



## Pakistan's Role in United Nations Peacekeeping Missions: An Appraisal

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### Abstract:

In the post, Second World War era peacekeeping missions are playing crucial role in preserving peace in the world and in the solution of conflicts in conflicted regions and states. Different United Nations member countries, including Pakistan, are contributing to these missions. The main aim of this study is to explore the contributions and role of Pakistan in the UN peacekeeping missions. This study tries to answer why Pakistan is participating in UNPKOs and the contributions of Pakistan in these operations. One of the main aims of the foreign policy of Pakistan is to maintain global security and peace. Therefore, it is actively participating in United Nations peacekeeping missions since its inception. Pakistan has contributed to a total of 46 missions in 28 different countries and regions which played a very important role in preserving global peace and security. By their patient manners and high level of professionalism, Pakistani peacekeepers have conducted many successful missions and won the minds and hearts of the local population and got huge appreciation internationally. To date 157 Pakistanis also lost their lives in this noble cause.

**Keywords:** United Nations, Pakistan, role, peacekeeping mission, troops, conflict, peace.

### INTRODUCTION

The UN defines peacekeeping as “an operation involving military personnel, but without enforcement powers, established by the United Nations to help maintain or restore international peace and security in areas of conflict” (United Nations, 1996). It is developed as a common instrument for settling disputes and creating terms for durable peace in war-torn states. These UN peacekeeping operations are preventing disputes from escalating or recurring. It is also a cost-effective means of improving worldwide security and stability. The peacekeeping operations are varied in nature. These are some of the main tasks related to United Nations peace-keeping missions (Sarjoon & Yusoff, 2019). It mediates conflicts to find durable resolutions, monitors the implementation of ceasefire agreements, monitors emergency rules, and provides assistance in civilian aspects like delivery of emergency relief, humanitarian aid, and political reform such as help to re-establish democracy and defend human rights.

One of the main objective of the foreign policy of Pakistan is to work for and maintain global security and peace. For this purpose, Pakistan is functioning through different ways and

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means including actively participation in United Nations peace keeping operations in different parts of the world. These operations are playing a good role in this regard. The main aim of this study is to explore contributions and role of Pakistan in the UN peacekeeping missions. This study is focused to answer two questions; first, why Pakistan is participating in UNPKOs and second, what are the contributions of Pakistan in these operations.

Peacekeeping has emerged to be among the most successful UN mechanisms for assisting countries in making the challenging transition from violence to peace. At present multidimensional peace operations missions are tasked with not only maintaining peace and security, but also facilitating political processes, protecting civilians, assisting in the demilitarization, dismantlement, and reintegration of former warriors, supporting constitutional practices and holding of elections, protecting and promoting human rights, and assisting in the restoration of the rule of law and the helping to sustain the legitimate governments in the conflicting zones. It is also cost effective as compared to other method of restoration of peace in conflict zone like direct intervention. It assumed to be a primary tool of Security Council to maintain peace which is its primary responsibility. The mandates vary from safeguarding civilians to assisting with state-building efforts, and the list has become longer in an effort to better the plan for long-term peace. Peace operations are not included in the UN Charter, and the notion of peacekeeping has evolved through time to reflect changes in the nature of conflict and our conception of security, culminating in current multidimensional peacebuilding (Sonnback, 2020).

## **LITERATURE REVIEW**

Like many other UN member countries, Pakistan is also contributing to its peacekeeping missions. Though Pakistan is one of the leading countries contributing to United Nations peacekeeping operations, there are very limited attempts in the literature to highlight the role of Pakistan in United Nations peacekeeping operations. This is disconcerting as Pakistan is one of the leading countries but there is a lack of scholarly literature on this scholarship. There is little attention in academia towards the role of Pakistani troops in peacekeeping missions. Therefore, it is needed to develop a profound body of literature on the role of Pakistan in the UN peacekeeping missions because of the many reasons; Pakistan is one of the leading troop contributors, she has significant practical experience and knowledge in this field and if not studied systematically, collected, and written then the worthy experience and knowledge would be lost forever which would not be only a national loss, but it will be also a loss for peacekeeping operations too. Therefore, this study attempts to fill the gap and systematically explore the role and contributions of Pakistan in UN missions in different conflicting zones, highlights the importance of the role played by Pakistan in these missions while keeping in view the dilemma of the peacekeeping operations. This study also highlights the sacrifices made by Pakistani troops and other related staff during the UN missions.

