

UNITED NATIONS PEACE OPERATIONS: BANGLADESH'S CONTRIBUTIONS



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United Nations Peace Operations: Bangladesh's Contributions

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United Nations Peace Operations: Bangladesh's Contributions

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CONTENTS

Executive Summary	2
Evolution of UN Missions	6
Historical Narrative	8
Three Phases of Bangladesh's Participation	10
Bangladesh's Motivations for Joining UN Peace Operations	12
Bangladesh's Contributions	14
Strengths, Challenges and Opportunities	17
Concluding Remarks	19
Appendix 1: List of Participants	20
Appendix 2: About the Authors	22

Executive Summary

In 1945, the United Nations (UN) was established with the central aim of achieving and retaining peace through cooperation. A key purpose of the UN is “to maintain international peace and security, and to that end, to take effective collective measures for the prevention and removal of threats to the peace, and for the suppression of acts of aggression or other breaches of the peace, and to bring about by peaceful means, and in conformity with the principles of justice and international law, adjustment or settlement of international disputes or situations which might lead to a breach of the peace.”¹

The UN wanted to prevent wars and the horrors of the Second World War from reappearing in the future. The idea was to produce a paradigm for decent human existence, which came amidst stronger calls for securing peace. New thinking produced new strategies, and it was in this context that the nature of international security shifted. This revolutionary change in international security emerged due to new factors like the emerging bipolar structure and the end of colonialism.

A peace movement started in the international system and, in 1948, the UN Peacekeeping Operations (UNPKO) was created as a forum by the UN to resolve conflicts between nations. The first mission was to deploy UN military observers to the Middle East to observe the Armistice Agreement between Israel and its Arab neighbours. This mission gradually evolved into the UN Truce Supervision Organisation.²

Peace operations started amid the Cold War era which had divided the world into two blocs and caused disruptions in the multilateral system. Since then, peacekeeping has come a long way. A total of 71 peacekeeping missions have already taken place globally. As of 30 November 2019, 121 countries have contributed 97,620 personnel

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1 The United Nations, <https://www.un.org/en/sections/un-charter/chapter-i/index.html>. Accessed on 22 February 2020.

2 ‘Our History’, United Nations Peacekeeping, <https://peacekeeping.un.org/en/our-history>. Accessed on 13 February 2020.

to serve in 13 peace operations.³ However, peacekeeping missions continue to face procedural issues, one being the consent between the main parties at the local level. The universality of consent becomes less likely in volatile situations where the parties face internal divisions and weak control systems.⁴

Peace operations have become an inclusive part of the workings of international security and are one of the major institutions of multilateral organisations.

Peace operations have become an inclusive part of the workings of international security and are one of the major institutions of multilateral organisations. UN peacekeepers have not only played a significant role in maintaining international peace and security, but also in sustaining political processes in the host country.

Peace operations could range from humanitarian assistance, repatriation of refugees, election supervision, and restoring human rights and the rule of law to disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration (DDR) of former fighters. Through such activities, all countries have the opportunity to contribute. While traditional military power focuses on deterrence, security and defence, peacekeepers derive their capabilities from persuasion and mediation. They are not seen as war fighters but rather as harbingers of the peace enshrined in the UN Declaration of Human Rights. Peacekeeping is viewed as “one among a range of activities undertaken by the United Nations to maintain international peace and security throughout the world.”⁵ Besides peacekeeping, conflict prevention and mediation, peacemaking, peace enforcement and peacebuilding are other significant activities of the UN.

The contribution of the South Asian countries to peacekeeping missions is immense. Peace operation is one sphere of global activity where the region's collective contribution has made a positive difference. Bangladesh has stood at the forefront of the peacekeeping mission of the UN and understands the context of peace operations. Bangladesh is one of the UN's major trusted partners, thanks to its

3 'Data', United Nations Peacekeeping, <https://peacekeeping.un.org/en/data>. Accessed on 22 January 2020.

