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## BACKGROUND PAPER

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**Topic:** “Enhancing pre-deployment training for UN peacekeeping forces.”

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**Chair and Moderator**

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# Committee Background

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The history of UN peacekeeping began in 1948, when the United Nations deployed its first military observers in the Middle East to monitor ceasefires, marking the creation of UNTSO. Soon after, missions expanded to places like India and Pakistan, with the goal of maintaining stability. During the 1950s and 1960s, peacekeeping grew, sometimes with larger forces, as in the Suez Crisis and later in the Congo, which revealed both the potential and the risks of such operations.

After the Cold War, peacekeeping changed dramatically. The UN moved beyond simply monitoring ceasefires to engaging in complex, multidimensional missions that included supporting elections, protecting human rights, rebuilding institutions, and disarming former fighters. Between 1989 and 1994, peacekeeping grew at an unprecedented rate, with personnel increasing from about 11,000 to 75,000.

However, the 1990s also exposed serious challenges. Failures in places like Somalia, Rwanda, and the Balkans showed the limitations of UN peacekeeping when missions lacked resources, clear mandates, or genuine political support. These lessons reshaped how peacekeeping was planned and carried out.

Today, UN peacekeeping is one of the organization's most visible roles, involving more than 100,000 military, police, and civilian staff worldwide. Modern missions are multidimensional, focusing not only on security but also on protecting civilians and helping societies rebuild after conflict. Despite its achievements, peacekeeping continues to face major challenges, such as complex wars, limited funding, and the need for stronger international support.

# Introduction of the Topic

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Pre-deployment training is a critical component of United Nations peacekeeping operations. It ensures that military, police, and civilian personnel are adequately prepared to operate in complex, volatile environments while upholding UN values. Enhancing this training means improving its quality, consistency, and relevance to current challenges such as protection of civilians, gender-based violence, and cultural sensitivity.

Pre-deployment training is essential to ensure that UN peacekeepers are prepared to act ethically, effectively, and respectfully in complex conflict zones. As missions have evolved to include the protection of civilians, human rights, and sensitive cultural dynamics, training must adapt as well.

Recent incidents of misconduct and operational failures have demonstrated that technical skills are not enough: peacekeepers need training in emotional resilience, gender, human rights, and cultural sensitivity. Improving this training is not just a logistical issue, but a moral commitment to the communities they seek to protect.



# Evolution of the Topic

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1948–1999: Foundations and Fragmentation. In this early phase, UN peacekeepers received minimal and inconsistent training, often limited to basic military discipline and UN principles. The lack of preparation for complex humanitarian crises became tragically evident in Rwanda (1994) and Srebrenica (1995), prompting global concern over peacekeeper readiness.

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2000–2017: Standardization and Ethical Expansion. Following the Brahimi Report (2000), the UN introduced the Core Pre-deployment Training Materials (CPTM), establishing a standardized curriculum. Training expanded to include human rights, gender sensitivity, child protection, and prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse, with scenario-based exercises and mission-specific modules.

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2018–Present: Strategic Reform and Adaptive Learning. With the launch of the Action for Peacekeeping (A4P) initiative in 2018, training became more dynamic and performance-driven. It now incorporates digital platforms, mental health awareness, environmental protection, and leadership in volatile contexts, reflecting a shift toward ethical, human-centered peacekeeping.



# External Actions

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UN peacekeeping training has increasingly relied on external actions to improve its reach, relevance, and effectiveness. These include strategic partnerships with member states, regional training centers, and academic institutions that help develop and deliver standardized content. The UN collaborates with countries that host peacekeeping schools and fund training programs, while also deploying mobile training teams to adapt instruction to local contexts. Digital platforms like UN iLearn have expanded access to training globally, allowing personnel to engage with interactive modules on ethics, protection, and leadership. Additionally, joint exercises, evaluation frameworks, and “train-the-trainer” initiatives have strengthened national capacities and ensured consistent quality across missions. These external actions reflect a shift toward collaborative, performance-driven, and culturally sensitive peacekeeping preparation.





# Committee Focus

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This committee aims to explore how the United Nations and its member states can enhance the effectiveness, ethical depth, and adaptability of pre-deployment training for peacekeeping forces. The focus is not only on improving operational readiness, but also on ensuring that peacekeepers are equipped to protect civilians, uphold human rights, and respond to complex humanitarian challenges with empathy and cultural sensitivity.

