

CIPS

Centre for International
Peace & Stability

Magazine **2025**

National University of Sciences & Technology (NUST)

PAKISTAN



United Nations
Peacekeeping
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About the

CIPS Magazine

About *CIPS Magazine* 2025

The *CIPS Magazine* serves as a vibrant chronicle of the Centre for International Peace and Stability's (CIPS) ongoing journey toward fostering global peace and security. It captures the Centre's dynamic activities, initiatives, and achievements across the domains of Peace Operations Training and Peace and Conflict Studies, underscoring CIPS' steadfast commitment to advancing the global peace agenda.

A defining feature of the magazine is its comprehensive coverage of the Peace Operations Training Courses regularly conducted at CIPS. These highlight Pakistan Army's distinguished contributions to United Nations peacekeeping operations and its enduring role in upholding international peace and stability. Through engaging narratives and field reflections, the magazine brings to life the experiences, lessons, and perspectives of Pakistani peacekeepers serving across diverse mission areas.

Beyond the realm of operational peacekeeping, *CIPS Magazine* also offers an intellectual window into the academic and research endeavors of the Department of International Studies. It showcases faculty research, student achievements, and the Centre's collaborations with international institutions and partners.

Together, these elements weave a compelling narrative of CIPS' multidimensional impact — as a hub of professional training, academic excellence, and thought leadership — dedicated to promoting peace, stability, and cooperation worldwide.

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Note from the Principal



As we unveil CIPS Magazine 2025, we reflect on a remarkable year of growth, achievement, and transformative engagement at the Centre for International Peace & Stability (CIPS). This edition stands as a testament to the dedication of our faculty, students, researchers, peacekeeping practitioners, and international partners who continue to make CIPS a leading platform for advancing peace and security discourse.

The past year has been especially defining for CIPS. We had the honour of hosting the 3rd United Nations Ministerial Preparatory Meeting, a milestone that positioned Pakistan at the forefront of global peacekeeping deliberations. Equally significant was our contribution to the 2025 Peace Operations Review Week: Findings & Implications for Future Education and Training. This activity served as a pivotal knowledge resource for the 29th Annual Conference of the International Association of Peacekeeping Training.

Our impact extended well beyond national borders. CIPS actively supported the successful execution of the 29th Annual Conference of IAPTC in Italy, while also hosting a series of high-level engagements at home, from interactive dialogues with senior scholars of the Stimson Center, Washington, D.C., to expert discussions with practitioners and academics from Sweden and Norway. These collaborations underscore our commitment to driving meaningful conversations on peace operations, training modernization, and global security architecture.

Inside this edition of our magazine you will read stories of collaboration, innovation and resilience: accounts of dedicated teams and individuals committed to the cause of peacekeeping and stability. As part of our longstanding tradition, we also highlight reflections from Pakistani peacekeepers currently deployed in UN missions, who share valuable experiences and professional insights from the field. By highlighting voices drawn from across our training programmes, academic endeavours, and international partnerships, we celebrate the progress of CIPS and its achieved outcomes.

Our MS and PhD programmes in International Relations, launched last year, are now progressing with great success. Complemented by our long-standing strengths in Peace & Conflict Studies and Strategic Studies, these programs have already nurtured a dynamic cohort of scholars who are engaging deeply with contemporary security challenges. By bringing together theoretical foundations and field-driven insights, these programmes strengthen CIPS' signature hybrid model - one that ensures our academic pathways align with the operational realities of UN Peace Operations and complex geopolitical environments.

CIPS remains committed to promoting a multidisciplinary and globally connected ecosystem for peacekeeping training, research, and policy innovation. Our pursuit of excellence is sustained by the exceptional dedication of our community. To our faculty, students, staff, and international partners, I extend my deepest appreciation. Their unwavering passion and professionalism propel CIPS forward.

Together, we will continue to enrich global conversations, enhance peacekeeping capacity, and contribute to a more stable, cooperative, and secure world.

Maj Gen Zahid Mahmood, HI(M), TBt, Retd
Principal, NIPCONS

Note from the Chief Editor

I am delighted to present the 2025 edition of CIPS Magazine, a publication that has become both a record of our collective progress and a window into the ever-evolving landscape of peace operations. Every year, this magazine invites us to pause, reflect, and appreciate the people, partnerships, and ideas that animate the work of the Centre for International Peace & Stability (CIPS). This year's edition is no exception, if anything, it marks one of our most dynamic chapters yet.

The year 2025 brought a renewed sense of momentum to CIPS. Our training, research, and outreach initiatives expanded in depth and direction, reflecting an institution that is confident in its purpose and ambitious in its vision. Rather than simply revisiting established practices, our teams pushed forward with fresh thinking, new collaborations, and innovative methods of engaging with the global peacekeeping community.

A defining feature of this year has been our engagement across multiple international platforms. CIPS had the privilege of hosting the 3rd UN Ministerial Preparatory Meeting, an event that sharpened global conversations around peacekeeping priorities. We were equally proud to support the successful convening of the 29th IAPTC Annual Conference in Italy. Beyond the formality of the event itself, what truly stood out was the intellectual exchange, ideas shared, perspectives challenged, and collaborations strengthened. Back home, CIPS carried this momentum forward by hosting thought-provoking discussions and expert panels with researchers and practitioners from China, Sweden, and Norway. A major highlight of the year was the CIPS–Fudan University Dialogue 2025, a landmark event that received global attention and was widely recognised for its contribution to contemporary discussions on regional cooperation, strategic partnerships, and shared development pathways. All of this, and much more, is captured in the pages of this year's magazine, offering readers a comprehensive reflection on CIPS' expanding footprint and its growing contribution in global peace operations scholarship.

This year's magazine also places a strong spotlight on Pakistani UN peacekeepers, whose experiences from mission areas remain one of our most meaningful sources of insight. Their reflections offer nuance, honesty, and on-ground perspectives that no academic text can replicate. We are grateful for their willingness to share—not only their stories, but also the lessons they carry.

Active contributions by our faculty, students, and fellows, further reinforce our commitment to academic excellence. With our MS and PhD programs now fully underway, the quality and diversity of research emerging from CIPS continues to grow, bringing fresh energy to longstanding debates and shedding light on contemporary challenges in peace and security.

As you read through this edition, I hope you find the same sense of purpose and continuity that motivates us at CIPS every day. Behind every event, publication, and initiative featured here lies the hard work of individuals who believe in the value of peace, the importance of knowledge, and the power of collaboration.

I extend my heartfelt appreciation to all contributors, students, peacekeepers, and colleagues who made this magazine possible. Your dedication gives meaning to our pages and direction to our mission.

Thank you for your continued engagement, encouragement, and trust. May this edition serve as both documentation of our progress and inspiration for the work yet to come.



