

- Training newly-deployed peacekeepers on child protection, which complements the training on child protection every peacekeeper must receive prior to his or her deployment.

- Advocating: the child protection advisor acts as an advocate, facilitator, and an advisor to the mission leadership on pertinent child protection issues.

- Monitoring and reporting the most serious violations against children.

- Liaising with UNICEF and other child protection actors for follow-up and response to individual cases.

Child protection advisors play a key role in establishing dialogue with perpetrators to end the gravest violations against children. This dialogue has led to the signing of action plans by military and armed groups and the release of thousands of child soldiers. Since 2001, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) has deployed child protection advisors in Sierra Leone, Burundi, Chad, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Afghanistan, Côte d'Ivoire, Liberia, Haiti and Sudan.

“Children are trusting, and their trust is easily betrayed. This is why we need to give them special protection. If we do not protect the next generation, all our efforts to establish lasting peace will be in vain,” Mr Hervé Ladsous, Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations said.

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## **THE VALUE AND ROLE OF THE UN PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS IN THE PROTECTION OF CIVILIANS**

United Nations activities presently have an important coordinating, stimulating and directing significance in international activities, especially for the world community in modern hard external relations, in the absence of mutual agreement in orientation and nature of foreign policy leaders. Therefore, the question of peacekeeping is a prime example of efforts to maintain international peace and security.

All United Nations peace operations today have the obligation to advocate the protection of civilians. This is a mission-wide task. Many non-military tools are available, including strong political advocacy, credible reporting and liaison with communities. Many missions support national authorities in carrying out their protection responsibilities, including through support to police, rule of law and security institutions and national action plans to better protect children and address sexual violence.

Where missions have an explicit mandate to protect civilians, uniformed personnel must play their part, including, where necessary, through the use of force. This has been defined to mean preventive, preemptive and tactical use of force to protect civilians under threat of physical violence. The source and the nature of violence are not the determinant for action. Guns, machetes, rape, improvised explosives: all these and other means are used against civilians by all kinds of armed actors. Missions must have the capabilities and command structures required to respond effectively, and uniformed personnel must comply with orders to prevent, deter and protect civilians against attacks.

Improvements made over the recent years to policies, rules of engagement and training are helping missions to protect civilians. At the same time, we should point out that wide and universal participation in missions is also vital to their effectiveness and credibility. Within the Member States lie capabilities that can improve mission presence on the ground, risk assessments, communication, mobility and engineering. However, the sheer possibilities of the Member States are not a decisive factor in the practical possibility of such assistance of the United Nations. They must not contradict international law on the rules and restrictions for their use and application.

It is time to fulfill commitment to conflict prevention as a primary function of the Organization. Strong Member State political support for United Nations prevention and mediation efforts can send a powerful signal that the global system is intent on reducing armed conflict. It can build confidence in the capacity of international organizations to advance peace. This peacekeeping would become an idea and a powerful factor for world consolidation for the safety of both the individual and the global community.

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## **WOMEN IN PEACEKEEPING: A GROWING FORCE**

Over the past seven decades the United Nations has become one of the main peacekeeping organizations resorted to resolve complex crises that threaten international peace and security. Women are deployed in all areas – police, military and civilian – and have made a positive impact on supporting the role of women in building peace and protecting women's