

Module 1: An Overview of United Nations Peacekeeping Operations

Lesson 1.1



United Nations Peacekeeping



Relevance

As peacekeeping personnel you:

- Represent the UN
- Carry out decisions made at UN Headquarters in New York



Learning Outcomes

Learners will:

- Explain the UN and its purpose
- Identify the UN Charter as the guiding document
- List principal organs involved in UN peacekeeping
- List departments active in UN peacekeeping
- Describe three levels of authority for decision-making in UN peacekeeping



Lesson Overview

1. An Introduction to the UN
2. Principal Organs of the UN Involved in Peacekeeping
3. Departments of the Secretariat Active in Peacekeeping
4. Strategic, Operational & Tactical – Levels of Authority in Peacekeeping



Learning Activity

1.1.1

Film: *United Nations Peacekeeping*

Instructions:

- What did you learn from this film?
- What images stay with you?
- What was interesting?

Time: 10 minutes

- Film: 2:17 minutes
- Discussion: 5-7 minutes

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=st12PMiFg4Y>



Learning Activity

1.1.2

Consequences of Violent Conflict

Instructions:

- Place yourself in your home country, in your own home, with your family
- Imagine how a violent conflict would affect your life

Time: 15 minutes

- Visualization: 5-7 minutes
- Brainstorming: 5-7 minutes



1. An Introduction to the UN

- Violent conflict is devastating
- Peacekeeping preserves peace when conflict ends





The United Nations

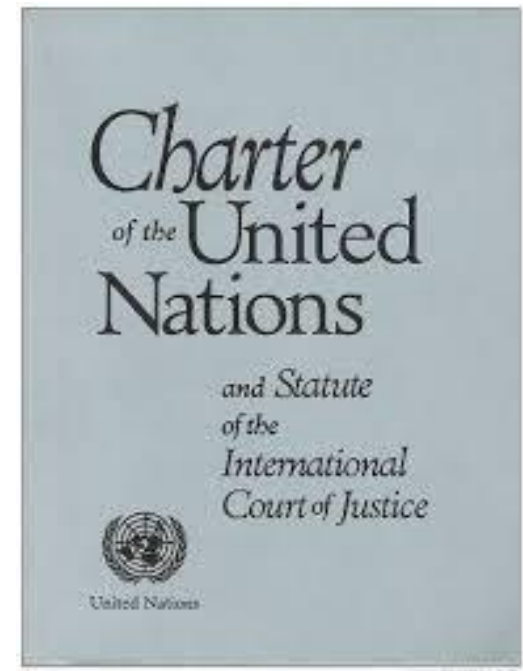
- Universal and impartial international organization
- Founded in 1945 after World War II
- “[...]to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war[...]”
(Preamble of the UN-Charter)





UN Charter

- Founding document
- Defines main purposes and principles
- “Maintain international peace and security” – a main purpose





Principal Organs

General Assembly

Security Council

Secretariat



International Court of Justice

Economic and Social Council

Trusteeship Council





UN Specialized Agencies, Funds & Programmes





2. UN Principal Organs Involved in Peacekeeping



General Assembly

Security Council

Secretariat



General Assembly



General Assembly

- Main forum for Member States to make decisions
- Committees, e.g. C-34



Security Council



Security Council

- Primary responsibility for maintaining international peace and security
- Power to investigate threats and take appropriate measures



Secretariat



Secretariat

- Secretariat:
led by Secretary-General
- Secretary-General:
“Chief Administrative Officer” of the Organization



3. Secretariat Departments Active in Peacekeeping

Security Council

Secretary-General

Secretariat

USG DFS

USG DPKO

USG DPA

DFS

DPKO

DPA



Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO)

