a comprehensive plan for humanitarian aid to restore roads, excavate wells, and construct hospitals, in addition to maintaining peace in extremely difficult locations lacking communication infrastructure.

#### UNPKOs in Côte D'Ivoire

In 2002, after renegade soldiers attempted to depose President Koudou Laurent Gbagbo, the Ivory Coast divided between a government-controlled Christian South and a rebel-held Muslim North. Since 2004, one infantry battalion from the Pakistani contingent has been on the ground. Peacekeepers from Pakistan were stationed in rebel-held areas, where they effectively maintained the peace and contributed to the nation's reconstruction. The orderly conduct of the presidential elections in 2010 was a significant achievement of Pakistani forces. Pakistani forces evacuated the diplomatic community from the capital city after the situation in Abidjan deteriorated. Since the end of the conflict, the Ivory Coast has been engaged in a lengthy and difficult phase of peace building and national reconciliation as it tries to restore itself politically and economically.

### **UNPKOs** in the Sudanese Republic

The Khartoum-formed central government and the "Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA)" engaged in a brutal 22-year civil conflict. The Blue Nile region was impacted by the violence that originated in southern Sudan and subsequently spread to other regions. During this conflict, millions of people escaped to neighbouring states, and two million people perished. The Sudanese government and SPLA signed a Comprehensive Peace Agreement in January 2005 that ended the country's civil war and called for the establishment of South Sudan by 2011. A mission would be established in the Republic of the Sudan to assist with the implementation of the treaty, per a March 2005 resolution of the UN Security Council. The Pakistani contingent, which included an infantry battalion group with aviation support, was dispatched to Sudan in March 2005. In the state of Blue Nile, the Pakistani sector was responsible for the protection of civilians and the restoration of public infrastructure in a country ravaged by civil war. The delegation worked diligently to obtain the support of the community while upholding the law by establishing free treatment centres, providing sustenance, and providing other services. The unmarked region along the Ethiopian frontier, which resulted in innumerable civilian casualties, was also de-mined by Pakistani engineers using manual techniques and mine detection canines.

## Pakistan's UNPKOs: Contribution and Quality

Now, what is the precise function of Peacekeeping? Peacekeeping, as proposed by the United Nations, is an improvised method for assisting war-torn nations in establishing conditions for lasting peace and security. UN peacekeepers, consisting primarily of military officers, civilian police officers, and civilian personnel from various nations, monitor peace roadmaps that develop in post-conflict situations and assist ex-combatants in implementing peace agreements. This assistance takes many forms, such as DDR (disarmament, demobilisation, and reintegration), confidence-building measures, power-sharing provisions, electoral support for the formation of a legitimate government, strengthening the rule of law, and social and economic development, all of which are geared towards achieving a peaceful and prosperous society. Since Pakistan's entry into the United Nations on 30

September 1947, Pakistan has participated in approximately 70 UN peacekeeping operations in various regions of the globe. Pakistan has contributed to all areas of the United Nations, but has focused on the military, paramilitary, and civilian police. As one of the largest and longest-serving personnel contributors, Pakistan occupies a unique position within the community of peacekeepers. In addition to their numbers, Pakistani peacekeepers' output and quality have been praised.

Pakistan has focused on educating its forces by constructing a state-of-the-art training institution in response to the complex challenges encountered during mobility and deployment. UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon inaugurated the Centre for International Peace and Stability (CIPS) at the National University of Science and Technology (NUST) on 1 March 2013. While appreciating Pakistan's participation and sacrifices in UN peacekeeping efforts, he noted that more than a hundred nations contribute forces and police to UN peacekeeping missions. Pakistan is ranked first. It is unthinkable to discuss the annals of United Nations peacekeeping without mentioning the nation's contribution.

