



Sustainable Common Security

<https://sustainablecommonsecurity.org/>

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Chapeau

Our global challenges require:

A United Nations Emergency Peace Service

to:

- x Prevent armed conflict and protect vulnerable people;
- x Respond rapidly and reliably before crises escalate;
- x Provide prompt help to address human needs in complex emergencies;
- x Encourage military build- down and wider disarmament;
- x Save succeeding generations and trillions of dollars to address our climate emergency, poverty reduction, sustainable development, and;
- x Inspire people, political will and funding for the vital work of the UN.

“This venture is of the greatest importance both to the UN as a responsible institution and to the millions as of yet unknown, innocent victims who might, in the future, be saved by this essential addition to the UN’s capacity to act on their behalf. There is one overwhelming argument for the United Nations Emergency Peace Service. It is desperately needed, and it is needed as soon as possible.” – (the late) Sir Brian Urquhart

Chapter II. International peace and security

Now more than ever, we need a more effective United Nations; one capable of preventing armed conflict, protecting people at risk and advancing sustainable common security.

Even before the war on Gaza, UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres warned, “the world is now facing the **highest number**

situation.”

Unlike prior proposals, a UNEPS is to be multidimensional and multifunctional, as well as supportive of existing arrangements and gender-equitable.

Five potential benefits are evident.

First, fast. UN peace operations would improve with a standing first-responder to manage the initial six months of demanding operations.

Instead of taking 6 months-to-a year or more to deploy national contingents, there would be immediate access to a UN service composed of dedicated individuals, recruited world-wide (selected, trained and employed by the UN). This would also help to offset the political pressure governments face when confronted with awkward decisions about whether to deploy their people into potentially high-risk operations.

A UNEPS is to deliver more assistance faster and in a more sophisticated manner. Small teams of experts and planners are included to coordinate the larger formations immediate and subsequent responses to diverse crises. With its modular formation, UNEPS deployments can be tailored to various mission-specific requirements.

Thus, a UNEPS would clearly be a more reliable and rapid first responder to deter violent crime and respond, when necessary, to prevent conflict and protect civilians.

Second, the elusive key to prevention. It's far easier to prevent conflicts and protect civilians when help arrives promptly, before conflicts escalate and violence spreads. As with a police or defense effort, it's best to be known to have credible means to deter aggression and, when required, the means to intervene to stop crimes. In practice, this usually works by having a legitimate capacity that is recognized and ready to respond as needed.

A standing UNEPS would convey a legitimate presence ready 24/7 to discourage violence. Its deployable elements should be sufficient to deter most, if not all belligerents, to operate in high-risk environments and to intervene if needed to stop aggressive parties.

Third, useful. In what's increasingly a global neighborhood under strain, there will be a greater need for universal emergency services. A UNEPS is to provide prompt help in a wide array of emergencies. Aside from police services to restore law and order and a military formation to deter aggression and maintain security, there would be an array of civilian teams to provide essential services for conflict resolution, human rights, health care, disaster assistance and quick impact peacebuilding projects.

With a gender-equitable composition, peacemaking and peacebuilding would improve. Standards should also rise systemwide.

As an integrated first-responder, a UNEPS is not limited to simply stopping direct violence, but also extends to initiating quick-impact and long-term projects to address human needs. That should help to counter structural violence (exploitation and exclusion), and stem cultural violence. By including specialists in conflict resolution and

mediation, human rights monitors and educators, peacebuilding advisory units, and medical teams, there is a far better prospect of stemming or solving a crisis.

Fourth, wider security. Equally important, a UNEPS would be an 'emergency security provider' to offset fears and encourage wider disarmament. This isn't a new idea, but one that's now urgent.

As early as 1961, officials in the U.S. State Department acknowledged in [Freedom From War](#) that preventing war and encouraging wider disarmament "can only be achieved" by a more effective UN with a UN Peace Force to safeguard legitimate interests.

The '[security dilemma](#)' driving numerous states to arm-up in response to anarchy and uncertainty over potentially aggressive neighbours needs to be offset by a UN assurance of support. Similarly, it should be understood that progress in wider disarmament and even the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) depends on a coherent alternative to nuclear and conventional deterrence.

For both, the alternative need not be similar to what exists – large or powerfully destructive. It needs to be credible, respected and widely valued.

A UNEPS would be a more sophisticated option than a UN force. As an emergency security provider, its role would be similar to that of a 'first-responder', a trip-wire, a vanguard and a standing presence to dissuade, deter and, respond rapidly if necessary. The minimal deterrent and modest military capacity within are appropriate and likely to be adequate

In this capacity, a UNEPS does not require heavy military elements nor a capacity for mid-to-high-intensity war-fighting. In representing the international community, it's unlikely to encounter violent resistance from any national armed force. If needed for augmentation and support,

violence at \$17.5trillion in 2022, equivalent to 12.9 per cent of global GDP, or \$2,200 per person” – absorbing urgently needed resources

A UNEPS would inevitably entail a substantive investment. Start-

Even if tentatively supported as meriting further study, this idea would attract a global constituency, with the political will and resources required.

Paradigm shifts do happen when prevailing systems are deemed inadequate or failing and when another option is widely viewed as better.



Mission HQ
(Tactical)

Civilian Police
Companies

Disaster Relief &
Humanitarian
Assistance Team

Human Rights
Monitors &
Educators

Conflict
Resolution Teams

Peacebuilding &

Our Partners



- Global Governance Forum;
- International Peace Bureau;
- Peace Action;
- Genocide Watch;
- Transnational Foundation for Peace and Future Research;
- Democracy Without Borders;
- World Federalist Movement – Institute for Global Policy
- Citizens For Global Solutions;
- Win Without War;
- Center for Victims of Torture;
- World Federalist Movement -Canada ;
- Young World Federalists;
- Sustainable Common Security

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