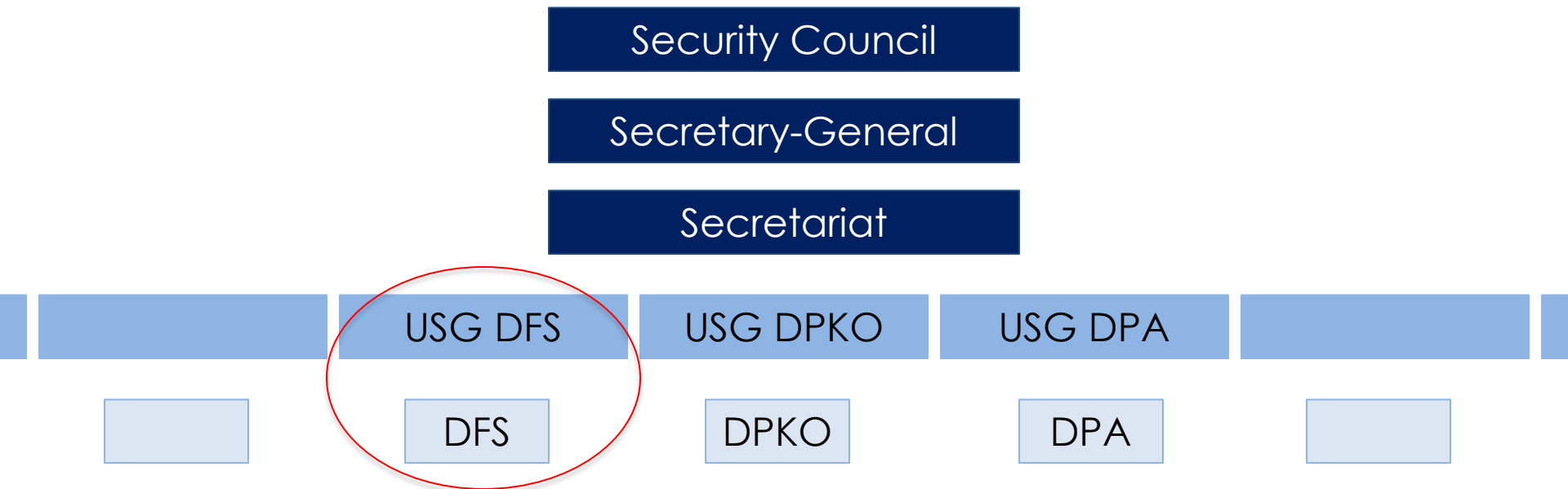
- Executive direction of peacekeeping operations





Department of Field Support (DFS)

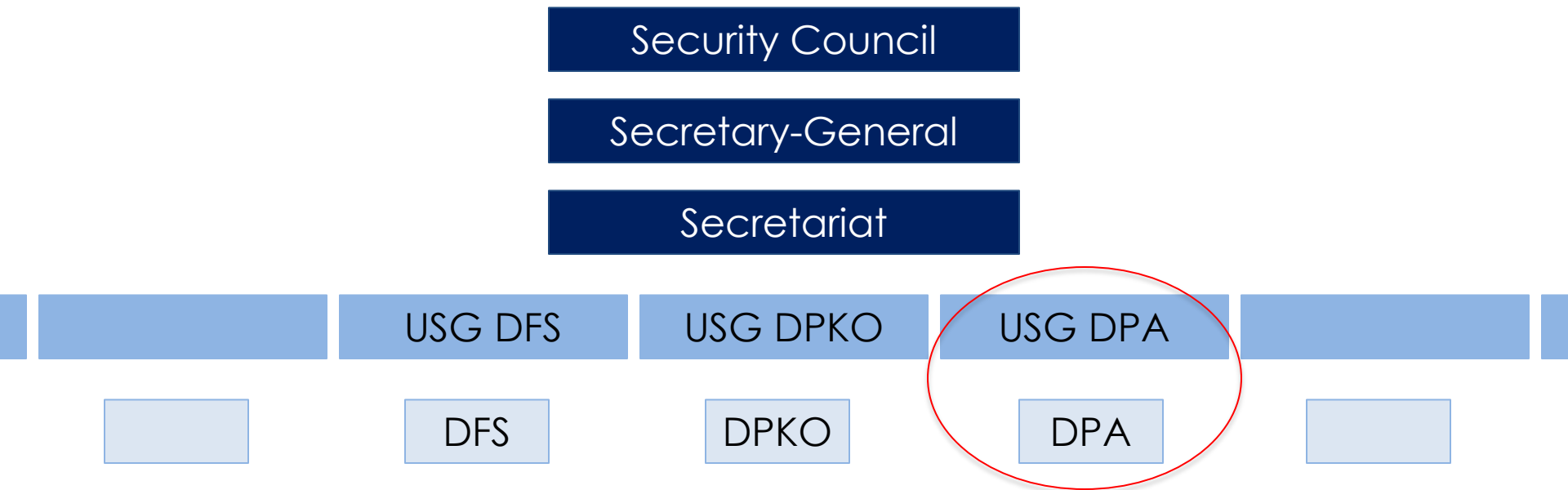
- Delivers support to UN field missions
- Finance, personnel, administration, information and communication technology, logistics