Brig Sajjad Ahmad, SI(M), Retd

Chief Editor | Senior Research Fellow, Research & Analysis Cell

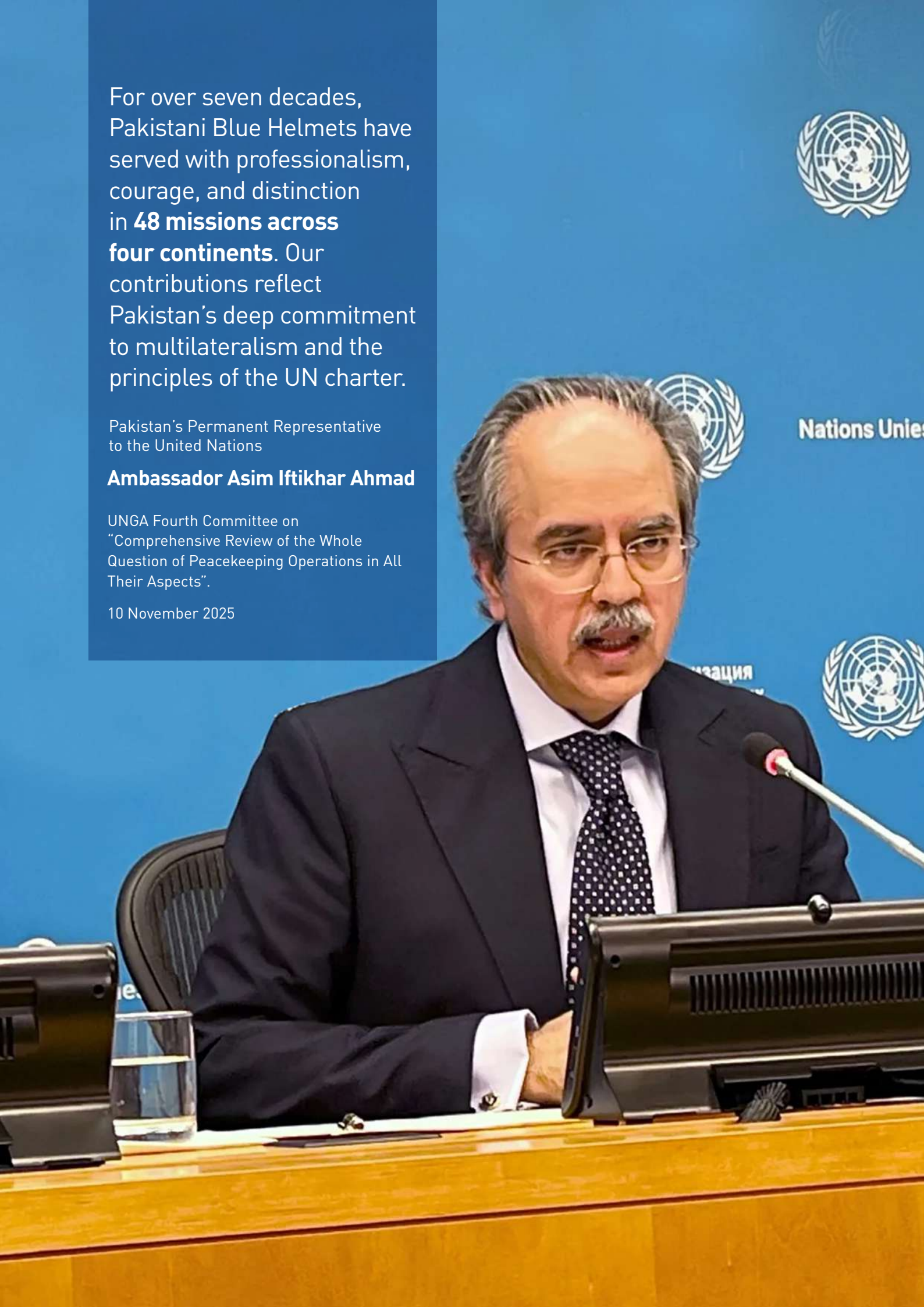
For over seven decades, Pakistani Blue Helmets have served with professionalism, courage, and distinction in **48 missions across four continents**. Our contributions reflect Pakistan's deep commitment to multilateralism and the principles of the UN charter.

Pakistan's Permanent Representative to the United Nations

Ambassador Asim Iftikhar Ahmad

UNGA Fourth Committee on "Comprehensive Review of the Whole Question of Peacekeeping Operations in All Their Aspects".

10 November 2025



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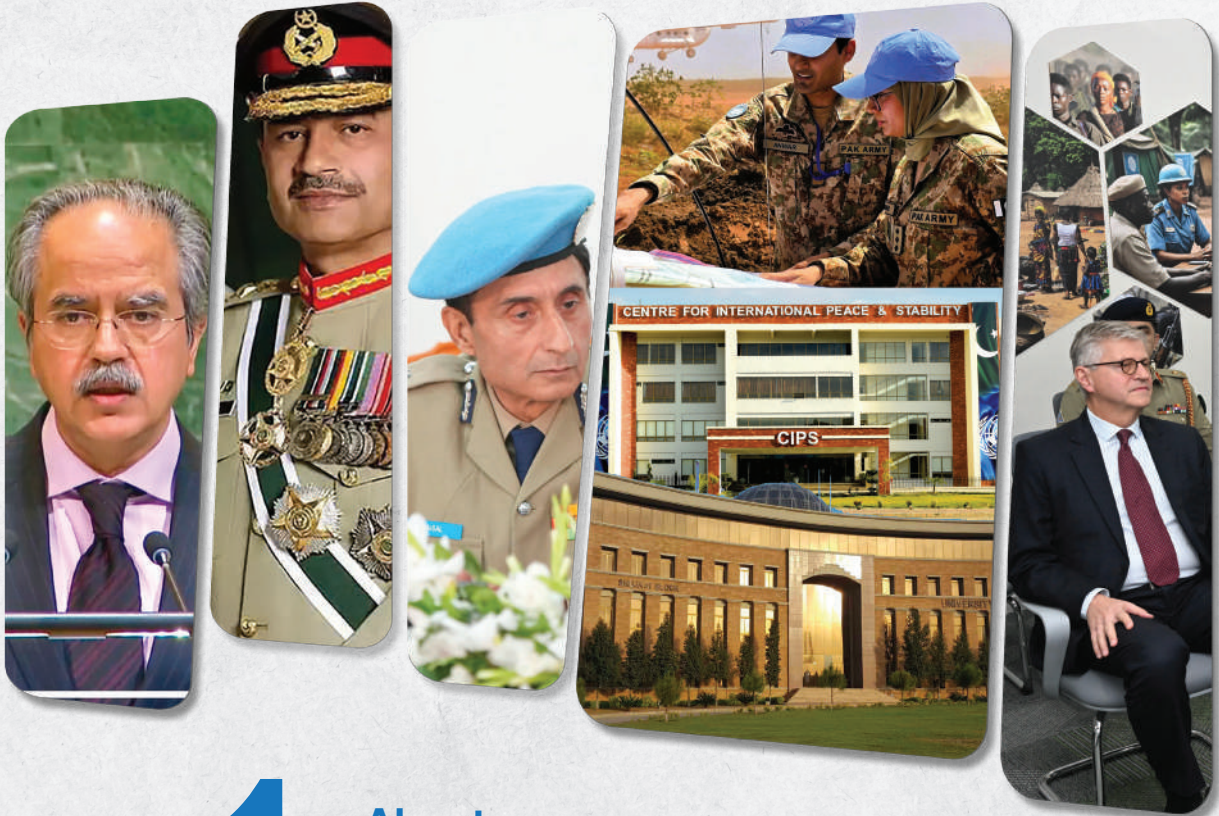


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1 About Centre for International Peace & Stability

CIPS at a Glance

Department of Peace Operations Training (DPOT)



227

Total Courses Conducted



4354

Total Students Graduated



994

Allied Participants



30

Total Instructors Exchanged

UN Certified Courses

UNSOC: United Nations Staff Officer Course

UNMOC: United Nations Military Observers Course

UNPDTC: United Nations Pre-Deployment Training Course

UNCPOCC: UN Comprehensive Protection of Civilians Course

UNIED-TM: United Nations Improvised Explosive Device – Threat Mitigation Course

UNEHAT: United Nations Explosive Hazard Awareness Training Course

Department of International Studies (DIS)



193

MS Graduates



17

PhD Graduates



125

Current Students



08

PhD Faculty

- Offers post-graduate and doctoral programs in Peace and Conflict Studies (PCS), Strategic Studies (SS), and International Relations (IR).
- Secures funds and grants to conduct academic research addressing pressing issues related to global peace and security.
- Establishes academic linkages, functioning as a think tank and collaborating with other research organizations to address critical national and global challenges.

Degree Programs

MS & PhD in Peace and Conflict Studies

MS & PhD in International Relations

MS in Strategic Studies

Research and Analysis Cell

NUST Journal of International Peace and Stability (NJIPS)

Y

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Issues

- Engages with leading think tanks and UN-relevant organizations in the peacekeeping sphere.
- Coordinates with the Military Operations (MO) Directorate and peacekeeping missions abroad.
- Facilitates communication with stakeholders in peacekeeping and promotes research in peacekeeping, conflict resolution and peacebuilding.
- Analyzes and compiles best practices and lessons learned from Pakistani Peacekeepers, promotes research, and publishes the CIPS journal and magazine.

CIPS Magazine

Publishes experiential based articles from UN Peacekeeping Mission Areas and highlights the Pakistani contributions to global peace and stability.

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3rd UN Peacekeeping Ministerial Preparatory Meet

3rd UN Peacekeeping Ministerial Preparatory Meet

Pakistan & Republic of Korea Jointly Host the 3rd UN Peacekeeping Ministerial Preparatory Meet 2025



Pakistan, in partnership with the Republic of Korea, hosted the two-day 3rd United Nations Peacekeeping Ministerial Preparatory Meeting at the Centre for International Peace and Stability (CIPS), National University of Sciences and Technology (NUST), in Islamabad from 15 to 16 April 2025. The Preparatory Meeting laid the groundwork for the upcoming UN Peacekeeping Ministerial Meet that was held in Berlin, Germany, from 13 to 14 May 2025.

The theme ***“Towards a Safer and More Effective Peacekeeping: Use of Technology and Integrated Approach,”*** set the tone for the meeting that brought together senior officials of the United

Nations, among them Mr. Jean-Pierre Lacroix, Under-Secretary-General for Peace Operations, and Mr. Atul Khare, Under-Secretary-General for Operational Support, along with dignitaries from the Government of Pakistan and peacekeeping stakeholders from across the international community

With **over 127 participants representing 44 Member States**, the meeting provided a dynamic platform to examine contemporary challenges in UN Peacekeeping and explore innovative, technology-driven solutions for strengthening mission effectiveness and safety.



