



CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES IN PEACE OPERATIONS: THE INCORPORATION OF WOMEN

1. DURING THE LAST DECADE THE PEACE OPERATIONS UNDER THE COMMAND OF THE United Nations and its corresponding resources have increased exponentially. Until December of 2007, 67 missions had been undertaken since the creation of the Organization in 1948. Regarding to military troops, the number of personnel assigned rose by 86% between 2001 and 2008: from 38.100 military officers in 2001 to 70.825 by the end of 2007. During 2008, 17 missions were undertaken in different parts of the planet with the corresponding challenges and opportunities for those troop contributing countries. Among them, countries from the American Continent.
2. IN THE SAME WAY FINANCIAL RESOURCES HAVE INCREASED FROM 2.7 BILLION DOLLARS in 2001 to approximately 6.8 billion dollars in the present time, just for peacekeeping operations. If political and peace consolidation missions were included, the tendency would change drastically: 37.1 billion dollars assigned for 2002 turned into 251.3 billion for the budget of the financial year of 2006-2007.¹
3. THE SCOPE OF CONFLICTS HAS PLACED THE UNITED NATIONS IN FRONT OF THE NEED to verify the instruments of force, and to develop accurate tools to respond appropriately to the challenges of the new conflicts to international security. During the last decade the production of the Organization has been intense, particularly regarding institutional aspects. Among them, perhaps, the most relevant was the reorganization of the previous Department of Peace Operations (DPKO), which was completed by the creation of the Department of Field Support (DFS) in 2007. These changes attempt to respond to the increasing demand of the operations – both in number and character- which has turned into one of the main and the most renowned activities of the United Nations.
4. THE REFORMULATION PROCESS OF PEACE OPERATIONS HAS PRODUCED DEMANDS OF cooperation from Member States. A greater and better cooperation about this subject has been proposed. New premises and doctrines are being spread with the aim of blending the understanding among the Member States concerning the above mentioned operations. These includes training guidelines and the inclusion of several political actors as part of these missions, beyond the Armed Forces: if they may have been ever considered a military task, the current debates are focused on how to generate and keep the vital participation of civil police, humanitarian workers, civil specialists, electoral observers, etc.

Basic Data about United Nations Peace Operations (December 2007)

Uniformed personnel (70,285 troops, 11,041 police and 2,528 military observers)	83,854
Contributing Countries	119
International civilian personnel	4,862
Local civilian personnel	11,404
UN Volunteers	1,998
Total number of personnel (17 operations)	102,118
Total number of personnel serving in DPKO (20 operations)	104,146
Total number of fatalities in peace operations since 1948	2,420

Reference: United Nations of Public Information. *Peace and Security Section. United Nations Peacekeeping Operations. Background Note: 31. December 2007.* New York, February 2008.

1 See further detail in United Nations. General Assembly. *General panorama of the operations of the United Nations for peace maintenance: execution of the budgets for the period between July 1st, 2004 and June the 30th, 2005 and the budgets for the period between July 1st, 2006 and June 30th, 2007. Secretary-General's report. A/60/696.* February 24th, 2006. New York. Page13.

5. THERE IS A CONSENSUS ON THE DIFFERENT CHARACTER OF CURRENT PEACE OPERATIONS, with respect to those that were carried out during the past decades. The missions have been changed by the characteristics of the conflicts. Most of them are assigned to deal with internal conflicts where actors may be the States, rebel groups, crime organizations or defenseless citizens. Thus, the operations are more complex and multidimensional when talking about its character. The **Capstone Doctrine**, edited in January of 2008, recognizes that: "The transformation of the international environment has given rise to a new generation of 'multi-dimensional' United Nations peacekeeping operations". They are characterized by being 'typically developed in the dangerous aftermath of a violent internal conflict', and it is part of its nature the use of several military, police and civil capacities to successfully carry out the operation"².
6. THE USE OF GENDER PERSPECTIVES IS COMPRISED IN THIS PROCESS. FROM THE APPROVAL of the Resolution 1325 onwards, it has been suggested that there is the need to incorporate larger numbers of women to peace operations; based on the following considerations:
 - Missions composed by both women and men tend to be more representative of the population of those places where they are carried out.
 - The presence of women facilitates the approach of those women who are affected by the conflict; who, whether it is for fear or embarrassment, do not come forward as men do.
 - It favors the participation of local women and their organizations in post-conflict processes which starts growing once the conflict has finished.
 - It restricts the possible lack of male discipline inside the missions.
7. ACCORDING TO DPKO INFORMATION, THE TOTAL NUMBER OF WOMEN INVOLVED BY March 31st 2008 represents just 1.98% of the military contingents. (1539 women from a total of 77.492 persons, taking into account all the missions). Even when, since 2000, the Secretary-General has encouraged the troop contributing countries to the expand and reinforce the hiring and incorporation mechanisms of women, there is a long way to fully comprehend this subject.
8. AT PRESENT 11 OF THE 18 OPERATIONS HAVE GENDER ADVISORS WITH EXCLUSIVE dedication, whereas the 7 remaining have coordinators in terms of gender. Countries keep working to reach a greater implementation of the Resolution, having as a result regular initiatives which tend to generate interministerial working groups, among other things.

