United Nations Peacekeeping Operations in Africa

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Key Questions

I. What is the status of U.N. peacekeeping in Africa?

II. What challenges do peacekeeping missions face?

III. What aspects of U.N. peacekeeping are successful?

IV. How can United Nations and African Union Peacekeeping work more effectively together?
I. Status: What Peacekeeping Operations Are

Peacekeeping can be defined as:

“the expeditionary use of uniformed police or military personnel to prevent the resumption of armed conflict by observing assisting or enforcing ceasefires or peace agreements.”

- Paul D. Williams (2013)
I. Status: UN PKOs in Africa
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II. Challenges: Readiness
II. Challenges: Legitimacy

Central African Republic

Attacks on Civilians

Human Rights Watch documented the killings of at least 249 civilians between May and September by various armed groups, as violence surged in many parts of the country, most...
II. Challenges: Failure to Align Ends / Means


Source: Sierra Leone Telegraph
II. Challenges: External Coordination

Example: The African Standby Force

Source: African Union
III. Successful Aspects of Peacekeeping

Peacekeeping is associated with:

- Fewer civilian casualties
- Fewer battlefield deaths
- Reduced conflict spread
- Lower risk of conflict recurrence

- Virginia Page Fortna (2008)
III. Successful Aspects of Peacekeeping: Persuasion

Source: AFP/Getting Images
III. Successful Aspects of Peacekeeping: Objective Alignment


Source: UNAMASIL
III. Successful Aspects of Peacekeeping: Costs

**Saving Money, Saving Lives**
IV. Recommendations for Working More Effectively

1) More reliable funding, stronger incentives for regional cooperation

2) More specialized capabilities

3) More female peacekeepers and civilians

4) More training emphasis on respecting the law of armed conflict

5) More selective, strategic engagement
IV. Recommendations for Working More Effectively

UN believes peacekeeping efforts unlikely to succeed without four following conditions in place:

- A ceasefire or peace agreement
- Regional actors aligned behind agreement
- Security Council aligned behind agreement
- Clear and achievable mandate with resources to match
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