4 'United Nations Peacekeeping Operations: Principles and Guidelines', United Nations, Department of Peacekeeping Operations, Department of Field Support, 2008, p. 33.

5 'Terminology', United Nations Peacekeeping, <https://peacekeeping.un.org/en/terminology>. Accessed on 15 January 2020.

political values and ethos, strong commitment, adherence to its policies and the timely measures by which it adapts. Its commitment as a responsible stakeholder of the UNPKO has been constant despite the changing international security environment.

Since independence, Bangladesh remains committed to upholding peace and security in the world. It has been vocal about the peaceful and legitimate resolution of international conflicts and, hence, accepted the opportunity to join the international peace operations when it was sent an invitation by the UN in 1988. In 2006, the British Broadcasting Corporation called Bangladeshi peacekeepers the “cream of UN peacekeepers”.⁶ Within a short period of time, Bangladesh has emerged as a leading provider of UN peacekeepers. It has invested heavily in UN peacekeeping in exchange for a respectful place on the global map and support from the international community to protect its national interest. In numbers, its contributions do not match its size or role in the world.

Within a short period of time, Bangladesh has emerged as a leading provider of UN peacekeepers.

In 2011, Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina proposed a six-point ‘multi-dimensional peace model’ at the UN General Assembly that brought a new dimension to the perception of peace in the context of complex security challenges. The six points are the eradication of poverty and hunger; reduction of inequality; mitigation of deprivation; an end to the exclusion of people from the process of development; overall human progress; and elimination of terrorism. As a mark of Bangladesh’s contributions to peace operations, Hasina’s ideas about elements of peace have been widely shared by leaders around the world.

On 27 August 2019, the Institute of South Asian Studies at the National University of Singapore, the Consortium of South Asian Think Tanks and the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung organised a workshop on ‘Bangladesh’s Contributions to International Security: The Case of Peace Operations’ in Singapore. The primary objective of the event was to explore Bangladesh’s efforts, motivations, strategic considerations, successes and limitations in multilateral peacekeeping missions.

⁶ Roland Buerk, ‘The cream of UN peacekeepers’, *BBC*, 18 January 2016, http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/south_asia/3763640.stm. Accessed on 2 December 2019.

Bangladesh possesses many strengths that make it ideal for peace operations. Over the years, it has successfully participated in 54 peacekeeping missions in 40 countries over a range of activities, including traditional peacekeeping, DDR and humanitarian assistance. Bangladesh's contributions, in terms of quantity, political will and dedication, has enabled it to emerge as a significant player in the peacekeeping arena.

This report examines the history of the Bangladesh armed forces and the various phases of their participation in UN peace operations. In the process, it touches on Bangladesh's motivations for and contributions to these operations. It also highlights the challenges and opportunities arising from its participation in these operations. These issues in turn help us to better understand the present and future of multilateral organisations beyond the insights gained at the workshop.

Evolution of UN Missions

The nature of peace operations has changed dramatically over the course of the last 70 years, from intervening in interstate wars and participating in nation building to traditional peacekeeping and large stabilisation missions. In the 1990s, the UN mission was launched wherein contesting parties agreed to peace and the UN was expected to act as a neutral actor to mediate peace. As a result, peace operation was limited to maintaining ceasefires and stabilising situations on the ground. These missions consisted of unarmed military observers and lightly armed troops with primarily monitoring, reporting and confidence-building roles. In the old conflict, everyone was a loser to varying degrees. However, in the new conflict, everyone is a winner to some degree or other.

Between 1989 and 2011, the world experienced 123 intra-state conflicts and only eight inter-state conflicts, reflecting the changes in the conflict scenario in the world. These conflicts not only raised concerns in the international arena because they destroyed the domestic social cohesion and institutions of the respective countries, but also because such changes escalated beyond these countries' borders and took on international dimensions. Moreover, new crimes emerged, including terrorism and drug trafficking which pose a threat to international peace and security.