After World War II the peacekeeping missions under the UN mandate assumed key importance in upholding global peace and security, assisted to re-establish peace, and preventing various disputes converting into civil wars and wars between countries. In this regard, the first UN peacekeeping mission was started in 1948 when a team of observers was deployed in the Middle East during the Arab-Israeli War. Since then, UN has conducted 71 peacekeeping missions in different regions of the world to date. As of December 31, 2020, 13 UN peacekeeping missions were underway in which about 81,000 staff troops were deployed (UN Peacekeeping). Despite

criticism and malfunctions, these missions always continued imperative and sometimes the only available choice to keep peace in numerous fighting zones (Latif & Khan, 2010). The traditional model of peacekeeping was established in the Cold War period as a means of settling disputes between the concerned states and armed groups within states as well as between warring parties. According to a research study, the probability of recurrence of war falls by 75 percent to 85 percent and in some cases more than this when peacekeepers were present in any war zone (Fortna, 2008). Usually, it benefits peace by facilitating the end of combat between the parties or by decreasing the intensity of bloodshed in the continuing war. Whenever a peacekeeping mission is organized in contentious regions, it proved to help subside war between the fighting groups (Hultman, Kathman & Shannon, 2014). It also serves to end an ongoing violent conflict (Doyle & Sambanis, 2000), but its success mainly depends upon strong mandates and high capacity which make it effective in managing the continuing armed skirmishes (Hultman, Kathman & Shannon 2013; Kreps & Wallace 2009), and in return have good impacts on restoration of stability and peace.

### **Factors Behind Pakistan's Participation in Peacekeeping Missions**

The success of the UN peacekeeping mission depends on mainly the willingness and contribution of its member states. The member states of the United Nations participate in peacekeeping missions in two ways; by providing financial and logistics contribution and troop Contribution. Under Article 17 of the UN Charter, all member states are required to contribute funds to cover the expenses of the organization, as determined by the General Assembly. Thus, the cost of peacekeeping is not voluntary, but has a legal framework and is considered an obligation upon the member states. On the contrary, personnel contributions are voluntary for UN PKOs. As the United Nations does not have its standing armed forces, it depends on the contribution of member countries to deploy peacekeepers (both troops and police) in conflict zones. Although both types of participation are fundamental for the effective functioning and success of UN peacekeeping missions, the huge burden of undertaking the operation on the spot is borne by the troop contributors (Krishnasamy, 2001).

The demand for peacekeepers has risen with increase in the number, size, scope and complexity of the mandates of operations after Cold War. In 1990 the number of UNO peacekeepers deployed globally was 13,700 and this number has sharply increased and surpassed one hundred thousand in 2014 (Bellamy & Williams, 2013). Currently, out of the total 193 UN member states, 121 have contributed peacekeepers. However, there is a big difference in the level of participation; out of the total number of peacekeepers as of August 2020, 74 percent was covered by 20 countries and the share of the rest 101 countries is only 26 percent (UN Peacekeeping Department). According to the UN Peacekeeping Department report, 72 member states have no contribution at all. This shows how difficult peacekeepers' mobilization is for the United Nations. As mentioned by Bellamy and Williams (2013), the former UN Secretary- General Ban Ki-moon has acknowledged the complexity of securing peacekeepers. In 2011 he said, "Securing the required resources and troops has consumed much of my energy. I have been begging leaders to make resources available to us."

Though several big countries are unwilling to contribute troops for peacekeeping missions, some developing countries have been consistently providing peacekeepers. Pakistan is one of these leading troop contributors and has been playing a significant role in the successful deployment of

peacekeeping. Pakistan's participation in troop contribution to the UN started in 1960 and it became one of the largest and consistent contributors since the early 1990s (Malik, 2013). There are different theoretical arguments regarding the reasons that encourage some countries to participate in peacekeeping, while others do not.

Monteleone and Oksamytna (2020) explained the factors that motivate states to participate in personnel contribution from the liberal institutionalist perspective. They argue that peacekeeping is a public good. If the UN peacekeeping operations are effective in maintaining international peace and security, then all countries are expected to contribute to this public good. But Monteleone and Oksamytna recognize that public good sometimes faces collective action problems, specifically, free riding. Due to the free-riding problem, sometimes the UN suffers from a shortage of peacekeepers. That means, Security Council would approve the placement of a peacekeeping mission with a certain number of troops and policies, but the Secretariat would not mobilize enough personnel.

