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Global Perspectives on the United Nations Reviews:

Views from China

Strengthen Global-Regional Partnership for UN Peace Operations: A Chinese and East Asian Perspective

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The highlights of the reviewing reports are three “Ps”: Political solution, Partnership, and People-centered. “Global and regional partnership for peace and security” is one of the essential shifts for peace operations. The UN peace operations are expected to turn to a new generation, being transformed from operation to governance, from government to people, and from conflict response to prevention. However, to implement the recommendation for a new generation of peace operation is a big task for UN and its member states. Asia is a region with more contribution to and less deployment of UN PKOs. It is required to establish and strengthen a UN-Asia partnership, an East Asia partnership, and a certain kind of “supplier” and “consumers” partnership between Asia and Africa. China’s new measures and increasing financial support for UN imply the new height of China-UN partnership and the transformation of China’s UN diplomacy: from involvement of international affairs to agenda-setting, from financial and personnel contribution to the initiation of ideas and proposals. China has established and promoted the partnership relations with more than 70 countries in the world, but there is great potential for China to strengthen partnership with UN agencies not only on PKOs but also broader fields, for example, the cooperation between “One Belt, One Road” and UN 2030 sustainable development agenda.

New Era of UN Peace Operations and China’s Increasing Contribution

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This paper mainly covers three aspects related to the UN peace operations. In the first part, the author highlights certain major points of the HIPPO report. First, the primacy of the political process and crucial role of conflict prevention. This has

reassured international community that all UN peace operations should be put under strict political guidance, with the military element in it to be subjected also to the strategic plan made out of the political process. In the meantime, conflict prevention or preventive diplomacy tools such as good offices, mediation, and conciliation have proven to be critically valuable to the peace process. Second, a holistic approach in addressing various issues in relation to the peace process. The use of the term peace operations instead of peacekeeping shows the intention to integrate political, military, and civilian aspects of the peace process into one well-coordinated part. Third, the central place of national/local ownership. The design and implementation of strategic plans of peace operations should always be put under a local context, with local demand and participation being a critical part for the carrying out of the mandates of action plans of peace operations.

The second part covers some challenges and key issues to be addressed. First, the so-called three principles of peacekeeping operations, including consent of major conflicting parties, impartiality, and non-use of force except for self-defense or enforcing mandates, still need to be complied with in current multi-dimensional peace operations. Actually this has been demonstrated clearly in the stress on political process and preventive diplomacy in the HIPPO report. Few political process can move on smoothly without an impartial role of the UN missions perceived by the major parties and frequent communication and dialogue with them. Over-stress on the military means may complicate or confuse the major goals to be achieved by UN peace operations. Second, maintenance of law and order is a priority task in the work of UN peace operations, which is conducive to the formation of enabling environment for further recover and development in the conflict-ridden societies. UN missions need to shoulder the responsibility of protecting civilians from various forms of violence, such as terrorist attack, transnational organized crimes, and acts in serious violation of national criminal law, etc. To achieve this, some institutional transformation and capacity building work is definitely needed. Increasing peacekeeping police deployment and training of local law enforcement officials as well as improving the work of criminal investigation agency may provide some help in this aspect. Third, forging a broadly-based peace and development partnership for the post-conflict development of local communities. It has been shown by past experiences or lessons that further economic and social development has been critically important for the consolidation of peace process. In this way, the work of Multilateral Development Agencies on job creation and economic growth has been closely entangled the work of maintaining peace and security. There is an urgent need now to redefine and refine the peace and development partnership among UN missions, MDBs, various UN member countries, civil society organizations, and the private sector.

Last but not least, a general review is made in the third part on China's role and contribution in UN peace operations. It's argued by the author that there may have been a tipping point for China's increasing contribution in this aspects, with President Xi Jinping's visit to New York last year as the most important landmark event. China's contribution to UN peace operations has become a unique case among the member states. It now has substantial amount of peacekeeping soldiers and police deployed

around the globe. In the meantime, China's assessment to current UN peacekeeping budget has also risen to the second place. It has pledged to enhance the availability of its training facilities to peacekeepers from other countries. It may still take some time for us to figure out the real implications of China's new commitments to the UN peace operations. There will definitely be great opportunities for the UN to embrace more Chinese involvement, which currently mainly manifests in the form of greater financial and physical contribution while later may also touch upon the ideas and approaches. There are also certain potential underlying risks in tandem with more Chinese participation, for instance, rising casualty of Chinese peacekeepers, contradiction between bilateral relations and multilateral intervention, and domestic discontent or fear over China's global "overreach". More strategic and policy research is definitely needed in the future.

**Lessons from the Past, Advices for the Future:
Comments and Recommendations on the Reforms and
Transformations of the UN Peacekeeping Operations**

Ms. Li Xueyao

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In the early 1990s, the UN peacekeeping operations surged in number and size, and effectively fulfilled a series of mandates, becoming a highlight of the UN. This paper is intended to explore the reasons behind the effective delivery of peacekeeping operations in early 1990s, and point out some deficiencies in contemporary peace operations in comparison with that period of time and propose some policy recommendations. Moreover, there will an introduction on China's expanding role in the UN's peacekeeping operations.

Women, Peace and Security

Dr Maggie Zeng

Gender equality is important goal committed by UN member states under MDGs and SDGs. Since 1995 UN Women's conference in Beijing, significant progresses have been made in gender equality through the resources and efforts made by Chinese government, non-governmental organizations, and collaborative initiatives among Chinese government, NGOs, academic institutions and international organizations including UN agencies.

Research and experiences has proved that women are a key resource for promoting peace and stability. It is important to address women's needs and challenges as well as

women's participation and empowerment in prevention and protection interventions for sustainable peace and development results.

The experience of UN peacekeeping missions shows that uniformed female personnel are critical to gaining trust in communities and shaping peace operations to better respond to their protection needs. The study also compiles growing evidence that demonstrates how peace negotiations influenced by women are much more likely to end in agreement and to endure; in fact the chances of the agreement lasting 15 years goes up by as much as 35 per cent. We also have growing evidence that women are the best placed to detect early warning signs of radicalization in their families and communities, and act to prevent it.

UN SDGs have provided good opportunity as guiding principle and framework for member states to comply and commit resources to address gender equality. Progress has been made by Chinese government in peace building:

- More women are included in the peace keeping force;
- Gender mainstreaming training is included for training for peace keeping force
- Continue commitment on gender equality and women empowerment

Research has also identified gaps and challenges in addressing gender mainstreaming in peace building and security including: awareness raising on gender equality and women's participation and empowerment, institutional capacity and inter-agency collaboration, knowledge sharing and learning.

Recommendations for strengthening gender mainstreaming in peace and security include: establish and strengthen linkage and exchange with local and international NGOs, explore more and different channels of participation to engage women's groups, NGOs, academic institutions, companies to contribute to peace building and address local needs effectively.