Day 1

Opening Ceremony: Setting the Tone for Safer & Effective Peacekeeping

The 3rd UN Peacekeeping Ministerial Preparatory Meeting commenced with an opening ceremony that underscored both the urgency and the collective commitment required to strengthen contemporary UN peace operations. Held in Islamabad, the session brought together senior UN leadership, representatives from Member States, and national dignitaries, each converging to reaffirm their support for a safer, more technologically empowered, and more integrated approach to peacekeeping.

The **Chief Guest, Secretary of Defence Lt Gen (Rtd) Muhammad Ali H(M)**, opened the proceedings by drawing attention to the escalating threats faced by peacekeepers on the ground. He highlighted the dual challenge of increased attacks against peacekeeping personnel and the rapid *weaponization of technology* by hostile actors, factors that now demand more innovative, adaptable, and forward-facing responses from the UN system and troop-contributing countries alike.



Representing the Republic of Korea, **Mr. Lee, Director General for International Organizations and Nuclear Affairs**, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea (RoK) reiterated his country's longstanding commitment to global peacekeeping both through financial contributions and troop deployments. His remarks underscored RoK's partnership with Pakistan in co-hosting the meeting and its belief in advancing peacekeeping effectiveness through collaborative platforms.



Shortly after, Pakistan's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, **Ambassador Asim Iftikhar Ahmad**, reaffirmed that peacekeeping remains central to Pakistan's foreign policy and international engagement particularly during its ongoing tenure as an elected member of the UN Security Council. He highlighted Pakistan's close coordination with Denmark and the Republic of Korea within

the Council, reflecting the country's proactive diplomatic role in shaping peacekeeping mandates and reform efforts.



Speaking on behalf of UN leadership, **Mr. Jean-Pierre Lacroix, Under-Secretary-General for Peace Operations**, provided a sobering overview of the evolving challenges confronting missions such as MONUSCO, UNIFIL, and UNMISS. He underscored that while the operational environment has grown increasingly complex, defined by political volatility, sophisticated threats, and rising hostility, there is also an opportunity. He emphasized that the upcoming 2025 Peacekeeping Ministerial serves as a pivotal moment to *reinvigorate political and operational support* for UN peacekeeping.



Echoing these concerns, **Mr. Atul Khare, Under-Secretary-General for Operational Support**, outlined the gravity of the situation by noting the high fatality rate recorded in 2025. He identified three priority areas that must anchor future peacekeeping reform:



1. Strengthening medical and mental health support,
2. Advancing women's participation, and
3. Improving the safety and security of uniformed and civilian peacekeepers.
4. These priorities, he stressed, require sustained investment, innovation, and the full backing of Member States.

Rounding off the opening session, **Mr. Faisal Shahkar, UN Police Adviser**, drew attention to the vital and expanding role of UN Police. He highlighted the growing relevance of community policing in mission environments and cautioned against emerging destabilizing forces such as cybercrime networks, narcotics syndicates, and transnational criminal gangs. His intervention reinforced the need for peacekeeping to evolve in step with multidimensional and technologically enabled threats.



Session 1: Evolving Challenges in Current UN Peacekeeping Operations

*Moderator: **Lt. Col. Wajiha Arshad** (ISPR)
Panelists: **Amb. Nabeel Munir** (Special Secretary [UN], MoFA Pakistan) | **Mr. Jean-Pierre Lacroix** (USG DPO) | **Maj. Gen. Paolo Sandri** (Head Office of Military Policy, MoD Italy) | **Col. Abdalla Abuzaid** (Chief of Peacekeeping Branch, Jordan Armed Forces)*

The first thematic session set the stage for a forward-looking discussion on the complex realities shaping modern UN peacekeeping. Moderated by **Lt. Col. Wajiha Arshad**, Opening the discussion, **Ambassador Nabeel Munir**, Special Secretary (UN), highlighted that UN peacekeeping is increasingly strained by intertwined political, financial, and operational challenges that require urgent and collective action. He cautioned that the once-clear distinction between peacekeeping and peace enforcement is eroding, exposing peacekeepers to greater risks. This complexity is amplified when host governments fail to uphold Status of Mission Agreements (SOMAs), resulting in restrictions on movement, operational interference, and limited cooperation, all of which hinder mandate implementation and jeopardize the safety of peacekeepers.

Ambassador Munir further underscored the financial pressures facing peacekeeping,

noting arrears of over **USD 1.3 billion**. Such underfunding undermines mission effectiveness and delays reimbursements to troop- and police-contributing countries, many already operating under tight fiscal constraints. These resource gaps, he warned, destabilize the foundations of the global peacekeeping partnership at a time when operational demands continue to escalate.

Ambassador Munir's intervention framed Session 1 as a necessary call to action: peacekeeping can remain effective only if the international community confronts these structural challenges with renewed unity, political will, and commitment to shared responsibility.

Mr. Jean-Pierre Lacroix underscored that political processes form the backbone of UN peacekeeping, reminding participants that missions exist to enable and reinforce these efforts. He urged Member States to demonstrate greater political ownership and highlighted the need to continually refine and modernize peacekeeping tools, particularly as the UN80 initiative seeks to strengthen the Organization's overall capacity.

He also drew attention to the rapidly evolving threat landscape, marked by advanced IEDs, weaponized drones, and the growing impact of



digital technologies on conflict dynamics. To keep peace, he stressed the importance of greater flexibility in operational rules and resource distribution. Addressing questions on financial pressures, Mr. Lacroix noted that sustained, proactive engagement by Member States is vital to ensuring missions receive the support they require.

Maj. Gen. Paolo Sandri highlighted that one of the foremost challenges in contemporary peacekeeping is the imperative to integrate new technologies to remain effective in an increasingly complex operational landscape. With missions often subject to heightened scrutiny, he stressed that peacekeeping must evolve to become more agile and responsive. He emphasized that robust

training and sustained capacity-building are crucial to ensuring that personnel can operate confidently and competently amid rapidly shifting conditions.

Finally, **Col. Abdalla Abuzaid** reflected on Jordan's experience, noting that the country's peacekeeping approach is rooted in flexibility, readiness, and the ability to adjust swiftly to demanding environments. Drawing from Jordan's recent deployment in MONUSCO, he described the contingent's exposure to sudden escalations of violence, compounded by logistical hurdles, harsh weather, and limited resources. He underscored that adaptability, teamwork, and professionalism remain indispensable for overcoming such operational challenges and maintaining mission resilience.

Session 2: The future of Peacekeeping : The Role of Technology



Moderator: **Mr. Umer Siddique**, (Director General [UN], MoFA, Pakistan)

Panelists: **Atul Khare** (USG DOS) | **Ms. Barbara Nieuwenhuys** (Director, Digital Enablement Team, DPPA-DPO) | **Col. Werner Knappe** (Federal Ministry of Defence, Germany) | **Col. Yeongseok Kim** (Leader of Smart Camp TF, ROK Army HQ)

Moderated by **Mr. Umer Siddique**, DG UN MoFA, Pakistan, Session 2 explored how emerging technologies can be leveraged to strengthen the

safety, security, and operational effectiveness of peacekeeping missions amid an increasingly volatile global environment. Opening the discussion, **Mr. Atul Khare, Under-Secretary-General for Operational Support**, underscored that modern missions cannot rely on outdated tools and must instead embrace a technological framework befitting 21st-century threats. He described technology as a *force multiplier* that is capable of improving situational awareness,

enabling faster decision-making, and enhancing the overall protection of peacekeepers.

Mr. Khare illustrated this through a range of existing and evolving innovations, including UAVs, satellite imagery, ground-based sensors, and data-driven management dashboards. He also acknowledged Pakistan's contribution in installing a 25 kW renewable energy project in the Central African Republic, highlighting the role of sustainable solutions in mission environments. Additional examples included the expansion of telemedicine capabilities across six missions, integrated camp security systems, unmanned aerial platforms, and the development of "smart camps" designed to improve efficiency and resilience. He further noted the importance of technology-oriented training, particularly through the C4ISR Academy for Peace Operations (UNCAP), which equips peacekeepers with the skills needed to navigate increasingly complex operational landscapes.

Ms. Barbara Nieuwenhuys, Director of the Digital Enablement Team, emphasized that the effectiveness of peacekeeping missions increasingly depends on strong digital linkages and integrated partnerships across mission components. She highlighted the **UNITE Aware Initiative** as a pivotal advancement, offering a unified digital operating picture that strengthens situational awareness, supports coordinated patrol planning, enhances incident response, and facilitates seamless collaboration between military, police, and civilian actors. Already deployed in MINUSCA and UNFICYP, with implementation in UNMISS underway, the initiative, she noted, marks a shift from reactive to predictive operations. Ms. Nieuwenhuys stressed that the future of peacekeeping lies in harnessing technology to interpret, analyze, and act on data more effectively, enabling missions to transition from fragmented systems to shared awareness and from intuition-based judgments to evidence-driven decisions.