There is a consistent shift in the global security situation, which is why the UN mandate demanded restructuring the UN as an organisation to function more effectively. It also demanded changes of UN troops on the ground to protect themselves and the vulnerable communities. UN peace operations changed accordingly to reflect the emerging security threats.

The UN has also evolved from peacekeeping to peacemaking, peace enforcement and counterterrorism/counter insurgency. It realises that peacekeeping alone is not sufficient for global peace and

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security. Hence, it has extended its activities to peacemaking⁷ and peacebuilding,⁸ and has mandated UN peace missions to contribute to institution building, democratisation, promotion of human rights and security-sector reform in post-conflict countries. Such changes have widened the concept of international security as well as extended the activities of UN peace operations. Moreover, the UN perception of international security is no longer confined to 'negative peace' and has added the concept of 'positive peace'. Peace studies scholar Johan Galtung has stated that positive peace is necessary to build peaceful relations, restore harmony, democratise and promote institutional building. There needs to be a shift from negative peace to positive peace. However, achieving peacebuilding, which is a main component of peace and security, is no longer a priority in many peace operations.

7 Peacemaking is defined by the UN as an "action to bring hostile parties to agreement, essentially through such peaceful means as those foreseen in Chapter VI of the Charter of the United Nations: Pacific Settlement of Disputes."

8 Peacebuilding is defined by the UN as "efforts to assist countries and regions in their transitions from war to peace and to reduce a country's risk of lapsing or relapsing into conflict by strengthening national capacities for conflict management and laying the foundations for sustainable peace and development."

Historical Narrative

The historical narrative of the Bangladesh armed forces explains why their military is suitable for peace operations. The Bangladesh army's beginnings go back to the mercantile period of British expansion, when the United Kingdom took over Bengal in India in 1757. The first organised armed forces on the subcontinent comprised Indian troops led by Europeans, and these forces were organised by government sponsored companies such as the British East India Company. The legacy of 300 years of British military presence in India is most apparent in its two successor military establishments, the Indian and Pakistani armies. The Bangladeshi army traces its origins to both institutions, with which it shares both similarities and differences.

Paradoxically, Bengalis were never seen as soldiers by the British. Although the British Indian army originated in Bengal, the region became a springboard for the recruitment of non-Bengalis. Following the Sepoy Mutiny of 1857 in British India, all 82 regiments of the British Indian army were disbanded, and the recruitment of Bengalis in the army stopped. The British also developed the myth that there was a 'martial race' in India which was more suitable than others to join the military. Despite having no scientific basis, it became a part of the British army's recruitment policy for a long time. Acting on this myth, the British came to accept that there were certain ethnic, regional or caste groups that were warlike, courageous and active and that they should be recruited in the army.

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As a result, the Indian empire extended westwards and the British recruited from certain regions and groups, including the Punjabis, Pathans, Jats, Gurkhas and Dogras. At the same time, the other 'races' were identified as not possessing the ideal martial spirit. The Bengalis were one such race placed in this category. In 1947, a new era emerged when the colonial power departed, and two new independent countries were formed. However, the colonial mentality remained intact, and the newly formed Pakistan army that emerged from the partition of the Indian subcontinent continued to perpetuate the myth

of the martial races (with a few exceptions). Hence, Bengalis were not seen as candidates to join the military. Bengalis were recruited, but in small numbers, and their representation in the military was low.

Unlike militaries that emerge from inter-state wars, the Bangladeshi armed forces emerged from a civil war and thus understood the importance of peace operations.

The politics of exclusion and the economics of inequality forced Bengalis to push for provincial autonomy from West Pakistan. Bangladesh was born in the context of war, and its army, similarly, was born amid a revolutionary war. It was these dynamics that affected the temperament and quality of the armed forces. As a result, the war in 1971 was of a very different kind which consequently led to the birth of a different type of army. Unlike militaries that emerge from inter-state wars, the Bangladeshi armed forces emerged from a civil war and thus understood the importance of peace operations.