Delegates will examine how international cooperation, digital innovation, and standardized curricula can strengthen training systems, reduce misconduct, and promote accountability. The committee also seeks to address gaps in mental health support, gender awareness, and leadership development, recognizing that peacekeeping is not just a military task—but a human responsibility.

## KEY FOCUS STATEMENTS TO DISCUSS:

- Strengthening international cooperation to ensure consistent and high-quality peacekeeping training
- Integrating ethical and cultural competencies into pre-deployment curricula
- Expanding access through digital platforms and remote learning tools
- Enhancing training on civilian protection, gender sensitivity, and mental health resilienc
- Establishing evaluation mechanisms to measure training effectiveness and promote accountability

# Conclusion

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Enhancing pre-deployment training for UN peacekeeping forces is not simply a procedural improvement—it is a transformative commitment to the values of peace, protection, and human dignity. As peacekeeping missions increasingly operate in complex, volatile, and ethically sensitive environments, the need for well-prepared personnel becomes urgent and non-negotiable. This committee recognizes that effective peacekeeping begins long before boots touch the ground. It begins with training that is not only technically sound but ethically grounded, culturally aware, and emotionally resilient.

The evolution of training reflects a growing understanding that peacekeepers are not just military actors—they are mediators, protectors, and witnesses to human suffering. Therefore, training must equip them with the tools to respond with empathy, clarity, and accountability. This includes integrating human rights education, gender sensitivity, mental health awareness, and leadership development into every stage of preparation. It also means embracing innovation: using digital platforms to reach diverse regions, partnering with academic institutions to enrich content, and deploying mobile training teams to adapt instruction to local realities.

Ultimately, this committee calls for a shift in mindset: from reactive training to proactive empowerment, from fragmented efforts to unified standards, and from technical readiness to human-centered resilience. By investing in comprehensive, ethical, and adaptive training, the UN and its partners reaffirm their commitment to protecting lives, preventing harm, and restoring trust in peacekeeping as a force for justice and hope in the world.



# Countries Position

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**Denmark:** Co-funds training programs; promotes ethics and gender sensitivity.

**Republic of Korea:** Hosts regional training center; supports digital and cultural training.

**Netherlands:** Focuses on leadership, human rights, and civilian protection.

**Ghana:** Home to KAIPTC; leads in gender-inclusive and conflict resolution training.

**Canada:** Supports scenario-based training and mental health integration.

**India:** Major troop contributor; runs national peacekeeping training institutes.

**Bangladesh:** Strong training infrastructure; Emphasizes discipline and ethics.

**Rwanda:** Offers regional training; focuses on post-conflict sensitivity.

**Japan:** Funds training initiatives; promotes technology and disaster response modules.

**Germany:** Invests in leadership and human rights education.

**Norway:** Advocates for gender and protection-focused training.

**Kenya:** Hosts training centers; Emphasizes regional cooperation.

**Ethiopia:** Active in African peacekeeping training networks.

**Indonesia:** Provides training for Southeast Asian contingents.

**Brazil:** Engages in Latin American peacekeeping education.

**South Africa:** Supports ethics and civilian engagement modules.



# Countries Position

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**China:** Expanding training capacity; focuses on logistics and medical support.

**United States:** Offers technical support and strategic guidance.

**France:** Promotes leadership and multilingual training.

**Italy:** Supports cultural awareness and legal frameworks in training.

# Participation List

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Germany



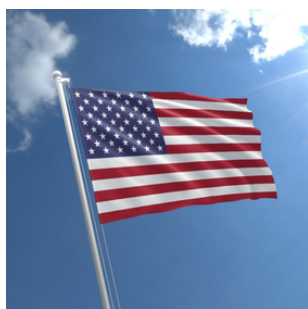
France



India



Republic of Korea



USA



Canada



Ghana



Bangladesh



China



Rwanda



Norway



Denmark

# Participation List

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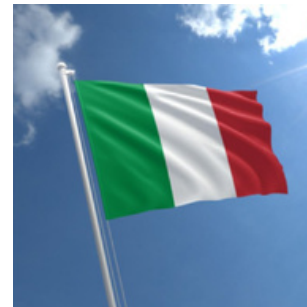
Kenya



Ethiopia



Netherlands



Italy



Indonesia



Japan



Brazil



South Africa



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