Another factor that somehow inspires countries to contribute troops, according to liberal institutionalism, is a material incentive (Monteleone & Oksamytna, 2020). The troops contributing countries to the UN peacekeeping mission have compensation from the UN at a base rate of 1,028 dollars/month for each person. Also, there is a stipend of 68 dollars per month for clothing, equipment and 5 dollars for personal arms. This shows that some countries with less training and equipment cost can earn income by sending their troops to peacekeeping (Gaibulloev et al. 2015). However, Monteleone and Oksamytna (2020) stated that the UN reimbursement does not cover the cost of deployment, especially for those countries having an advanced military. Bellamy and Williams (2013) also believe that economic incentive is not a significant factor. The financial benefits may not be an important factor for all states. Some states take the training and equipment cost as an additional burden on scarce resources, which cannot be covered by UN's compensation. Besides, they argue that in most cases, UN reimbursement does not arrive on time, and it creates pressure on countries to cover the financial costs in the interim.

Normative gains are other motivating factors identified by Monteleone and Oksamytna (2020). Many countries focus on normative gains, such as commitment to peace or prestige. The last factor that motivates countries to contribute troops, according to Monteleone and Oksamytna, is that nearby conflict can adversely impact neighborhood countries than other countries through refugee flows, trade disruption, conflict spillover, and others. In this case, the neighborhood countries might be motivated to provide to peacekeeping to sustain primarily their security and peace (Gaibulloev et al. 2015; Monteleone & Oksamytna, 2020).

Therefore, when Pakistan's participation based on the above criteria is assessed, the normative factors prevail. Of course, there are some economic gains from the participation. The economic benefits are mainly coming from the flat-rate compensation for the equipment, and some provided. The Pakistani government earns about 220 million USD annually for its participation in peacekeeping missions (Malik, 2013). This amount can be said to be large for a small economy. However, for Pakistan's economy, this amount is not that significant.

So, dominantly, the reasons behind Pakistan's participation in the UN peacekeeping missions are associated with normative factors. In this regard, Farwa and Garewal (2018) have identified three

major objectives of Pakistan's participation in the UN missions: First, to establish itself as a responsible state, which is fully committed to international peace and stability. Second, it wants to dispel this distorted notion that Pakistan is not a peace-loving country. Third, to improve its stake in the international as well as in regional organizations. The consistent participation in the peacekeeping missions enabled Pakistan to show its credibility as a responsible international citizen and its commitment to international peace. It also helped to gain international prestige and influence it generates for the participating countries, mainly within the UN itself. This in turn helps Pakistan to realize its project for middle-power credentials to the world.

Involvement in peacekeeping is also a source of soft power for Pakistan. In the present globalized world only, hard power is not enough for the prestige of a state, but soft power is also equally important. "Military power is a hard power asset but the context in which this asset is used can turn it into a soft power asset" (Nye, 2006). In these United Nations operations, the capability of the engaged troops earn respect in the international community and create goodwill and a soft image about the state concerned in the international community. Soft image, goodwill, admiration, and attraction create the soft power of the state concerned. Therefore, participation in UN missions is a good source of soft power for Pakistan. It provides a chance to improve a state's contribution, role, and impact in dealing the matters of international significance and especially, the matters related to international peace and humanitarian crises. Therefore, it is an important asset of soft power for the major troops contributing countries like Pakistan. Alongside, by providing large and regularly to the United Nations peacekeeping operations, Pakistan has shown herself as stand for peace and order, not for conflict and disorder in the world, therefore, it has the capability to prove herself as a peacebuilding facilitator. This soft power is also helping Pakistan to advance its international reputation. Another good sign in this regard is that Pakistan and India, the primary enemy of each other worked together with harmony and cooperation in many UN peacekeeping missions like Cambodia, Congo, Mozambique, and Somalia.