The 1971 war also saw the birth of new political ideologies, which included egalitarian socialist ideals, and many members recruited by the Bangladesh armed forces had also imbibed them. While the Bangladesh army shared some similarities with the British Indian and Pakistan armies in areas of training and professionalism, the exigencies of colonial institution building in British India and post-colonial Pakistan left Bengalis with little or no military experience. It was only after the creation of a new Bangladeshi state that a small number of Bengalis were able to carve out a space for themselves.

Three Phases of Bangladesh's Participation

Bangladesh's participation in UN peace operations can be categorised into three eras.

The first was known as the era of 'volatile terrains and critical learning experience'. This took place between 1988 and 1998. During this phase, Bangladesh took part in peacekeeping missions in Rwanda, Mozambique, Somalia, Haiti, Angola, Sierra Leone, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Iran-Iraq, East Timor and parts of the former Yugoslavia. It also participated in almost all the major missions in Africa during this period. The UN Assistance Mission for Rwanda (UNAMIR), a difficult mission for the international community, was also one where Bangladesh contributed troops. There were problems in UNAMIR from the beginning, including a lack of interest from the European countries and limited airlift capabilities and financing for an international force. Although it was a failed mission, it served as a learning experience for the Bangladesh armed forces. This was an experimental phase where peace operation was still a nascent experience for Bangladeshi troops. Despite their lack of experience in the peacekeeping arena, they dedicated many resources and military personnel to critical missions.

The second phase was the era of 'proactive peacekeeping' from 1998 to 2008, which experienced a subtle shift. The UN Mission in Sierra Leone that took place during this era was a significant mission for Bangladesh, given that by then its armed forces had acquired a decade's experience in peacekeeping missions. Moreover, other changes were taking place. Bangladesh was no longer talking about protecting states but rather protecting individuals, and this started to manifest in the different missions it undertook. These missions demonstrated how Bangladesh had improved upon the shortcomings of the first decade of its participation in UNPKOs and had gradually stepped into a more proactive peacekeeping role during the second phase. Bangladesh was no longer a newcomer to the UNPKO. The hiccups of the first phase thus decreased in the second phase.

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Dhaka embarked on its third decade of UNPKO engagement with new responsibilities and challenges.

The third phase, known as the phase of 'challenges for robustness', occurred from 2008 onwards. This phase marked a shift towards more complex and difficult operations. Dhaka embarked on its third decade of UNPKO engagement with new responsibilities and challenges. The Bangladeshi armed forces contributed troops to Mali, Western Sahara, South Sudan and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

The changing nature of peace operations all over the world has generated greater expectations from peacekeepers pertaining to the protection of civilians, collection of intelligence and use of sophisticated technologies in reducing casualties.

Bangladesh's Motivations for Joining UN Peace Operations

Beyond financial motivations, the Bangladesh armed forces pursue UN peace operation opportunities in order to promote a positive image of Bangladesh in the international arena. According to academic Norrie MacQueen, Bangladesh considers its UNPKO attachment as an essential part of its international identity.

There are several reasons that have motivated Bangladesh to contribute greatly to UN peace operations.

First, it witnessed the horrors of war during the 1971 Liberation War. The nation faced genocide, suffering, displacement, torture and threats to human security. Hence, it understands and empathises with civilians who are trapped in ongoing conflicts.