## **Pakistan's Peace Characterization**

Even though a great deal has been written about the role of UN peacekeepers and the operational systems of UN peacekeeping missions, no direct or indirect relationship has been established between a nation's contribution to UN peacekeeping missions and its overall peace status on a global scale. Considering Mort Kaplan's two variables of capability and information, Pakistan has repeatedly demonstrated its capability in numerous UN missions. Listed below are a few highlights. The Deputy Commander of UN Forces in Somalia, Major General Thomas, praised the performance of Pakistani personnel as follows: We are grateful to the people and army of Pakistan for dispatching such outstanding soldiers to Somalia, with whom we are honoured to serve. Even in the most challenging of circumstances, Pakistani soldiers have been utterly dependable. They have carried an enormous and perilous portion of the United Nations' operation in Somalia and the Somali population. Algerian UN diplomat Lakhdar Brahimi expressed his sincere admiration for the outstanding work that the officers and men of the Pakistani contingent did in Haiti: It gives me great pleasure to express my heartfelt congratulations and sincere admiration for the outstanding work that the officers and men of the Pakistani battalion have done throughout Haiti. China's Prime Minister, Zhou Enlai, lauded Pakistan's military, stating that Pakistan's military contingent in Indonesia was the only instance in the history of the United Nations in which a UN military force had entered a country, performed its duties honourably, and then left. Krishnasamy emphasised that Pakistan's participation in the UN Protection Force (UNPROFOR) in Bosnia-Herzegovina resulted in recognition for its forces. The local media has consistently portrayed the contribution of Pakistan's military in a positive light, and it is widely acknowledged that PAKBATT saved the locals from brutal attacks, provided them with all forms of humanitarian aid, and, most importantly, provided them with medical care that was greatly appreciated by the locals. Former UN Transitional Administrator Paul Klein praised the professionalism of the Pakistani contingent in Eastern Slovenia, stating, "I wish to reaffirm my gratitude and appreciation for the professionalism displayed by the Pakistani contingent during its stay in Eastern Slovenia." Indeed, they are conducting invaluable services for humanity. Dijanana Islamovic, the editor of a Bosnian news journal, stated that PAKBATT has not only protected us but also instilled a new character in our lives. They have provided us with a variety of humanitarian aid, but their hospital has provided us with constant medical attention. Peacekeeping nations are also aware of the appreciation for Pakistan's years of active participation and sacrifice in UN peacekeeping missions. Several nations now use their participation in

peacekeeping operations to advance their foreign and economic policies. If one examines Sierra Leone as a case study, it is clear that Pakistan's peace perception and contribution to peace building are evident. From 1999 to 2005, the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL) was a UN peacekeeping operation. It was tasked with stabilising the country following a civil conflict, protecting civilians, disarming, demobilising, and reintegrating combatants into society, and promoting democracy and human rights. As 300 Indian UN peacekeepers were held captive for over two months, it became the most prominent UN mission. The UNAMSIL Force Commander and Chief Military Observer, Indian Major General Vijay Kumar Jetley, was dismissed; as a consequence, the Indian contingent was disbanded within a year. The mission was then taken over by Pakistani peacekeepers until the UN declared its effective conclusion in 2005. This is a great example of a recent successful operation. In conclusion, taking into account Kaplan's first variable capability Pakistan has demonstrated its value as a nation capable of securely achieving the goals designated to peacekeeping missions. Regarding Morton Kaplan's information variable for Pakistan, we can begin with Pakistan's motivations for UN peacekeeping missions. What are Pakistan's contributions to UN peace missions intended to accomplish? The first objective is to promote international peace and stability and assist the United Nations in these endeavours. The second objective is to correct misconceptions about Pakistan and portray it accurately as a nation that values peace. The third objective is to increase its participation in international and regional organisations. UN peacekeeping missions can aid Pakistan in achieving all of these goals. In fact, they provide a setting in which we can effectively project our narrative and a solid, stable foundation from which we can expand our influence. To achieve the aforementioned objectives, Pakistan must establish itself as an international peace broker. Pakistan must take three strategic measures to achieve this goal: first, it must disseminate information about its UN-sponsored peacekeeping endeavours; second, it must institutionalise its peacekeeping experiences; and third, it must supplement these missions with conciliation efforts. In this regard, the Centre for International Peace and Stability, Pakistan, has made commendable efforts to ensure that Pakistan is able to adopt advanced and specialised training, in accordance with other contemporary nations. Since September 11, 2001, the failure of the United States to expand on the success of its UN peacekeeping missions may be largely attributable to the media's biased coverage. Pakistan's successes in UN peacekeeping missions have not been adequately publicised for them to flourish and serve as the foundation of a positive peace image of the country. In addition, the literature on peace characterization and the theory of international systems is neither exhaustive nor easily accessible to the general public. Consequently, a significant portion of the community in question continues to disregard the gravity of its impact on Pakistan's national policy and international standing. The establishment and maintenance of enduring and sustainable peace comes at a high price. Pakistan has contributed more than 200,000 peacekeepers to 46 UN missions on four continents since it began participating in UN peacekeeping missions. 157 Pakistani peacekeepers, including 24 officers and one female staff member, perished during these arduous missions. However, these sacrifices have not been widely acknowledged, and Pakistan's reputation is at odds with the contributions it has made to international security through UN peacekeeping missions. Neither has Pakistan received its fair share of representation in the various UN bodies and organisations. In the current era of globalisation, a media-savvy environment, and a world where everything is a commodity, Pakistani policymakers should view diplomatic peacekeeping as a valuable commodity that must be effectively packaged, branded, and promoted. Pakistan must urgently strive to enhance its national stature through its diplomacy of peacekeeping. It may not be financially powerful enough to influence global