Moreover, Pakistan's participation in UN peace-keeping missions with full devotion and enthusiasm indicates its faith in the brotherhood and prosperity of mankind and its dedication to peace around the world. The modest involvement has shown its wish to see the values of human-dignity, independence, and self determination to all those who are trying to secure their incontrovertible fundamental human rights as the world has become dangerous due to lethal arms and ammunition, fight between the States for their vested interests, drug mafia, and terrorism, etc. The duty of keeping peace in a post-dispute state of affairs is the fundamental aim of United Nations peacekeeping missions. Pakistani troops are performing multifarious duties. They have not only kept the peace, but they have also helped to conduct elections, provided medical aid to the victims of war, cleared mines, constructed roads, erected housing structures, and provided logistics and aviation support. Pakistani peacekeepers have earned high praise from UN officials as well as common people located in the troubled regions of the world for their professionalism and dedication to duty.

### **PAKISTAN'S ROLE IN UN PEACEKEEPING MISSIONS**

According to the UN Department of Peace Keeping Operations (UNDPKO), the UN has conducted 71 peacekeeping operations since 1948, among which 13 continue to which about 121 UN member countries have contributed including Pakistan (UN Peacekeeping). Pakistan has started its

participation in the UN peacekeeping mission in 1960 by sending its 800 personnel to Congo in 1960 (Malik, 2013). Since then, Pakistan has participated in 46 UN missions in 28 countries with the contribution of more than 200,000 troops and polices, which makes it the third-largest troop contributor in the world (Shah, 2020; Niaz, 2020). Since that time Pakistan is one of the main and consistent contributors to UN missions across the world. The number of Pakistani troops engaged in UN peacekeeping missions in 2001 was 5552, in 2006 increased to 11, 867 and in 2011 it remained 9416 (Murthy, 2012) while at the end of 2020, 4717 troops wereserving in UN ongoing missions in different conflicting zones of the world. Until the end of 2020, Pakistani troops were working in seven missions, which were underway in Western Sahara (MINURSO), Central Africa Republic (MINUSCA), Mali (MINUSMA), D.R. of Congo

(MONUSCO), Sudan (UNAMID and UNISFA), Cyprus (UNFICYP), and South Sudan (UNMISS) (UN Peacekeeping). The present contribution of Pakistan is 8.4 percent of the entire share (Yamin). Some of Pakistan's major contributions to peacekeeping missions were in Somalia, Namibia, Bosnia, Congo, Haiti, Cambodia, Haiti, Angola, Côte d'Ivoire, Sudan, and Sierra Leone. Pakistan has also the honor that its five diplomats served as the special representatives (SRSGs) of the UN Secretary-General. These include Shaharyar M. Khan, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, Iqbal Riza and Ashraf Jehangir Qazi. Ashraf Jehangir Qazi was twice appointed as the SRSG. Apart from these, Jamsheed Marker served as the special envoy of the UNSG in East Timor in 1999. Twelve Pakistan officers have also served as military force commanders, deputy force commanders, and chief military observers.

### **Pakistan's Participation in the Peacekeeping in Cold War Era**

From late 1948 up to the end of the Cold War, the number of deployment and size and mandate of United Nations peacekeeping mission was extremely limited; due to a widespread difference in the UNSC on the resolutions to send peacekeepers, which caused by rivalry, mistrust, and mutual suspicion between the two blocs. The United Nations had difficulties deploying its peacekeeping missions in conflicts prone regions. During this period, participation of Pakistan in peacekeeping operations was also very limited as compared to the post-Cold war period. As mentioned above, Pakistan's first peacekeeping participation started in 1960 when it deployed its troops in Congo. In the United Nations Operation in Congo (1960-1964), 800 Pakistani troops participated (Malik, 2013). The first batch of Pakistani peacekeepers, which was sent to Congo in 1960, and still even after passing half a century the services of the Pakistani troops are being requisitioned in the country.

Pakistan's second peacekeeping participation was the UN Security Force in West New Guinea (UNSF). Pakistan has provided 1500 troops for keeping and monitoring the truce in the transition period of West Irian from Dutch rule to Indonesia, who served there from October 3, 1962, to April 30, 1963 (Shaukat, 2015). In this operation, the Pakistani troops were given a responsibility to monitor the peace and security conditions of a large territory. However, they effectively controlled the situation and prevented conflicts between the fighting parties, Indonesian troops, and Papuans. Pakistani troops accomplished their mission successfully and contributed to the restoration of peace and stability in the area (Ahmad, Al-Aziz, & Kiani, 2015). The Pakistani peacekeepers' contribution to UNSF was also highly appreciated by Chinese Prime Minister Chou-En-Lai. He said, "the only example in United Nation's history, when United Nations force had gone

in... performed its role honestly and came out, was Pakistan's military contingent to Indonesia" (Shaukat, 2015). It was also recognised by President Soekarno saying, "It was because of Pakistani troops that Indonesia and Pakistan came close together, they were Pakistan's best ambassadors" (Ahmad, Al-Aziz, & Kiani, 2015).