Second, it has a constitutional obligation. Under the Preamble, Bangladesh affirms its commitment to peace operations by wishing “that [it] may prosper in freedom and may make [its] full contribution towards international peace and cooperation in keeping with the progressive aspirations of mankind.”⁹ Hence, the aspiration for international peace and security derives from the constitution. Moreover, its foreign policy reflects the constitutional preamble where it states, “Friendship to all, malice to none”.¹⁰

Third, the armed forces are well trained to protect people in conflict-ridden countries. In 2012, Colonel Ashraf Khan from the Bangladesh Army, following his return from a UN peacekeeping mission in the Ivory Coast, said the “wearing a blue helmet is a question of national pride”.¹¹ The Bangladeshi peacekeepers even take the effort to learn the language and skills necessary for foreign deployments that help

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9 ‘Bangladesh’s Constitution of 1972, Reinstated in 1986, with Amendments through 2014’, p. 9, https://www.constituteproject.org/constitution/Bangladesh_2014.pdf?lang=en. Accessed on 13 February 2020.

10 ‘Bangladesh in UN Peace Operation’, Prime Minister’s Office, <https://www.afd.gov.bd/un-peacekeeping/bangladesh-in-un-peace-operation>. Accessed on 17 March 2020.

11 Nicolas Haque, ‘Bangladesh troops lead global peacekeeping’, *Al Jazeera*, 30 May 2012, <https://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/features/2012/05/201252982553900996.html>. Accessed on 22 January 2020.

them to assimilate into their new surroundings. The government and armed forces are also inclined to purchase new equipment for their involvement in peace operations.

Fourth, peace operations have institutional impacts on the Bangladesh armed forces. The impact ranges from the enhancement of professional skills to the gathering of the latest doctrines and military knowledge. Peacekeeping opportunities have led Bangladesh to introduce new state-of-the art training institutions like the Bangladesh Institute of Peace Support Operations and Training.

Bangladesh's Contributions

It has been nearly three decades since the armed forces of Bangladesh first started taking part in UNPKOs. The Bangladesh army stepped into the family of 'Blue Helmets' in August 1988 by sending 15 observers to Iraq-Iran in the UN Iran-Iraq Military Observer Group (UNIMOG). Until now, it has successfully completed 54 missions in 40 countries across the Middle East, Africa, Europe and Asia. In 1993, Bangladesh army contingents with 1,002 peacekeepers led by an infantry unit (the 3rd East Bengal Regiment) first joined the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia. The mission in Cambodia was a big mission for Bangladesh where the armed forces contributed a large contingent to the peace operation. The sincerity and hard work of Bangladeshi troops in this mission earned Dhaka a good reputation and established a space for further engagement in the peacekeeping arena.

The Bangladesh armed forces have also assisted in the DDR process in Sierra Leone, Liberia, Kosovo and Timor-Leste and with demining efforts in South Sudan. They have also helped to provide water, sanitation, primary education, employment and livelihoods in Juba. Reintegration programmes, which are an important part of the broader reconciliation process, are usually undertaken to reassure former combatants that they will be reintegrated into society and not prosecuted. On the other hand, the scourge of landmines continues to be a major issue in many post-conflict societies. The UN Mine Action Service estimated that around 1,415 civilians were killed or maimed by mines and so-called Explosive Remnants of War in 2018.¹² Landmines that are easy to plant but difficult to remove do not recognise ceasefires and carry on killing people. They are indiscriminate and victim-operated and remain active long after the conflict is over, leaving a legacy of deaths and injuries in their wake. The growing menace of improvised explosive devices (IED) has made Bangladesh start special training on counter-IED at its Engineer Centre & School of Military Engineering and Ordnance Centre and School. All peacekeeping units slated for deployment to Mali receive special training from these two schools.

Reintegration programmes, which are an important part of the broader reconciliation process, are usually undertaken to reassure former combatants that they will be reintegrated into society and not prosecuted.

¹² 'Rising landmine blast toll in Afghanistan highlights long-term care needs of survivors', *UN News*, 6 February 2019, <https://news.un.org/en/story/2019/02/1032141>. Accessed on 23 November 2019.