Resolution 1325

In October 2000 Security Council adopted the Resolution 1325, marking a milestone in terms of women's contribution to peace processes and efforts to prevent conflict, reconstruction and consolidation.

The Resolution urges Member States to:

- Ensure increased representation of women at all decision-making levels in national, regional and international institutions and mechanisms for the prevention, management, and resolution of conflict.
- Increase their voluntary financial, technical and logistical support for gender-sensitive training efforts, including those undertaken by relevant funds and programmes.

Encourages the Secretary-General to:

- Appoint more women as special representatives and envoys to pursue good offices on his behalf.
- Seek to expand the role and contribution of women in United Nations field-based operations, and especially among military observers, civilian police, human rights and humanitarian personnel.
- Ensure that, where appropriate, field operations include a gender component.
- Provide to Member States training guidelines and materials on the protection, rights and the particular needs of women.

Reference: United Nations. *Resolution 1325 (2000)*, New York, United Nations, S/RES/1325, October 31 2000 (2000)

2. United Nations (January 18th, 2008), *United Nations Peacekeeping Operation: principles and guidelines*. Department of Peacekeeping Operations. New York. United Nations, Pages 13-14.

9. THE DEFENSE MINISTERS' CONFERENCES CONSTITUTE A FORUM TO SHARE EXPERIENCES and reach a consensus. Concerning to peace operations, they have historically promoted the training in corresponding centers, the practice of joint exercises, and the professionalization of the armed forces, as well as civil specialization in the subject. Peace operations have been on the agenda since its origin.
10. THE INCORPORATION OF WOMEN IN THE ARMED FORCES HAD A SPECIAL SECTION DURING the conferences held in Chile (2002) and Quito (2004). The last one declared: "Support to the efforts with the purpose of promoting social, ethnical and gender in the Armed Forces and Public Security equity, depending on each case, in the States of the hemisphere; granting, this way, growing equality opportunities".
11. IN THIS CONTEXT RESDAL STARTED, IN 2007, A PROJECT APPOINTED TO ANALYZE THE situation of women in the armed forces in the Latin-American countries, with financial support from the "Global Peace and Security Fund" (GPSF - DFAIT, Canada). There has been the same emphasis on the gender approximation of the peace operations.
12. IN MARCH OF 2008 AN INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR WAS HELD IN GUATEMALA, WITH the aim of gathering relevant actors of the training centers, Defense Ministries and civil society, to discuss women's participation within peace operations. Considering the next Defense Ministerial, it was proposed the elaboration of recommendations which the idea of spreading them during the preparation process of the Conference's Agenda. The group was constituted by high-level representatives from CAECOPAZ (Argentina), PPC (Canada), CREOMPAZ (Central America), UEMPE (Ecuador), CECOPAZ (Paraguay), CECOPAZ (Peru), and EOPE (Uruguay); from the Defense Ministries of Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, El Salvador, Guatemala and Peru; from the armed forces of Honduras and Guatemala; and from the United Nations System (MINUSTAH-DPKO, UNITAR, INSTRAW). A Complete report can be consulted at <http://www.resdal.org/main-genero-operaciones-paz.html>.