Pakistan had also contributed to the United Nations Yemen Observer Mission (UNYOM), which deployed from July 1963 to September 1964 to monitor the implementation of the agreement between Saudi Arabia and Egypt who involved in the Yemeni civil war by supporting the opposite sides. To guarantee that this dispute didn't rise into a worldwide skirmish, the United Nations had established its Yemen Observation Mission in which also Pakistani troops played an important role (UN Peacekeeping). Likewise, to make sure the independence of Namibia through free and fair elections, and to perform many other important duties the UN Transition Assistance Group in Namibia (UNTAG) was formed aimed to help the special representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations. In this mission, 20 troops of the Army of Pakistan accomplished their duties from April 1, 1989, to March 21, 1990.

### **Pakistan's Participation in the Peacekeeping in the post-Cold War Era**

In the post-Cold War era, the scope and strategies of peacekeeping operations have been changed. The limit of the peacekeeping missions has extended beyond monitoring ceasefire to include functions like supervising elections and helping state-building processes in the post-conflict era. The post-Cold War multidimensional UN peacekeeping missions are mandated not only to control conflicts but also identifying the root cause of the conflicts and facilitate remedial actions, such as economic reconstruction, institutional reform, and capacity building, enabling states to function properly based on the permission of the concerning groups. Beyond the conventional functions of armed forces, the peacekeepers are expected to be involved in different civilian and police activities, the purpose of which is a durable resolution of the main conflict (Doyle & Sambanis, 2006; Hegre, Hultman & Nygard, 2013). The United Nations has also maximized its endeavor to use peacekeeping missions as a tool for the safety of civil and human rights following the end of conflicts.

With the widening of the scope and mandates of the peacekeeping missions and the increase in intrastate conflicts in various regions of the world, the demand for peacekeepers has been increased tremendously. Pakistan has responded to this growing demand for peacekeepers and its active engagement has started in the 1990s when peacekeeping operations became instruments of promoting national interests. Both internal and external factors have influenced Pakistani foreign policy in the late 1980s and early 1990s. The deteriorating internal political situation coupled with major international political developments, like the collapse of the USSR, the end of the Cold War, and the Gulf War changed Pakistan's foreign policy context. These sensations have pushed Pakistan to maximize its engagement in global affairs. Since then, Pakistan began to play important role in peacekeeping operations. In 1994, the contribution of Pakistan to the UN peacekeeping missions was higher than any other countries covering 10.94 percent of the total 73,393 troops deployed by the United Nations contributed by 76 countries (Doktorska, 2019; Krishnasamy, 2001).

The first Pakistan's engagement in the post-Cold war era was its participation in UN Iraq-Kuwait Observer Mission (UNIKOM). In 1991, Pakistan sent its troops to participate in the UN Iraq-Kuwait Observer Mission following the enforced removal of the Iraqi army from Kuwait. Its duty was to observe the demilitarized area alongside the Kuwait-Iraq border as well as prevent border violation where they served from April 1991 to 2003. Pakistani troops were appointed in the most problematic area.

One of the most critical UN peacekeeping missions was the UN operation in Somalia. Pakistanis were the first peacekeepers to land in Somalia in 1992. They were the ones who secured the airport and the seaport at Mogadishu to allow for the entry of the US troop carriers to move into the harbor. The Pakistanis also provided rear guard action to let the US troops withdraw from Somalia. During both UN operations UNOSOM I and II in Somalia, Pakistanis played a dominant and visible role. They were not only involved in the rescue operations to retrieve the US marines trapped in the deadly crossfire in the Bakara market but also disarmed Somali militias in which they also lost 24 lives only on June 5, 1993 (Yamin). In Somalia, the Pakistani troops were given the task to recover the illegal arms to make sure peacekeeping and the protection of humanitarian works. The handling of the security matters effectively and safeguarding of food convoys, Pakistani soon won the hearts and minds of the local people. Such things resulted in the development of a slogan; "Pakistan and Somali Walal" which means that Pakistani and Somali people are brothers (Salah, 2020). Likewise, Pakistani troops were also played a very important role in the security sector. Like, on October 3, 1993, the terrible Olympic Hotel incident happened in which 75 United States troops trapped, were also saved by joint operation of the United States, Pakistani and Malaysian soldiers. Due to the main role of Pakistani troops in that operation General Thomas. M. Montgomery, the Deputy Commander of the UN Force in Somalia, said that these soldiers were alive because of the Pakistani soldiers who worked in very hard and risky fighting situations (Khan, 2011). This kind of recognition has proved that Pakistani peacekeepers are capable to handle any dangerous situation in a professional way.