Bangladesh also responded to the UN's request with a quick reinforcement of troops and managed to deploy a brigade-size force to Freetown in compliance with the extended mandate of the mission. This was an important experience for Dhaka, given that it regularised the rapid deployment mechanism as part of its national system as a result of the UN directives. Bangladesh 'Blue Helmets' under the UN Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo and later UN Organisation Stabilisation Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo remained on the ground and continued to implement multiple political, military and rule of law and capacity building tasks in the ongoing conflicts.

Bangladesh is also one of the first troops-contributing countries to adopt the Peacekeeping Capability Readiness System introduced in 2016.

Bangladesh reiterated its support at the 2015 UN Summit on Peacekeeping Operations in areas of infantry battalions, formed police units, helicopters, technical units and other assets to fulfil the needs of peacekeeping missions. Bangladesh is also one of the first troops-contributing countries to adopt the Peacekeeping Capability Readiness System introduced in 2016. It enhanced its rapid deployment levels by contributing troops to the UN-led mission in Mali and, as of June 2019, has 1,574 personnel stationed there. The mission in Mali epitomised the growing trend of asymmetric threats involved in UN peacekeeping operations. Another deployment of its troops took place in the UN Multidimensional Integrated Stabilisation Mission in the Central African Republic, where 1,043 troops are currently deployed.

Bangladesh has also made efforts to recruit, train and deploy female soldiers as peacekeepers. In February 2019, female soldiers were deployed as an engagement team alongside an infantry unit. Up until June 2019, Bangladesh has participated in 10 UN peace operations, some of which, like the missions in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, continued from the preceding decade.

Beyond the traditional security apparatus, Bangladesh's peacekeepers have also played a role in democratisation processes by financing and facilitating public administration during the local elections, promoting

inclusive dialogue and reconciliation and developing conflict-management capacity at both national and sub-national levels. Bangladeshi troops continue to contribute their services by regularly patrolling villages to maintain security in places like the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The deployed commanding officers provide military leadership in peace missions in Cyprus, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Darfur and the Central African Republic.

Strengths, Challenges and Opportunities

Unlike many issues that become politicised and divisive, there is an understanding among the different political parties that the state should contribute to UN peacekeeping

Bangladesh possesses many strengths that make it suitable for peacekeeping endeavours. First, as mentioned, Bangladesh has constitutional guidance and a well-trained armed force that aims to protect civilians. The country gets its inspiration from its constitution. Second, there is a domestic consensus to commit assets towards global peace. Unlike many issues that become politicised and divisive, there is an understanding among the different political parties that the state should contribute to UN peacekeeping missions. Neither the constitutional obligation nor national policy for global peace have ever been contested. Committing assets for global needs under the UN is one of the only consistent parts of its foreign policy without any domestic backlash.

There are many challenges for the Bangladesh armed forces when it comes to peacekeeping missions. First, there is the difficulty of upgrading its armed forces' posture, given that the budget for peacekeeping missions is limited. Bangladesh will need to provide more resources and military equipment if it wants to protect its troops. Second, the issue of a rising number of casualties is always a concern. For instance, four Bangladeshi peacekeepers were killed by a roadside bomb in central Mali in 2018.¹³ Accepting body-bags back home is always difficult and challenging. Third is the existence of parallel authority. Peacekeepers need to co-exist alongside national or coalition forces whose mission could be different from the UN's mission. Fourth, there is the jurisdictional issue, in which one nation may not want to cross over into the border of another nation. Fifth is the UN's budget issue. Peace and security without money is unsustainable.

In order to face the increasing challenges posed by a complex security environment, Dhaka has taken some timely measures. First, it has focused on institutional capacity building by establishing the Bangladesh Institute of Peace Support Operations Training in 2002

¹³ Aaron Ross, 'Four peacekeepers killed in Mali were from Bangladesh, UN says', *Reuters*, 1 March 2018, <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-mali-un-bangladesh/four-peacekeepers-killed-in-mali-were-from-bangladesh-un-says-idUSKCN1GD4HB>. Accessed on 10 November 2019.

and the Bangladesh Peace Building Centre in 2016. There is also collaboration with similar regional/global institutions and UN organs.