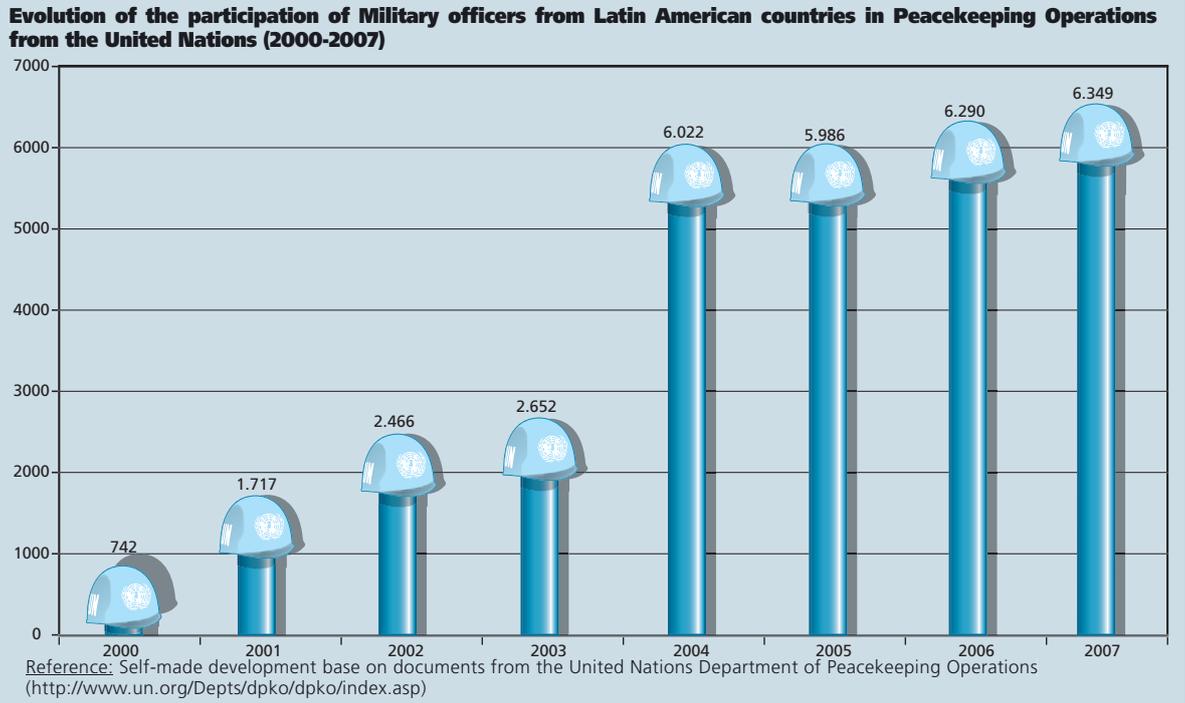
Advices for the Thematic Agenda and Working Groups

The results of the event and the analysis of the regional debate's current tendencies suggest the following recommendations which contribute to the Defense Ministerial's process:

- Thematic incorporation about women's participation in the Armed Forces and particularly in peace operations, in the Conference's Thematic Agenda.
- National investigation support about this subject, establishing quantitative and qualitative diagnoses with the aim of promoting a policy about gender equity inside the Armed Forces, admitting at the same time the importance of their participation in peacekeeping operations within the framework of the United Nations.
- Cooperation in order to make this equity inclusion possible inside the Armed Forces within the public debate, and in particular promote the 1325 Resolution spreading.
- Take into account the settlement of gender advisors inside Ministries.
- Analyze the possibilities of designation about a gender focal point, prior to the deployment of national contingents.
- Take into account human and financial resources contribution for the use of these matters.

ADDITIONAL DATA

13. ACCORDING TO THE INFORMATION PROVIDED BY THE UNITED NATIONS DEPARTMENT OF Peacekeeping Operations, the participation of Latin American countries within the armed forces rose by 756% between 2000 and 2007. Comparatively, during the same period the participation of the remaining countries rose by 128.5%.



14. EVEN THOUGH THE REGION STATES THE importance role in peace maintenance and construction around the world, diagnoses and debate production about women's participation in the armed forces and its futures demands are insufficient. There is not enough information available concerning the incorporation of women or quantity within the armed forces. In order to prepare for future challenges, it is necessary to take this into account for the creation of policies in the area.

15. THE CURRENT MISSION IN HAITI (MINUSTAH) is one of the ongoing missions, and operates with 7.064 military members and approximately 1.900 police force as well as civil personnel and volunteers. Moreover it operates with the active participation of several countries from the American Continent. Only 124 of those military personnel are women: the 1.75% of the total.

16. IN THOSE COUNTRIES, THAT COOPERATE with military personnel inside the region, RESDAL relieved information that showed the low percentage of incorporated women to the contingents. Nowadays, 145 women are distributed among Latin American countries to the different mission in which they take part.

Women from Latin America in Peacekeeping Operations (February, 2008)

Mission (with the participation of a Latin American country)	Women (from Latin American participating countries)
MINURSO	0
MINUSTAH	78
MONUC	66
UNAMA	0
UNFICYP	1
UNMEE	0
UNMIK	0
UNMIL	0
UNMIN	0
UNMIS	0
UNMIT	0
UNMOGIP	0
UNOCI	0
UNOMIG	0
UNTSO	0
Total	145

Reference: Self-made development base on interviews and documents upheld by official institutions.



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