Col. Werner Knappe stressed that peacekeeping missions must rapidly adapt to emerging technologies, especially as non-state actors

increasingly employ sophisticated tools on the battlefield. He highlighted the value of renewable energy solutions in strengthening the safety and sustainability of mission camps, noting that such innovations reduce risks while improving operational resilience. Citing the independent study *Future of Peacekeeping Operations: New Models and Related Capabilities*, he underscored that technology is indispensable for confronting the next generation of operational threats. Col. Knappe reaffirmed Germany's strong support for the **UNITE Aware Initiative** and emphasized that, alongside financial and troop commitments, technology-related pledges should become a central part of deliberations at the upcoming Ministerial Meet.

Col. Yeongseok Kim presented a documentary showcasing the Republic of Korea's Smart Camp Project in South Sudan, illustrating how technology-driven innovations can significantly strengthen mission environments. He explained that the pilot project incorporates renewable energy solutions, advanced water and waste management systems, and intelligent perimeter surveillance technologies, each designed to enhance safety and reduce logistical strain. These features are further supported by automated food and fuel inventory mechanisms and modern facility management systems. Col. Kim noted that such integrated approaches demonstrate how smart infrastructure can improve sustainability, efficiency, and overall operational effectiveness in demanding peacekeeping contexts.

During the Q&A, panelists acknowledged that integrating technology into UN peacekeeping is hampered by community trust gaps, cost barriers, training deficits, and human-technology interface challenges. They also noted that while initiatives like Contingent Owned Equipment (COE) and Equipment Contributing Countries (ECC) frameworks exist, effective adoption ultimately depends on sustained capacity-building, responsible equipment management, and collective commitment even for low-cost solutions that can significantly enhance peacekeeper safety.

Session 3: Countering Threats to Safety and Security Using Technology



Moderator: **Mr. Takakazu Ito** (Senior Programme Manager, Triangular

Partnership Programme [TPP], DOS)

Panelists: **Maj. Gen. Cheryl Pearce** (Acting Military Advisor, DPO) | **Brig. Gen. Imran Rashid** (Retd) (Ex HOD DPOT CIPS) | **Mr. Raymond Kemei** (Programme Officer, UN Mine Action Service [UNMAS])

Session 3 delved into how technology can bolster peacekeeper protection amid evolving and high-risk threat environments. **Moderator Mr. Takakazu Ito** opened the discussion by underscoring the importance of cross-pillar collaboration between the UN and troop-contributing countries, highlighting the Triangular Partnership Programme's contributions particularly its realistic, scenario-based counter-IED training that has strengthened mission preparedness on the ground.

To start the session off, **Major General Cheryl Pearce**, Acting Military Adviser at DPO, explained that today's peacekeepers contend with a blend of kinetic warfare and asymmetric threats,

necessitating new operational strategies and capabilities. She emphasized that technology alone cannot drive progress; it must be supported by strong political commitment from host states, Member States, and the Security Council. Maj. Gen. Pearce concluded by calling for continuous innovation in ceasefire monitoring, cyber threat response, and countering information operations to ensure the safety of personnel and the effective implementation of mission mandates.

Brigadier General Imran Rashid, Retd, former Head of Peacekeeping Training at CIPS, emphasized that the rising threat of IEDs and explosive ordnance poses a universal risk to all peacekeepers, irrespective of rank or function. He underscored that effective counter-IED efforts hinge on a robust training framework and outlined a three-pillar strategy: *preparing the peacekeepers* through realistic training and awareness; *defeating the device* using appropriate tools, tactics, and procedures; and *degrading the network* by disrupting the actors, systems, and supply chains that enable

IED attacks. His remarks reinforced the central role of preparedness and continuous capacity-building in safeguarding peacekeeping personnel in high-threat environments.

Mr. Raymond Kemei, representing UNMAS, expanded on global efforts to counter the growing IED threat through both technology and targeted training. He shared recent casualty data, noting that over the past five years UN personnel have suffered **41 fatalities and 280 injuries**, with the highest losses recorded in MINUSMA prior to its closure in 2023,

followed by continued casualties in the African Union mission in Somalia. Mr. Kemei also drew attention to the emergence of weaponized drones as a significant new danger for peacekeepers. While AI-enabled tools are not yet widely deployed in the field, he emphasized their potential in predicting, detecting, and mitigating IED threats more effectively. He concluded by underscoring the vital importance of local intelligence networks and community engagement, both of which remain indispensable pillars of successful counter-IED strategies.



Day 2

Deepening Cooperation, Strengthening Partnerships, and Advancing Integrated Peacekeeping Approaches

Session 4: Role of Regional and Cross-Regional Organizations Supporting UN Peace Operations



Moderator: **Mr. Umer Siddique** (Director General [UN], MoFA, Pakistan)

Panelists: **Amb. Munir Akram** (Former Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the UN) | **Amb. Tri Tharyat** (Deputy Minister For Multilateral Cooperation, MoFA, Indonesia) | **Col. Bedda Gatabi** (African Union Department) | **Mr. Dawit Yirga** (Researcher, Security Council Report)

Day 2 opened with a forward-looking discussion on how regional and cross-regional organizations can reinforce UN peace operations. **Ambassador Munir Akram** noted that the African Union (AU) is the only regional body conducting both peacekeeping and peace enforcement, making it central to security efforts on the continent. He highlighted UNSCR 2719 as a step toward enabling predictable funding for AU-led peace support operations, while acknowledging ongoing challenges over financing

and political acceptability. He also suggested exploring regional security structures within the OIC and pointed to Caribbean Community and Common Market's (CARICOM) active role in Haiti.

Ambassador Tri Tharyat underscored the ASEAN region's longstanding engagement, with over 4,000 ASEAN peacekeepers contributing to various missions. He highlighted the ASEAN Peacekeeping Centre Network (APCN) as a key platform for regional collaboration and capacity-building, supported by ASEAN's work through the ARF on peacekeeping effectiveness.

Speaking from the AU perspective, **Col. Bedda Gatabi** outlined the organization's core pillars, including the Peace and Security Council (PSC) and African Standby Force (ASF), while stressing that no single institution can address Africa's expanding security threats, from Al-Shabaab to ISIS affiliates.

He emphasized the importance of the UN-AU partnership, sustainable financing, and effective implementation of Resolution 2719.

In a video message, **Mr. Dawit Yirga** highlighted the growing reliance on regional actors in crisis settings, noting persistent gaps between host-state expectations and what peace operations can realistically deliver. He emphasized that regional deployments are often first responders but face funding unpredictability, making implementation of 2719 both vital and challenging.

During the Q&A segment, participants asked whether Resolution 2719 could serve as a model for future cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations. Ambassador Akram explained that although the resolution required significant negotiation, it cannot be applied uniformly because each region has its own political realities and therefore, needs

tailored arrangements. When a follow-up question addressed how the UN and regional bodies might better align their expectations, he noted that their differing political compositions naturally shape their perspectives, yet some convergence has begun to emerge, particularly on financing.

Another question explored the next steps for implementing 2719 and the ways in which the African Union could further strengthen its role. Colonel Gatabi stated that joint technical teams are already working on operationalizing the resolution and that the AU has begun supporting some missions through its Crisis Reserve Facility. He emphasized, however, that long-term sustainability will depend on enhanced resource mobilization and a stronger AU Peace Fund. An audience member also raised continuing concerns within the United States regarding how 2719 might be applied in the context of Somalia.

Session 5: Partnerships and Performance for More Effective Peacekeeping



Moderator: **Ms. Flaminia Minelli** (*Chief of Policy and Best Practices*)

Panelists: **Mr. Faisal Shahkar** (*UN Police Advisor, DPO*) | **Maj. Gen. Silver Kayemba** (*Chief Defence and Security Advisor to the Chief of Uganda's People's Defence Force*) | **Brig. Gen. Shafqat Iqbal Gondal** (*Former Sec, Comd UNIMISS*) | **Col. Jiho Jang** (*HMA&TPP Support Officer, ROK Army HQ*) | **Mr. Alexis Berthier** (*Deputy Director for Political Affairs, UN Dte, French Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs*)

This session focused on performance, interoperability, and the importance of strong partnerships. **Mr. Faisal Shahkar** emphasized UN Police's role in enhancing readiness through pre-deployment assessments, mission inspections, and capacity-building in areas such as environmental policing, data management, and analytics.

Maj. Gen. Silver Kayemba drew on Uganda's experience in African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), stressing that effective mandates require well-equipped and well-trained personnel. He highlighted the value of the Triangular Partnership Programme (TPP) in strengthening counter-IED training and engineering capabilities.