Despite these challenges, Bangladesh has been able to adapt to evolving UN policies and requirements. Its armed forces have evolved into a comprehensive system for the smooth conduct of peace operations as per the UN requirement. It has also taken the initiative to adopt the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security (WPS), implemented a national action plan on WPS, signed the voluntary compact, contributed to the UN peacebuilding fund and sexual exploitation and abuse victim support fund, implemented aspects of the Santos Cruz report¹⁴ and increased participation of female peacekeepers. Bangladesh has reached the UN target of deploying 16 percent female staff and observers in UN missions. Currently, there are over 250 Bangladeshi female peacekeepers participating in UN missions. Bangladesh has also modernised its training system with the comprehensive training programme. It continues to prepare its forces for forward planning for potential deployment and is currently participating in 11 components of the UN Peacekeeping Capability in Readiness System.

Bangladesh has reached the UN target of deploying 16 percent female staff and observers in UN missions.

¹⁴ The Santos Cruz report commissioned by former Lieutenant General Carlos Alberto dos Santos Cruz set out a variety of tactical and operational recommendations that the United Nations could adopt to improve the security of its peacekeepers.

Concluding Remarks

Bangladesh has come a long way in peace operations since its first mission in UNIMOG in 1998. It possesses a variety of strengths, challenges and opportunities in an increasingly challenging and complex security environment. Nonetheless, its contributions are commendable both in their size and range. Bangladesh faces both traditional and non-traditional security challenges, including non-aggression, building effective partnership and commitment for global peace. However, Dhaka has yet to explore its full capability in peacebuilding. Bangladesh has taken the initiative to establish a peacebuilding centre that would be operational soon. It is expected to train people for their role in UN peacekeeping activities and would be the first of its kind in South Asia. However, Bangladesh's participation in peacebuilding remains low compared to peacekeeping.

Peacekeepers are now undertaking a new set of complex tasks to help build sustainable peace, including human rights monitoring, inclusive dialogue, post-conflict management and security sector reform.

As the international security landscape changes, the UNPKO will evolve as well. The number and size of peace operations have increased exponentially over the years. The UN budget for peacekeeping has increased substantially too. Peacekeepers are now undertaking a new set of complex tasks to help build sustainable peace, including human rights monitoring, inclusive dialogue, post-conflict management and security sector reform. New technologies will also have a major impact on peacekeeping missions to establish and maintain situational awareness, safeguard themselves and carry out their mandates. The prevalence of such technology would assist peacekeeping missions to deploy and manage complex situations that undermine international security and peace. The continuing changes in the pattern of conflict and shifting opinions of security threats are likely to further reshape the peacekeeping landscape.

Appendix 1

List of Participants

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Special Guest

HE Md Mustafizur RAHMAN
High Commissioner
High Commission of Bangladesh in Singapore

Speakers and Panellists

Major General (Retd) Dipankar BANERJEE
Member, Forum for Strategic Initiatives
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During the four decades of his public service career, Dr Chowdhury has held the posts of Ambassador and Permanent Representative to both New York and Geneva. At the United Nations (UN), he had also been Chairman of several Committees, including the Social Commission, Population and Development Commission, Second (Economic) Committee and Information Committee, and was President of the Conference on Disarmament. At the World Trade Organisation, Dr Chowdhury chaired the Trade Policy Review Body and the Committee on Trade and Development. He had been closely associated with the UN Reforms Process and helped shape the principle of “Responsibility to Protect”, adopted by World Leaders at the UN Summit of 2005. Dr Chowdhury was knighted by the Pope in 1999. In 2004, the New York City Council issued a Proclamation naming him as “one of the world’s leading diplomats”, acknowledging his global contribution to advancing welfare, alleviating poverty and combating terrorism.

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