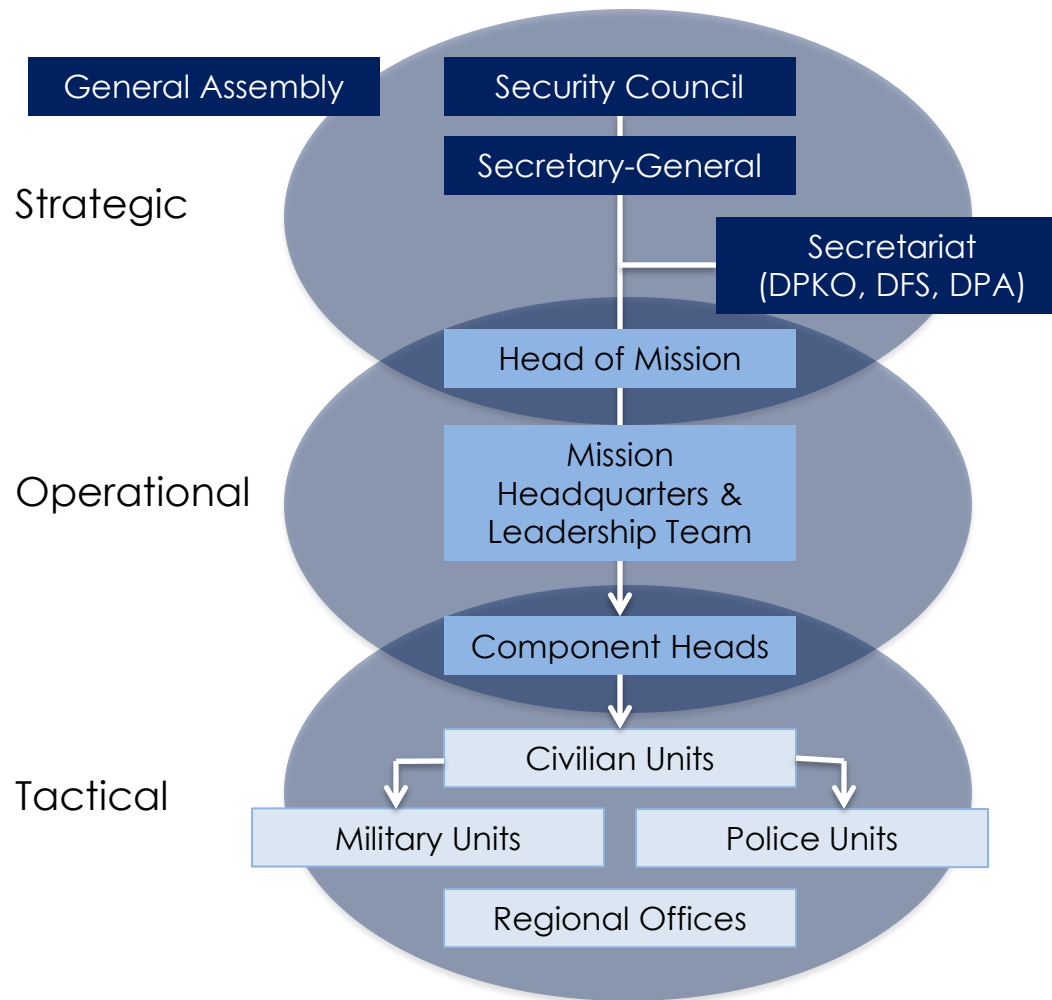
Department of Political Affairs (DPA)

- Substantive direction to Special Political Missions
- Collaborates with peacekeeping missions – political analysis, electoral assistance





4. Strategic, Operational & Tactical Levels of Authority in Peacekeeping





Summary of Key Messages

- UN maintains peace and security
- UN Charter is the guiding document
- General Assembly, Security Council, Secretariat involved in UN peacekeeping
- DPKO, DFS, DPA active in UN peacekeeping
- Strategic, operational, tactical - levels of authority for decision-making in UN peacekeeping



Questions



Learning Activity

Learning Evaluation