Brigadier General Shafqat Gondal, reflecting on his experience in UNMISS, emphasized that community trust is central to mission success. He pointed to examples such as women's patrols, strong early-warning systems, and meaningful

engagement with local actors and NGOs as crucial components of effective peacekeeping.

Col. Jiho Jang outlined the Republic of Korea's contributions to troop training under the Triangular Partnership Program, particularly engineering training in Cambodia, and shared plans to expand these programmes in 2025 to include more Asian TCCs.

Mr. Alexis Berthier highlighted persistent challenges such as coordination gaps, multilingual environments, and performance assessments, while calling for sustained cooperation and increased women's participation. He noted that the upcoming Ministerial will be instrumental in advancing these collective goals.

In response to a question on improving communication with local communities, the panelists stressed that consistent engagement, cultural awareness, and basic knowledge of local languages help build trust and enhance peacekeeper safety. When asked about training, they noted that strong pre-deployment preparation is essential for effective performance in the field.

A question on women's participation prompted the view that targeted outreach and specialized training can help reduce existing barriers. Finally, on improving communication interoperability among different contingents, the panelists explained that joint training exercises and UN regional courses are key to strengthening coordination.

Session 6: Towards an Integrated Approach — Peacekeeping, Prevention, and Peacebuilding

Moderator: **Mr. Qasim Aziz Butt** (*Director [UN], MoFA Pakistan*)

Panelists: **Amb. Asim Iftikhar Ahmad** (*Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the UN*) | **Ms. Elizabeth Spehar** (*ASG for Peacebuilding Support, PBSO*) | **Mr. Toru Morikawa** (*Director General, Secretariat of the HQs for the International Peace Cooperation, Government of Japan*).

The final thematic session examined how peacekeeping, prevention, and peacebuilding

must reinforce each other across the conflict spectrum. **Ambassador Asim Iftikhar** stressed the need for a holistic approach anchored in the full peace continuum, from early prevention to conflict resolution and long-term peacebuilding. He highlighted Pakistan's historic role in shaping the Peacebuilding Commission.

Ms. Elizabeth Spehar, emphasized the crucial role of peacebuilding in addressing root causes of conflict and urged earlier integration of



peacebuilding tools within peacekeeping missions. She noted the need for improved financing and stronger alignment between Member States' priorities and peacebuilding frameworks.

Mr. Toru Morikawa drew on Japan's experience in South Sudan and Uganda to emphasize the importance of capacity-building, implementation of peace agreements, and inclusive approaches that involve local stakeholders. He reiterated the need to mainstream peacebuilding from the outset of any mission.

In response to questions, panelists acknowledged the difficulty of measuring prevention impact but referenced emerging platforms such as the Peacebuilding Impact Hub for empirical assessments and lesson-sharing. They also cautioned against overstressing mandates without adequate resources and noted that while technology can strengthen safety – such as through drones – its legal and ethical implications must be carefully managed.

Closing Session

In the closing session, speakers recalled outcomes from the previous preparatory meeting in Indonesia and reflected on expectations for the Ministerial in

Berlin. **Lt. Gen. Syed Aamer Raza**, Chief of General Staff, highlighted four core priorities for improving peacekeeping effectiveness:

1. Realistic Security Council mandates
2. Investment in local mechanisms for sustainable peace
3. Adequate financial and material support for missions
4. Adoption of new technologies

Senator Ishaq Dar, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, welcomed the rich dialogue generated over the past two days and shared an eight-point strategy to enhance peacekeeping effectiveness, focusing on strong political backing, clear mandates, meaningful TCC inclusion, matching resources to tasks, professional performance, strengthened regional partnerships, integration within the broader peace continuum, and enhanced safety of peacekeepers.

The meeting concluded with broad consensus that the Islamabad Preparatory Meeting provided vital momentum for advancing a safer, more adaptive, and technologically enabled peacekeeping system ahead of the 2025 Ministerial.

Executive Committee Meeting

29th Annual Conference, International Association of Peacekeeping Training Centres (IAPTC), Vicenza, Italy

6 - 9 May 2025



The Executive Committee (ExCom) of the International Association of Peacekeeping Training Centres (IAPTC) convened its meeting at the Center of Excellence for Stability Police Units (CoESPU) in Vicenza, Italy, from 6–9 May 2025. The session served as an important preparatory platform for the forthcoming 29th IAPTC Annual Conference.

Pakistan–CIPS (NUST) was represented by Maj Gen Raja Aftab Khan, HI(M), Retd President IAPTC and

ex-Principal NIPCONS, along with Dr. Muhammad Makki, Associate Dean CIPS-NUST.

The meeting's primary objective was to deliberate on the planning and structure of the 29th IAPTC Annual Conference, scheduled to be hosted by Italy in November 2025. Discussions centred on refining priority areas in peacekeeping training, enhancing capacity-building initiatives, and addressing emerging challenges confronting peace operations worldwide.



2025 Peace Operations Review Week Findings: Implications for Future Education and Training

7 November 2025

Description

The 2025 Peace Operations Review Week Workshop, held in New York, examined key findings and their implications for future education and training in peace operations. The event was co-organized by the **Permanent Missions to the United Nations of Pakistan** and Switzerland, the Geneva Centre for Security Policy (GCSP), the **Centre for International Peace and Stability (CIPS), Pakistan**, the United Nations University–Center for Policy Research (UNU-CPR), and Coventry University.

Background

Building on interdisciplinary and global collaborations—including the Challenges Forum, EPON, GAPO, IAPTC, and other partners—Peace Operations Review Week 2025 convened a global community of experts to strengthen peace operations and interventions. The inaugural Review Week aimed to bring together critical expertise to support the UN-mandated Review on the Future of All Forms of Peace Operations under the 2024 Pact for the Future, while considering the UN80 process and resource constraints. Building on the outcomes of the IAPTC Annual Conference 2024 in Islamabad, the deliberations also informed the IAPTC Annual Conference and UNPOL Day, hosted by COESPU in



Participation

At the Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the United Nations, the Review Week convened organizational lead representatives from the co-organizers, namely Challenges Forum, EPON, GAPO, IPI, and GCSP, along with workshop partners **CIPS Pakistan**, UNU-CPR, and Coventry University. The meeting also brought together the Chief of UN DPO's Integrated Training Service (ITS), representatives of UN DPO and DPPA, Permanent Missions to the United Nations, COESP (host of IAPTC 2025), and civil society and think tank organizations. Participants joined in person and online in a hybrid format.

Workshop on 2025 Peace Operations Review Week: Education and Training Implications

The 2025 Peace Operations Review Week, titled *"Findings: Implications for Future Education and Training,"* focused on translating the week's insights into actionable recommendations for the education and training of civilian, police, and military peacekeepers. Drawing on 15 seminars and workshops, the discussions drew on lessons from past reviews and reforms, including the Brahimi Report (2000), New Horizons (2009), HIPPO (2015), A4P/A4P+, and the 2024 independent study on the Future of Peacekeeping. The workshop highlighted persistent gaps, such as training pledges that





mirror mandate language without addressing capacity constraints, and underinvestment in civilian training, especially in leadership and adaptive decision-making. It also emphasized the need for greater coherence across training systems, particularly given the central role of Troop and Police-Contributing Countries (TCCs and PCCs) in pre-deployment preparation and ongoing resource constraints.

The workshop aimed to consolidate the implications for education and training from Review Week, identifying overlaps, gaps, and evidence from training needs assessments and mission feedback to inform a more coherent framework. Key questions included how current programmes match identified needs, what partnerships can reduce fragmentation, and how civilian and uniformed training can be better coordinated. Outcomes will inform the IAPTC 2025 Annual Conference and UNPOL Day, helping shape the future of peace operations education and training globally.

Workshop Findings

During the Peace Operations Review Week and its dedicated workshop, four main thematic considerations were identified. These have important implications for how future training and capacity-building efforts in peace operations should be designed and delivered include:

1. Leading with integrity through change – strengthening leadership and building partnerships.



2. Increasing and strengthening the adaptability of systems and peacekeepers.
3. Reflective, learner-centred training mechanisms require broader application.
4. Innovation areas with particular potential for development of training include:
 - a. Embracing and operationalizing new technologies to the advantage of missions,
 - b. More effectively addressing mis- and disinformation and hate speech,
 - c. Scaling up training for mitigating climate risk and its impact, and
 - d. Strengthening the mental health and resilience of peacekeepers.

Leading with Integrity through Change – Strengthening Leadership, Building Partnerships

Trust remains central to effective peace operations, yet citizen perspectives are often missing from analyses. Amplifying community feedback in training can improve peacekeepers' understanding of real-world impacts. UN DPO's ITS highlighted the need for evidence-based investment in training. Participants suggested piloting mechanisms to gather host community input on conduct, cultural sensitivity, and communication, and to use those insights to shape future training. Unarmed Civilian Protection (UCP) methodologies were also recommended for integration into Protection of Civilians (POC) training, enhancing leadership, consensus-building, and trauma-informed approaches.



