

SPECIAL SECTION: PEACE OPERATIONS

PRESENTATION

Peace operations are the primary conflict resolution mechanism of the United Nations Security Council. Although not expressly provided for in the 1945 United Nations Charter, these operations have been serving since 1948 to reduce wars and the lethality of armed conflicts around the world, in addition to contributing to the construction of lasting peace.

These peace operations and their constitution went through several phases throughout their existence. In the first phase, it targeted observing and managing enforcement of peace and cease-fire agreements. Nowadays, peace operations has multidimensional features, including the restructuring of the Democratic Rule of Law, the reorganization of security, justice and civilian protection institutions, besides the building projects of lasting peace and social and economic development.

In order to disseminate information on Peace Operations and also to think about its future, a special section with three articles dealing with this topic is presented below. These articles have contributions of specialists in peace missions from Brazilian institutions and international ones as well, and count on partnership with the Brazilian Research Network on Peace Operations (REBRAPAZ), and linked to this last one, the Working Group “Women, Peace and Security”.

The article by Anton Ruus, Henrique Garbino and Ricardo Oliveira deals with the several problems related to security and legitimacy faced by post-conflict societies. According to the authors, to solve these problems, the international community often turns to Peacekeeping Operations or Security Sector Reform programs (PKOs and SSR, respectively). PKOs contribute to create necessary preconditions for successful implementation of SSR - basically associated to safe environment. However, four additional preconditions must be met: common vision, external support, local ownership and donor collaboration. The authors argue that the failure to provide these conditions will lead to incomplete implementation and also a reform leading to a security sector unprovided of professional and legitimate institutions.

Mariana Pimenta Oliveira Baccarini, Maria Eduarda Laryssa Silva Freire and Stela da Rocha de Medeiros Dantas present an essay aiming to elucidate the importance of the United Nations Security Council within peace operations, against the backdrop of MINUSTAH, a stabilization mission in the Haitian scenario. This mission was committed to the country's sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and unity, in the face of a complicated context of human rights violations derived from the political transition of the Haitian government.

The article closing this special section was written by Larissa Anacleto do Nascimento, with my co-authorship, and deals with the introduction of the “Women, Peace and Security” (MPS) agenda in the UN system, which brought to light the need for full and equal participation of women in all stages of peace processes, including

mediation processes. The purpose of the article is to analyze the relationship between the MPS agenda and international mediation, (especially after the adoption of Resolution 1.325) as well as its advances and challenges.

This set of essays sought to present some relevant themes under debate on peace operations, highlighting its role in the development of the rule of law in post-conflict societies and, still, the capabilities in the security sector. Finally, it seeks to contribute with a more inclusive and egalitarian agenda for women.

This theme has been gaining increasing space within the Brazilian academy, and we hope for the contribution of these articles to the dissemination of awareness of Peace Operations in the fields of development and international relations.

An excellent reading to all!An excellent reading to all!

Karla Pinhel Ribeiro
Special Section Organizer