

Evolution of Peacekeeping in the United Nations

Dr Isha Verma*

Abstract

The concept of peacekeeping was not defined in the United Nations charter. It was derived from the UN charter containing articles on self-defence [51] and threat to peace, breach of peace, and act of aggression [Chapter VII]. Although the UN Security Council was formed to protect nations from the scourge of war, due to the veto power there was a dead lock in the Security Council. Any action that had to be taken in a crisis, needed peacekeeping forces which were voluntarily provided by member countries. A report had to be prepared by the Secretary General on the crisis and then decisions were taken. To resolve the crisis, methods like mediation, arbitration and conciliation were adopted. The concept of peacekeeping has evolved into peacekeeping, peace-making and peace building. Peace building is the flagship of the United Nations.

Words; peacekeeping, mediation, conciliation, arbitration, peace-making and peacebuilding.

Former Secretary General Boutros Boutros Ghali defined peacebuilding in his book ‘An Agenda for Peace’ as the ‘action to identify and support structures which will tend to strengthen and solidify peace’. As in August 2022, the UN deploys 12 peacekeeping operations led by the department of peacekeeping operations and 24 field missions led by the department of political and peacebuilding affairs. A study by Rand Corporation found that two-thirds of the United Nation’s peacebuilding missions had succeeded. In addition, the sharp increase in peace-making efforts led to a significant increase in the number of conflicts ending in negotiated settlements. In terms of the challenge to establish enduring peace in conflict zones, the Security Council has emphasized that ‘the biggest deterrent to violent conflict is addressing the root cause of the conflict, including through the promotion of sustainable development and democratic society based on a strong rule of law and civic institutions, including adherence to all human rights- civil, political, economic, social, and cultural. Hence, we will analyse the background on peacekeeping in theory and practice.

Peacekeeping in theory and practice

UN was founded to safeguard the next generations from the scourge of war. Peacekeeping is one of the most important ways in which UN intervenes in conflicts

*Associate Professor, PGDAV College Evening, University of Delhi, Email: isha1963@gmail.com