Leadership recruitment and handover processes were emphasized, with priority given to empathy, consensus-building, and team management.

Increased and Strengthened Adaptability of Systems and Peacekeepers

Training systems must become more adaptable amid shrinking budgets and shifting security priorities. Recommendations included mobilizing political will for standardized training, using virtual learning, digitalized resources (e.g., e-CPTM), and mobile training teams. Technology should complement, not replace, in-person scenario-based exercises. Training must also prepare peacekeepers for diverse operational environments and collaboration across multiple missions. Women, Peace and Security (WPS) priorities were highlighted for integration into adaptable training.

Reflective, Learner-Centred Training Mechanisms Requires Broader Application

Peace operations training should emphasize problem-solving, empathy, collaboration, and adaptability. Learner-focused approaches such as simulations, tabletop exercises, and reflective questioning were recommended alongside traditional knowledge transfer. Scenario-based exercises should cover civilian communication, cultural humility, and aligned POC concepts across frameworks. Safe-failure exercises, post-training reflection, and host-community feedback enhance

realism and learning. Mental health and duty-of-care training should be embedded and endorsed by mission leadership.

Innovation Areas with Potential for Training Development

- a. Operationalize new technologies for mission effectiveness
- b. Address misinformation, disinformation, and hate speech
- c. Scale up training on climate risk and its operational impact
- d. Strengthen peacekeeper mental health and resilience

Discussions during the 2025 Peace Operations Review Week highlighted that effective peace operations depend on leadership, adaptability, and evidence-based, learner-centered training responsive to challenges. Strengthening trust with host communities, feedback mechanisms, and innovative approaches, such as UCP methodologies, digital tools, and scenario exercises, can boost mission effectiveness. The focus was on developing leadership, empathy, and cohesive teams while embedding mental health, resilience, and duty of care in training. As missions face new threats, resource constraints, and diverse environments, a coherent, adaptable, and inclusive training framework is essential for preparing peacekeepers for modern challenges.

Participation of CIPS in the 29th Annual Conference of the International Association of Peacekeeping Training Centres (IAPTC)

9–14 November 2025 | CoESPU, Vicenza, Italy



On behalf of Pakistan, the Centre for International Peace and Stability (CIPS) participated in the 29th IAPTC Annual Conference hosted by Center of Excellence for Stability Police Unit (CoESPU), Vicenza, under the theme “Peace Operations Training in a Dynamic World: Fostering Cooperation, Inclusivity & Efficiency.” The CIPS-Pakistan delegation included Maj Gen Raja Aftab Khan, HI(M), Retd, President IAPTC, and Dr. Muhammad Makki, Associate Dean CIPS.



The conference brought together over 150 representatives from global peacekeeping training centres, UN departments, and leading research institutions. A special event marking UN Police Day featured Commissioner Faisal Shahkar, UN Police Advisor, as the keynote speaker.

In his opening address, Maj Gen Raja Aftab Khan, HI(M), Retd, welcomed participants and expressed deep appreciation for CoESPU’s exceptional hosting and hospitality. He underscored the unique role of the IAPTC as a global platform that unites military, police, and civilian training institutions in their shared mission to prepare peacekeepers for increasingly complex operational environments. Highlighting the growing challenges posed by multipolarity, regional rivalries, transnational terrorism, organised crime, and hybrid threats, he emphasized the expanding expectations placed on peacekeepers despite constrained UN budgets. He noted the critical contribution of regional training networks in standardizing practices and promoting mutual learning, especially as the Association marks its 30th anniversary. He reaffirmed the vital importance of revising and strengthening training curricula under UN guidance to ensure that peacekeepers remain equipped to meet modern demands.



Pakistan's leadership during its tenure as IAPTC President for 2024–2025, as well as its longstanding contributions as a major Troop and Police-Contributing Country (TCC/PCC), were prominently acknowledged by UN leadership throughout the conference. Building on this recognition, CIPS–Pakistan led a well-received plenary session titled “Leveraging Partnerships for Peace Operations,” where it highlighted the importance of collaborative training frameworks, inter-institutional coordination, and knowledge exchange in enhancing peacekeeping effectiveness. The delegation also showcased Pakistan's best practices in pre-deployment training, emphasizing rigorous preparation, integrated training modules, and scenario-based exercises that equip peacekeepers with the skills needed to operate in complex and evolving mission environments.

During the Annual General Meeting, chaired by Maj Gen Raja Aftab Khan, HI(M), Retd, the longstanding stewardship of Pakistan concluded with the formal handover of the IAPTC Presidency to CoESPU,



marking a smooth transition of leadership and reaffirming the Association's commitment to continuity and collaboration. The session also featured the presentation of the recent UN Peace Operations Review Report, a significant policy document developed with contributions from CIPS and its international partners. The report provided participants and UN officials with key insights on evolving operational challenges, training gaps, and future priorities, further underscoring the value of evidence-based recommendations in strengthening global peacekeeping preparedness.



CIPS Advances Peacekeeping Excellence with Certified UN IED-TM and EHAT Programs



The Centre for International Peace and Stability (CIPS) achieved a significant milestone with the successful certification of two specialized courses: the Improvised Explosive Device – Threat Mitigation (IED-TM) Course and the Explosive Hazard Awareness Training (EHAT) Course. This achievement underscores CIPS's strong commitment to supporting and enhancing United Nations Peacekeeping Operations through high-quality, internationally aligned training programs.

Brigadier Sajjad Ahmad, SI(M), Retd., Head of Department DPOT, extended his congratulations and highly appreciated the DPOT's dedicated efforts. He acknowledged the achievement as a testament to CIPS's professionalism, institutional capacity, and continued contribution toward strengthening peacekeeping preparedness and operational effectiveness.



3

Peacekeeping Training Courses

PEACEKEEPING TRAINING

United Nations Staff Officers Course (UNSOC-46)

06 – 17 January 2025



United Nations Staff Officers Course (UNSOC-46) was held from 6 to 17 January 2025. The purpose of the course was to provide participants with a comprehensive understanding of the United Nations' functioning, principles, guidelines, and policies. The course aimed to equip attendees with the necessary knowledge and skills to effectively fulfill their responsibilities as Staff Officers (SOs) in Field Headquarters (FHQ) and Sector Headquarters (SHQ).

The course involved 15 participants and was guided by a distinguished team of instructors, including representatives from the Department of Peace Operations Training (DPOT), the Pakistan Army and Police Directorates, UNHCR, and subject-matter experts. Using Integrated Training Service (ITS) materials, the curriculum emphasized Core Pre-Deployment Training Materials (CPTM), Department of Peace Operations/Department of Operational Support (DPO/DOS) guidance materials, peacekeeping policies, standard operating procedures, and expert lectures.



In the closing ceremony of the UNSOC-46 course, Associate Dean Dr. Muhammad Makki highlighted the intricate challenges of Peace Operations. He acknowledged that the two-week course was structured to equip participants with essential knowledge and skills to contribute effectively to the military aspects of UN peacekeeping mandates in line with DPO guidelines. He further emphasized CIPS' commitment to excellence and its alignment with leading regional and international peacekeeping institutions. Since its



inception, DPOT has successfully trained over 4,000 peacekeepers, reinforcing Pakistan's position as one of the top Troop-Contributing Countries (TCCs)

and its steadfast dedication to peace and security. Concluding his address, he extended his heartfelt congratulations to the graduates of UNSOC-46.



PEACEKEEPING TRAINING

UN Military Observers Course (UNMOC-40)

20 – 31 January 2025



The United Nations Military Observers Course – 40 (UNMOC) was conducted at the Centre for International Peace and Stability (CIPS) from 20 to 31 January 2025. The objective of the course was to equip peacekeepers for their roles as UN Military Observers in both current and prospective UN Peacekeeping Operations.

The course included four officers from the Pakistan Army, including two lady officers. Participants underwent a structured three-tiered training process, covering Core Pre-deployment Training Materials (CPTM), Specialized Training Materials (STM), and in-mission training. The methodology offered participants a contextualized understanding of their deployment areas.

In the closing ceremony, Brig. Sajjad Ahmad, SI(M), Retd, Head of the Department of Peace Operations Training (DPOT), delivered the closing remarks. He congratulated the participants on the successful completion of the course and highlighted DPOT's significant achievements, having conducted over



211 courses and trained more than 4,000 officers in accordance with UN standards. He also emphasized Pakistan's longstanding contributions to UN peacekeeping over the past 76 years. Concluding his address, he expressed confidence that the training would prepare participants for their future responsibilities in complex peacekeeping environments. He extended his best wishes and commended CIPS for conducting the course in a highly professional manner.