Pakistan also participated in United Nations Transitional Authority on Cambodia (UNTAC), in which its troops carried out the peacekeeping tasks in the remote and most difficult zones from May 1992 to August 1993 (Usaf, 2012). Pakistan contributed 143 peacekeepers in the mission (United Nations Peacekeeping) and they carried out a massive program to assist the inhabitants of the areas to repair roads, dig wells, establish medical units and provide teaching staff for schools in their localities. Such kinds of Pakistani peacekeepers' contributions have created good images in the minds of the local people. Lt Gen J.M. Sanderson, the Force Commander UNTAC, has appreciated the professionalism and performance of the Pakistani troops and he said, "The Pakistani contingent showed professionalism, patience, determination, and compassion, which indeed are the hallmark of an effective peacekeeping force" (Ahmad, Al-Aziz, & Kiani, 2015).

Pakistan had also contributed to the United Nations Observer Mission in Liberia (UNOMIL) established in September 1993 to exercise good offices and support the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the Transitional Government of Liberia in their efforts to implement peace agreements and other related activities. Along with troop contribution, Pakistan had also established a hospital there (Usaf, 2012). Again, in November 2003 Pakistani troops deployed in Liberia for the second time, which was one of the successful UN peacekeeping



missions. A strong Pakistani contingent consisting of 3000 troops was deployed in the area which was the stronghold of the major fighting party, Liberian United for Reconciliation and Democracy (LURD). They were also assigned to control the border areas along with Cote D'Ivoire (Ahmad, Al Aziz, & Kiani, 2015). Besides the troops, other Pakistani staff also contributed to the rehabilitation of Liberia by repairing roads, fighting Ebola Virus, and other humanitarian activities.

To UN mission in Haiti from September 1993 to June 1996 Pakistan had provided one infantry battalion which helped in restoring peace and facilitating election. Besides, their main mandate, they helped the local people by roads repairing, rebuilding educational institutions and police stations, and also installed lights in streets and parks to facilitate study at night. In acknowledgment of the services of the Pakistani peacekeepers, a school was named "Pakistan School". The United Nations Secretary General's Special Representative in Haiti, Mr. Enrique Ter Horst, highly appreciated the precious role of Pakistanis in this United Nations mission (UN Peacekeeping Mission in Haiti). According to Ahmad, Al-Aziz, and Kiani (2015), their role was also recognised by the president of Haiti saying, "I express my deep appreciation and gratitude to the people of Pakistan, the Pakistan Army, and its valiant soldiers for their manifestation filled with utmost sincerity, friendship, and solidarity".

Pakistan had also contributed to the peacekeeping mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina (Kiani, 2004) initiated in 1995. To the Bosnia mission, Pakistan was the first to respond. Pakistan has contributed 3000 troops to UN Protection Force in Bosnia Herzegovina (UNPROFOR) (United Nations Peacekeeping). They were successful in monitoring and protecting minority ethnic groups, displaced personnel, and refugees. Pakistani troops assisted over 50,000 refugees along with other services.

Pakistan's contribution to the peacekeeping was continued in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL), hold from 1999 to 2005. This mission was one of the most successful UN peacekeeping operations. The contribution of Pakistani troops was fundamental for the successful completion of the UN peacekeeping mission in Sierra Leone. Sierra Leone is a country rich of natural resources, but its citizens are the poorest of the world. The civil war started in the country when the Revolutionary United Front led by Foday Sankoh attacked the diamond reserves. Then United Nations interfered in the dispute and successfully solved the issue (Rizvi, 2017). Pakistani peacekeepers were engaged in various activities like disarmament, patrolling, building medical units, reintegration of rebels, and helped to distribute humanitarian aids in the state along with other duties. They worked hard to reestablish law and order and facilitated the peaceful undertaking of parliamentary elections in May 2002 (Shah, 2020).

