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UN Peacekeeping in Africa

Annika S. Hansen · Tobias von Gienanth pp. 195–200
A Review of UN Peacekeeping in Africa

In the last decade, the number and scale of United Nations peace operations have grown worldwide. These developments have mostly taken place in Africa, which today accounts for 83 percent of the UN uniformed personnel. The article describes different patterns of missions and the array of special political missions. It outlines how UN peace operations take place in volatile environments in which a number of political issues remain unresolved. Mandates are more robust, but resources are limited and the consent of host governments is fragile. The article concludes with the reminder that technical measures to improve peace operations will have limited effect as long as the underlying political issues remain unaddressed.

Dagmar Dehmer p. 201
Comment: Zero Tolerance for Sexual Abuse by UN Troops

In order to keep its role as a moral authority, the UN must make wrongdoings transparent and ensure accountability. Consequently, the UN has to increase its efforts to prosecute sexual abuse allegations, so says the author.

Daniel Maier pp. 202–207
Planning and Evaluation of UN Peacekeeping
The Capstone Doctrine and the Integrated Planning Process in Practice

Since the early 2000s, the UN Security Council has mandated multidimensional, integrated peace operations in complex environments which are confronted by high levels of threats for civilians and peacekeepers alike. In light of the core mandate “to protect civilians,” the traditional principles of UN peacekeeping are coming under increasing pressure by a call for more robust mandates. In this regard the so-called Capstone Doctrine has facilitated the development of an integrated planning process. The use of Security Council benchmarks for peace and stability has thereby led to an improved assessment of the effectiveness of peace operations.

Denis M. Tull pp. 208–212
Peacekeeping in the DR Congo
MONUSCO and the Dilemma of Stabilization

With up to 22,018 personnel and 16 years into its mandate, the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the DR Congo (MONUSCO) is the largest and longest standing

multidimensional UN peacekeeping operation. Since the post-conflict elections in 2006, MONUSCO has been politically marginalized by the sovereignty-minded Congolese government. As a result, MONUSCO’s efforts to rebuild state institutions as a means of stabilization have proved largely ineffective. The increasingly robust posture of its military contingents tasked with aiding the government in extending state authority has not helped the mission overcome its political marginalization.

Martin Pabst pp. 213–218
Is the Western Sahara Conflict Escalating?
The MINURSO in Deep Crisis

The United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO) assisted to ensure that the ceasefire was respected by the conflict parties Morocco and the Polisario Front. However, MINURSO was incapable of organizing a referendum of self-determination. The mission as well as the mutually accepted settlement proposal is now in a deep crisis. In response to statements made by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, Morocco expelled most of the international civilian MINURSO staff in March 2016. Meanwhile, frustration is rising among Sahrawi refugees in the occupied territory and in refugee camps, and the conflict parties are preparing for a potential rekindling of armed conflict. If the UN is unable to restore the operational capability of MINURSO and bring self-determination for Western Sahara, it could lose its credibility.

Alexandra Steinebach pp. 219–223
50 Years of Combating Racial Discrimination
Achievements and Challenges in Germany and Worldwide

This article examines the progress and achievements that have been made in regard to combating racial discrimination since the International Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (ICERD) entered into force 50 years ago. The focus lies on the international, regional and national implementation of the ICERD as well as the acceptance of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD). The CERD is concerned about the recent developments in the so-called NSU case in Germany and the failure of the investigation authorities to protect the victims of racial stigmatization and discrimination.

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