

Module 1: An Overview of United Nations Peacekeeping Operations

Lesson 1.3



Principles of United Nations Peacekeeping



Relevance

The Basic Principles:

- Guides UN peacekeeping
- Must be known, understood, applied



Learning Outcomes

Learners will:

- List the basic principles and key success factors
- Explain “legitimacy” and “credibility”
- Describe how peacekeeping personnel support legitimacy and credibility
- Explain “national and local ownership” and why it is essential to success



Lesson Overview

1. The Basic Principles

- Consent
- Impartiality
- Non-Use of Force Except in Self-Defence & Defence of the Mandate

2. Other Success Factors

- Legitimacy
- Credibility
- Promotion of National & Local Ownership



Learning Activity

1.3.1

Film: *UN Peacekeeping Is*

Instructions:

- What is the difference between peacekeeping and war-fighting?

Time: 10 minutes

- Film: 2:18 minutes
- Discussion: 5-7 minutes

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jAXVbt dBu10>



1. The Basic Principles of UN Peacekeeping

- Consent
- Impartiality
- Non-use of force except in self-defence and defence of the mandate



Defining the Basic Principles

Instructions:

- Consider “consent”, “impartiality”, “mandate” and “self-defence”
- What does each word mean?
- Give examples to illustrate

Time: 10 minutes

- Brainstorming: 3 minutes
- Discussion: 5-7 minutes



Basic Principle #1: Consent

- All UN peacekeeping operations (UNPKOs) deploy at least with consent of the host authorities





Consent: What Peacekeeping Personnel Can Do

- Continuously scan and analyse environment
- Learn about host country
- Assess and report on parties
- Build and respect trust





Basic Principle #2: Impartiality

- UNPKOs implement mandates without favour or prejudice





Impartiality: What Peacekeeping Personnel Can Do

- Build relationships
- Avoid activities compromising impartiality
- Rationale for action well-established and communicated
- Public information communications and key messages enforced





Basic Principle #3: Non-Use of Force Except in Self-Defence & Defence of the Mandate

- Use of force permitted in self-defence and defence of mandate
- Security Council authorizes “all necessary means” to defend the mandate





Non-Use of Force: What Peacekeeping Personnel Can Do

- Exercise restraint
- Precise, proportional and appropriate use
- Early de-escalation of violence, non-violent means of persuasion
- Rules of Engagement (ROE) or Directive on Use of Force (DUF)





2. Other Success Factors

- Legitimacy
- Credibility
- Promotion of National and Local Ownership



Learning Activity

1.3.3

Importance of Other Success Factors

Instructions:

- Consider the case study
- How did “legitimacy”, “credibility” and “national and local ownership” contribute to success?

Time: 5 minutes

- Discussion: 3 minutes
- Wrap-up: 2 minutes



Success Factor #1: Legitimacy

- UNPKOs have international legitimacy
- Quality and conduct of personnel affect perceived legitimacy





Legitimacy: What Peacekeeping Personnel Can Do

- Maintain high standards of professionalism, competence, integrity
- Respect local population
- Zero tolerance for sexual exploitation and abuse





Success Factor #2: Credibility

- Depends on achieving mandate
- Affected by ability to manage and meet expectations





Credibility: What Peacekeeping Personnel Can Do

- Implement mandate
- Remain confident, capable, unified
- Manage expectations





Success Factor #3: Promotion of National & Local Ownership

- Inclusive and consultative processes
- Include local and national perspectives
- Allow national capacity to lead





Promotion of National & Local Ownership: What Peacekeeping Personnel Can Do

- Respect national sovereignty
- Support and build national capacity
- Build trust, cooperation
- Be sensitive to local needs, perspectives





Summary of Key Messages

- Basic principles – consent, impartiality, non-use of force except in self-defence and defence of the mandate
- Key success factors – legitimacy, credibility, promotion of national and local ownership
- “Legitimacy” – behaviour of highest standards
- “Credibility” – implement mandate, manage expectations
- “National and local ownership” – promote



Questions



Learning Activity

Learning Evaluation