decisions and reasoning, but its peacekeeping diplomacy should be institutionalised and regarded as an essential foreign policy tool. It is true that Pakistani peacekeepers have gained international recognition, but the extent to which the United Nations and international community recognise Pakistan's contribution to global peace and security is overstated. The uppermost levels of the Pakistani government require a unified vision and harmonious execution. In this regard, the foreign and defence ministries play a significant role. Pakistan's foreign ministry and military establishment responsible for the management and coordination of peacekeeping missions should be aware of the need to undertake peacekeeping beyond the mandate of the United Nations, not to violate or undermine the mandate, but to ensure that Pakistan can transform its peacekeeping efforts into a pragmatic diplomatic instrument through which the country's national interest and foreign policy objectives can be operationalized. Diplomatically, peacekeeping should be integrated with the peace interests of the conflict-affected area through professional, structural, and infrastructural engagement. The element of WHAM (Winning Hearts and Minds) should be incorporated into the postconflict domain in order to establish a mutually beneficial, long-lasting relationship. This will generate goodwill that will endure beyond the conflict phase and secure our reputation as a peacemaker in the world. Additionally, it will foster international goodwill.

#### Conclusion

Peacekeeping is a typical strategy for resolving conflicts, establishing stability, and maintaining peace in war-torn regions. Destabilising nations contributes to the establishment of peace and cessation of hostilities. Pakistan has the distinction of contributing one of the greatest numbers of troops to UN missions in this regard. Pakistan has thus far dispatched its top diplomats, military and police personnel, medical personnel, and regular assistance workers, both male and female, to carry out effective peacekeeping tasks under the auspices of the United Nations in order to promote global stability and peace. The international community has frequently acknowledged and applauded its outstanding performance. Pakistan has demonstrated that it is a responsible and peace-loving member of the international community by actively participating in peacekeeping operations. This action exemplifies Pakistan's belief in human unity and commitment to world peace. In addition, it has significantly enhanced Pakistan's favourable image in the eves of the international community. These UN-sanctioned peacekeeping missions must become more goal-oriented in order to establish a stable and tranquil global order. In this regard, the "right person with the right skills for the right mission" is crucial. In addition to a high level of professionalism, peacekeepers must also be impartial, compassionate, and respectful of local customs and traditions. They must establish cordial relationships with the natives, as Pakistanis have successfully done in other missions, including Somalia. In addition, a number of underlying problems and difficulties impact the effectiveness of the involved soldiers and the outcomes of the missions. Problems include the power politics of major nations in mission planning, a lack of financing, violence against peacekeeping forces, a dearth of necessary exercises, and a high level of professionalism. There is no alternative to UN missions for resolving conflicts and restoring peace, so more research is required to determine how Pakistan's extensive experience and strong performance in peacekeeping can assist the UN and other regional institutions, such as the African Union, in achieving their peacekeeping objectives.

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