PEACEKEEPING TRAINING

UN Pre-Deployment Training Course (UNPDTC-41)

24 February – 14 March 2025



The United Nations Pre-Deployment Training Course – 41 (UNPDTC-41) was held at the Centre for International Peace and Stability (CIPS) from 24 February to 14 March 2025. This foundational course served as a critical preparatory platform for peacekeeping personnel, equipping them with the essential knowledge and skills required to operate effectively in UN peacekeeping missions.

A total of 13 personnel from the Pakistan Army participated in the course. The training followed a structured methodology designed to prepare peacekeepers for their multifaceted roles in supporting host nations in their pursuit of peace. Through modules based on Core Pre-deployment Training Materials (CPTM), participants explored the UN's systems, legal frameworks, and specialized assignments. Adjunct faculty presentations from UN partners provided valuable insights, while scenario-based exercises enhanced participants' readiness to navigate diverse operational, cultural, and security contexts.

The closing remarks were delivered by Brig Sajjad Ahmad, SI(M), Retd, Head of the Department of Peace Operations Training (DPOT). He congratulated the participants on completing the course and noted that the training at CIPS closely mirrors



the diversity and operational realities of actual UN missions. Brig Sajjad underscored Pakistan's longstanding and meaningful contributions to UN peacekeeping, highlighting its position as one of the leading Troop Contributing Countries (TCCs). He further emphasized Pakistan's pivotal role in global peace efforts, consistently deploying soldiers, police officers, diplomats, civil servants, and relief workers to conflict-affected areas under the UN flag. In his concluding remarks, he expressed confidence that the course would serve as a key milestone in broadening participants' understanding of UN systems and in preparing them for roles in complex, multidimensional peacekeeping missions.

PEACEKEEPING TRAINING

UN Engagement Platoon Course (UNEP-4)

24 February – 4 March 2025



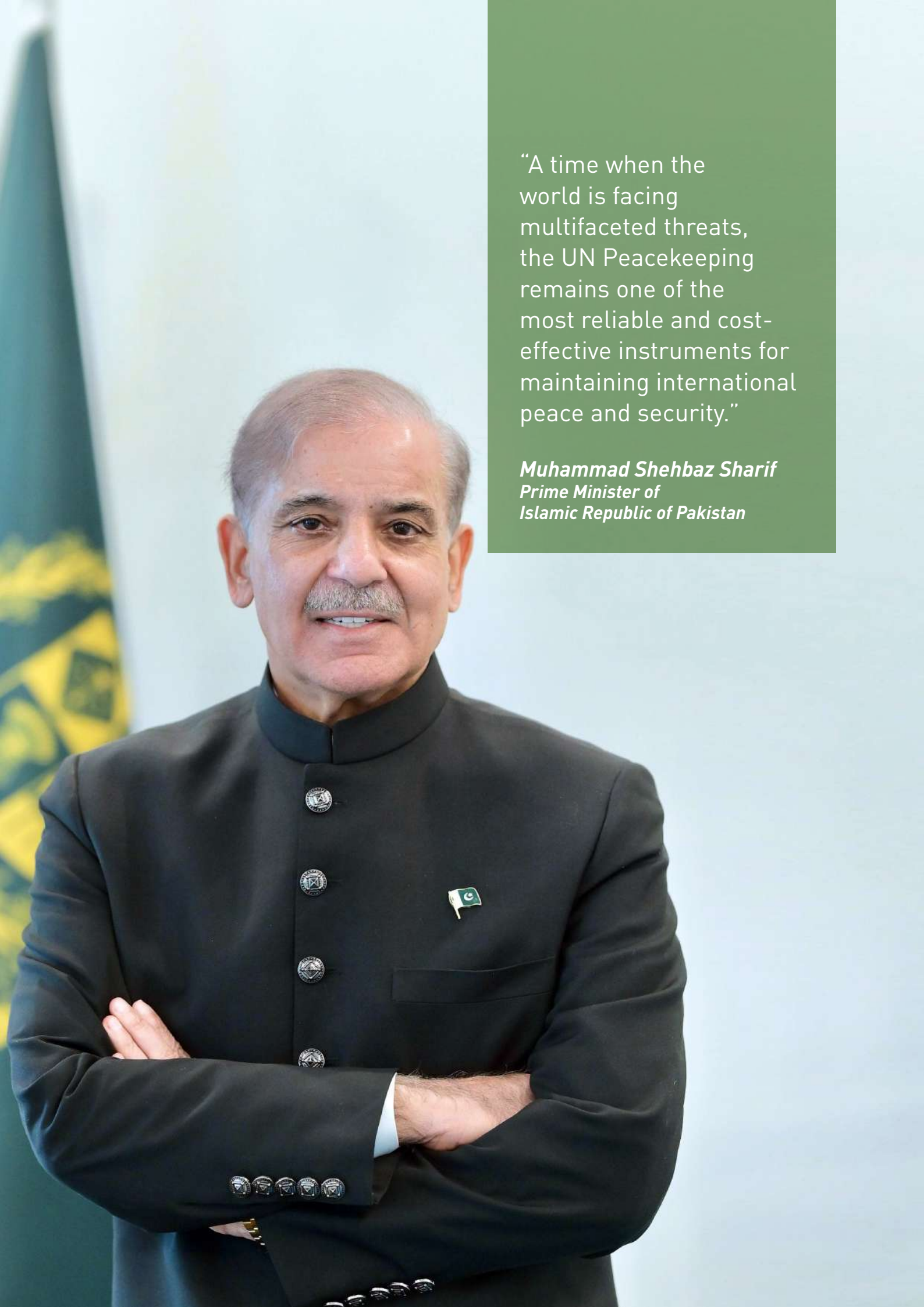
The United Nations Engagement Platoon (UNEP – 04) course was conducted from 24 February to 4 March 2025 as per the United Nations Reinforcement Training Package (RTP) concerning the recently launched engagement platoon. The objective was to cultivate meaningful involvement in gender in conflict-affected communities and to advocate for integrating individuals at all levels and roles within peacekeeping missions.

A total of 12 personnel from the Pakistan Army completed the course and were awarded certificates. The course methodology emphasized practical and participatory learning. Participants received

comprehensive instruction on the various facets of their engagement platoon roles and responsibilities, supplemented by insightful presentations from Adjunct Faculty and subject-matter experts (SMEs). In addition, seminars and scenario exercises offered participants hands-on, experiential training.

The course concluded with a formal closing ceremony, where Brig Sajjad Ahmad, SI(M), Retd, Head of the Department of Peace Operations Training (DPOT), delivered the closing remarks. He congratulated the participants on completing the three-week course and highlighted that the training at CIPS mirrors the diversity and operational realities of UN field missions. Brig Sajjad also commended the achievements of the DPOT, which has conducted 212 courses and trained over 4,037 peacekeepers in alignment with UN standards. Emphasizing Pakistan's longstanding and distinguished contributions to global peacekeeping, he reaffirmed the country's position as one of the leading Troop-Contributing Countries (TCCs). In conclusion, he expressed confidence that the course would serve as a milestone in enhancing participants' understanding of UN systems and their future roles as members of Engagement Platoons.



A portrait of Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, Prime Minister of Pakistan. He is an older man with a mustache, wearing a black traditional Pakistani kurta with silver buttons and a small Pakistani flag pin on the left chest. He has his arms crossed and is standing in front of a light blue background with a portion of the Pakistani flag visible on the left. A green text box is overlaid on the right side of the image.

“A time when the world is facing multifaceted threats, the UN Peacekeeping remains one of the most reliable and cost-effective instruments for maintaining international peace and security.”

Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif
*Prime Minister of
Islamic Republic of Pakistan*

PEACEKEEPING TRAINING

UN Comprehensive Protection of Civilians Course (UNCPoCC-14)

7 – 18 April 2025



The United Nations Comprehensive Protection of Civilians Course – 14 (UNCPoCC-14) was conducted at the Centre for International Peace and Stability (CIPS), NUST Islamabad, from 7 to 18 April 2025. This UN-certified course aimed to educate and sensitize participants on the functioning of the United Nations, the roles and responsibilities of peacekeepers, and the operational and conceptual framework for the Protection of Civilians (PoC) in peacekeeping missions.

The course was attended by 37 participants representing diverse professional backgrounds, including military personnel, police officers, and civilians. Among them, 20 participants were international officers from 16 friendly countries. Four officers from the Pakistan Army, six from the Police Department, and 17 civilians from various institutions.

The course methodology focused on the latest Specialized Training Material (STM) for the Protection of Civilians, including lectures from the Core Pre-deployment Training Materials (CPTM). Subject Matter Experts (SMEs), including representatives from UN organizations, also delivered lectures.

Participants also explored Islamabad's cultural landmarks and spent a day in Murree, experiencing Pakistan's hospitality and heritage.