Pakistani troops' contribution to Côte d'Ivoire, one of the successful UN peacekeeping missions, was also significant (Salah, 2020). One infantry battalion Pakistani contingent was deployed in Côte d'Ivoire in 2004. Although they were deployed in rebel-controlled areas, Pakistani troops were successful in restoring peace in the areas and effectively facilitated the peaceful conduct of the 2010 presidential election. When conflict erupts following the election, the Pakistani peacekeepers were also helped the diplomatic community to evacuate the capital city. Another UN peacekeeping mission in which the Pakistani troops took part was the UN Mission in Sudan (2005-2011) (Salah, 2020). In this, the Pakistani troops were given the responsibility to ensure peace and security in the Blue Nile state, where they established free medical camps and

provided food and other services besides their main duty. As a result, they won the support of the local people.

In East Timor, Pakistani troops also played an instrumental role in a peaceful transition, capacity building, and maintaining lines of communication (Black, 2012). Pakistan was among the states that contributed the highest numbers of police to the UN Integrated Mission in Timor- Leste (UNMIT), which was established following the 2006 crisis in the country. They also played a significant part in building the capacity of country's national police. Pakistani troops also worked in the United Nations Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) which was initiated in the year 2010. This UN mission worked for the safeguard of local inhabitants, human rights, and humanitarian workers and supported the Congo in its stabilization and peace strengthening struggles.

Pakistan has also contributed to some past and ongoing UN peacekeeping missions in Angola from February 1995 to June 1997 and June 1997 to February 1999, Rwanda from October 1993 to March 1996, Mozambique from December 1992 to December 1994, Sudan Darfur from July 2007 to December 2020, Cyprus from March 1964 until now, Congo from July 2010 until now, Sudan Abyei from June 2011 until now, the Central African Republic from 2014 until now, Western Sahara from April 1991 until now, South Sudan from July 2011 until now and Mali from April 2013 until now (United Nations Peacekeeping). In all these peacekeeping missions, Pakistani troops have played crucial role in maintaining global peace and changing the living conditions of conflict-affected people.

An overview of the United Nations missions in which Pakistan participated in various regions of the world shows the constant commitment of Pakistan to global peace and stability. In these operations, troops of Pakistan also made a lot of sacrifices, went beyond their duties in delivering humanitarian assistance, and even lost their precious lives for saving others. Till now 157 troops have lost their lives in their duty to maintain the world's peace (Salah, 2020). It is around 10 percent of the total deaths of peacekeepers since the inception of UN peacekeeping missions (Anka, 2016). Out of these 24 were killed on a single day on June 5, 1993, in an ambush laid out for them during the inspection of a Somali arms weapons storage site (Yamin). The history of the Army and police of Pakistan is full of such sacrifices during the services to humankind and advocating global peace and stability. To acknowledge the services, tribute the sacrifices of the peacekeepers, and honour the memory of those people who gave their lives for the sake of peace, every year May 29 is celebrated as International Day of United Nations peacekeepers.

Contributions of Pakistan to United Nations Peacekeeping missions played an important role in preserving global peace and resolution of conflict in the concerned states. A huge number of the Pakistani army and police officers and soldiers, civilians, aid workers, and paramedical staff are regularly participating in UN peacekeeping. Its services under the flag of the United Nations are ranging from security actions to humanitarian aids, which have been duly acknowledged by the international community.

Pertinent to mention here is that as one of the leading troop-contributing UN member, Pakistan has an important share in the value of operational, tactical, and strategic decisions that impact the UN interventions and formalize missions as it has an influential role and contributions in

peacekeeping operations. Pakistan has successfully tackled some of the unprecedented challenges in many conflict zones during peacekeeping operations. Pakistani troops using a successful field strategy of the establishment of friendly relations with the civil community of the concerned region, therefore well suited to achieve the predetermined UN objectives. The uncompromised commitment, high level of skills, professionalism, devotion, and friendly working behaviour made Pakistani troops result-oriented and thus most suitable for UN peacekeeping operations.

### **International Recognition to Pakistan's Contribution**

Pakistan's advanced peacekeeping efforts have not only promoted the country's influence in the international arena but also benefited the members of the military. Through their involvement in peacekeeping missions of various countries, they gained international experience, more knowledge, and skills in the military; know how to manage conflicts and how to conduct post-conflict stabilization. Therefore, they will contribute to the sustainability of peace and stability of their country by practicing their knowledge and skills.

In 2013, during his visit to Islamabad the UN's former GS Ban Ki-moon highly appreciated its role. He said, "Gratitude as the United Nations General Secretary and gratitude as a global citizen for what Pakistan and her people have been doing for international peace and security" (Anka, 2016). Particularly for the acknowledgment of Pakistan's role, he himself inaugurated the Centre for International Peace and Stability (CIPS) during his visit on August 13, 2013, and highly praised Pakistan's role in peacekeeping operations. Likewise, the UN current Secretary-General, Antonio Guterres has also repeatedly appreciated the role of Pakistan and especially, the female participants. He stated that it was inspirational to meet some of the brave men and women who are serving for peace throughout the world. Women's participation in UN missions also helps to eliminate the long-standing stereotype that Pakistani women are held back. Pakistani women worked as medics, nurses, and police officers on the front lines. The awarding of the International Female Peacekeeper Award to a female police officer, Shehzadi Gulfam, is a source of great pride for Pakistan (Dawn, October 14, 2015). Participation in these UN operations is very supportive for Pakistan in showing the international community that the females of the country are empowered enough to be recognized at the global level. In February 2020, 15 Pakistani female officers, members of a peacekeeping team in the Democratic Republic of Congo have received medals in recognition of their overall contributions in a war-torn village, Adikivu south of Kivu (Niaz, 2020). A total of 97 Pakistani peacekeepers have received the highest UN award, the Dag Hammarskjold Medal for their outstanding contributions to peacekeeping missions (Salah, 2020).

As mentioned above, its contribution to the UN mission in West New Guinea was admired by the first president of Indonesia Sukarno, and the then-Chinese Prime Minister Zhou Enlai. Similarly, the role played by the Pakistani troops in Haiti was also highly appreciated by the then president of Haiti. The high-level contributions of Pakistani peacekeepers in Bosnia and Cambodia have also been recognized by officers and force commanders of the missions.

### **CONCLUSION**

Peacekeeping is a common means for solving disputes and determining peace and stability in war-torn regions. It helps destabilize countries to end conflicts and get peace. In this regard, Pakistan has the unique honour of being one of the largest troops contributing country to UN missions in

the world. To date, Pakistan has provided its top diplomats, army and police officers and soldiers, medical staff, and ordinary aid workers both male and female to peacekeeping duties, which have performed good duties under the banner of the UN for global peace and stability. Its good performance has been acknowledged and praised by the international community on many occasions. Pakistan's role in peacekeeping operations with full devotion and enthusiasm reflects her faith in the brotherhood of mankind, devotion to peace throughout the world, and proved to be a responsible and peace-loving country of the world. It has also significantly increased the soft image of Pakistan in the international community.

These peacekeeping missions under the banner of the UN need to make more result-oriented not limited to only peacekeeping but peacebuilder to make a peaceful and stable world. In this regard, the "right person with the right skills to the right mission" is essential. Along with an advanced level of professionalism, it is also essential for peacekeepers to be impartial, kind, and respect the traditions and customs of local people. They need to establish friendly relations with local people as Pakistani successfully done in many missions including in Somalia. There are also many underlying issues and challenges in the peacekeeping operations, which affect the outcomes of the missions and the performance of the troops engaged. These challenges are including the power politics of big powers in the initiation of mission, lack of budget, violence against the peacekeeping troops, and lack of essential exercises as well as an advanced level of professionalism.

Unsubtly, no alternative of UN missions for resolving conflicts and restoration of peace is available, therefore more studies are required on the matter how the extensive experience and good performance in peacekeeping can offer assistance to UN as well as other regional organizations like the African Union, etc. in improving their peacekeeping objectives as well as how the existing level of calibration of Pakistan in peacekeeping mission can be strengthened. Studies are also required on problems and issues facing by troops on the ground. In addition, those who are involved or were involved in peacekeeping mission have first-hand experience and primary data; therefore, they are required to write on the subject matter.

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