The closing ceremony of UNCPoCC-14 was held on 18 April 2025. The event featured certificate distribution and was graced by H.E. Mr. Mohamed Karmoune, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Morocco, and Maj Gen Muhammad Arif Malik (Retd), Pro-Rector (P&R) as chief guests. The ceremony began with opening remarks by Maj Gen (Retd) Raja Aftab Khan, HI(M), Principal NIPCONS, who welcomed the participants and highlighted CIPS's growing role as a premier peace operations training institution within the region.

In his address, H.E. Mr. Karmoune commended the diversity of participants and lauded CIPS for its professional excellence and expanding global outreach. He acknowledged Pakistan's historic and continued leadership as one of the foremost Troop-Contributing Countries (TCCs) and underscored the critical importance of such training programs in preparing peacekeepers to protect civilians in complex and volatile conflict environments.

The ceremony concluded with the exchange of souvenirs among international participants as a gesture of goodwill and friendship. Both dignitaries extended their congratulations to the graduates and expressed confidence that they would apply their learning in future UN peacekeeping missions while cherishing the experience of Pakistan's hospitality, culture, and commitment to global peace.

PEACEKEEPING TRAINING

UN Military Observers Course (UNMOC-41)

21 April – 2 May 2025



The United Nations Military Observers Course – 41 (UNMOC-41) was conducted at the Centre for International Peace and Stability (CIPS) from 21 April to 2 May 2025. The objective of the course was to equip peacekeepers with the essential knowledge and skills required for their roles as UN Military Observers in current and future UN peacekeeping operations.

Three officers from the Pakistan Army attended the course. Participants underwent a three-tiered training process, encompassing Core Pre-deployment Training Materials (CPTM), Specialized Training Materials (STM), and the facets of in-mission training. Military Observers from selected missions provided briefings on mission environments, mandates, and the specific roles/assignments of military observers.

The closing remarks were delivered by the Associate Dean of CIPS, Dr. Muhammad Makki. In his address, he welcomed the participants and faculty, noting that the two-week course at CIPS provided a training environment that was as diverse as the UN itself and closely mirrored the operational realities of a UN office setting. He highlighted the achievements

of the Department of Peace Operations Training, which has organized 214 courses and trained over 4,086 peacekeepers in accordance with UN policies and guidelines. He further underscored Pakistan's longstanding and meaningful role in UN peacekeeping operations, emphasizing its consistent contributions of soldiers, policemen, diplomats, civil servants, and relief workers under the UN flag, as well as its distinction as one of the leading Troop Contributing Countries (TCCs). He extended his best wishes to all participants for continuing success in their professional pursuits.



PEACEKEEPING TRAINING

United Nations Staff Officer Course (UNSOC-47)

5 – 16 May 2025



The United Nations Staff Officer Course – 47 (UNSOC-47) was held from 5 to 16 May 2025 at the Centre for International Peace and Stability (CIPS). The purpose of the course was to provide a comprehensive understanding of the United Nations' functioning, basic principles, guidelines, and policies. The course aimed to equip attendees with the necessary knowledge and skills to effectively fulfill their responsibilities as Staff Officers (SOs) in Field Headquarters (FHQ) and Sector Headquarters (SHQ).

The course included a total of 31 participants, of which 21 were from friendly countries, representing Saudi Arabia, Japan, Jordan, Morocco, South Africa, Türkiye, Bangladesh, Malawi, Mozambique, Nigeria, Sri Lanka, Belarus, Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, and France. The remaining participants were officers from the Pakistan Army.

Participants were trained by instructors from the Peace Operations Training Faculty, Pakistan Army, UNHCR, and Subject Matter Experts. The course followed ITS guidelines, based on CPTM, and included materials from DPO and DOS on peacekeeping policies, SOPs, and key guidelines.



During their stay in Islamabad, participants enjoyed cultural and recreational activities, visiting markets, malls, Lok Virsa, and the Pakistan Monument. A day trip to Murree with lunch at Chinar Golf Club showcased the region's scenic beauty. The program concluded with a farewell dinner at Ramada, fostering cultural exchange and camaraderie.

The closing ceremony of UNSOC-47 was held on 16 May 2025. The event commenced with opening remarks by Associate Dean, Dr. Muhammad Makki, who welcomed the participants, faculty members, defence attachés, and distinguished



guests. He highlighted the diverse and multicultural representation of the course, which mirrors the operational realities of UN peacekeeping missions. Dr. Makki emphasized the importance of pre-deployment training as a critical component for Troop-Contributing Countries (TCCs) and praised CIPS for its ongoing role as a Centre of Excellence in peacekeeping education. He mentioned that the Department of Peace Operations Training has successfully conducted 216 courses and trained over 4,122 peacekeepers in line with UN policies and guidelines. Dr. Makki also appreciated the contribution of Colonel Nanjo Mamoru from Japan, whose participation as an instructor added unique value and global perspective to the course.

The chief guest of the ceremony, H.E. Mr. Mohamed Karmoune, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Morocco, distributed certificates among the graduates. This was followed by the presentation of souvenirs by allied officers to Brigadier Sajjad Ahmad, SI(M), Retd, Head of DPOT, as a gesture of appreciation.

In his closing address, H.E. Mr. Karmoune congratulated the participants on completing the course and commended CIPS for its significant role as a Centre of Excellence in peacekeeping training. He highlighted the importance of such programs in preparing peacekeepers for the multicultural environment of UN missions. He extended his best wishes to all participants for success in their future assignments.



PEACEKEEPING TRAINING

UN Pre-Deployment Training Course (UNPDTC-42)

16 – 27 June 2025



The United Nations Pre-Deployment Training Course – 42 (UNPDTC-42) was held at the Centre for International Peace and Stability (CIPS) from 16 to 27 June 2025. This course provides fundamental training for peacekeeping personnel to operate effectively in UN missions. The course aims to promote understanding of UN peacekeeping principles, procedures, and policies.

The training covered a wide range of critical themes and priorities, including conduct and discipline, sexual exploitation and abuse, the protection of civilians, human rights, gender mainstreaming, conflict-related sexual violence, child protection, and environmental protection.

The course was attended by 26 personnel of the Pakistan Army, including six lady officers.

The course was designed to prepare peacekeeping personnel for their roles in assisting host countries in their pursuit of peace. It included comprehensive modules based on the Core Pre-Deployment Training Materials (CPTM), focusing on UN systems, legal frameworks, and mission-specific responsibilities. Adjunct faculty presentations offered insights from UN partners, and scenario exercises improved participants' readiness for diverse operational, cultural, and security settings in peacekeeping missions.

Associate Dean Dr. Muhammad Makki delivered the closing remarks for the UNPDTC-42. He

congratulated the participants on completing the course and noted that the training at CIPS closely mirrors the diversity and operational realities of actual UN missions. Dr. Makki highlighted that, in its short history, the Department of Peace Operations Training has covered impressive ground by organizing 218 courses and training over 4,177 peacekeepers in line with UN policies and guidelines. He also recognized Pakistan's pivotal role in global peace efforts, consistently deploying soldiers, police officers, diplomats, civil servants, and relief workers to conflict-affected areas under the UN flag. He expressed confidence that the course would serve as a key milestone in broadening the participants' understanding of UN systems and preparing them for roles in complex, multidimensional peacekeeping missions. He extended his best wishes to all participants for continued professional success.



PEACEKEEPING TRAINING

United Nations Staff Officers Course (UNSOC-48)

4 – 15 August 2025



The United Nations Staff Officers Course – 48 (UNSOC-48) was conducted at the Centre for International Peace and Stability (CIPS) from 4 to 15 August 2025. The purpose of the course was to provide a comprehensive understanding of the UN's functioning, principles, guidelines, and policies. The course aimed to equip participants with the knowledge and skills necessary to effectively fulfill their responsibilities as Staff Officers (SOs) in Field Headquarters (FHQ) and Sector Headquarters (SHQ).

A total of 41 participants attended the course, including 26 officers from the Pakistan Army and 15 officers from friendly countries such as China, Thailand, Jordan, Belarus, Bangladesh, Malawi, Iraq, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Egypt, Nigeria, the USA, and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Participants trained by diverse instructors, including the Department of Peace Operations Training Faculty, Pakistan Army and Police representatives, UNHCR, and SMEs. The course was conducted using Integrated Training Service (ITS) developed training materials, with the Core Pre-Deployment Training Materials (CPTM) serving as a key component. Participants also received guidance from DPO/DOS materials on peacekeeping policies, SOPs, and best practices. SME lectures further improved understanding of UN peacekeeping operations.



During their stay in Islamabad, participants visited local markets, malls, Lok Virsa, the Pakistan Monument, and enjoyed a day trip to Murree with lunch at Chinar Golf Club. They joined Independence Day celebrations at NUST and ended with a farewell dinner at Ramada, experiencing Pakistan's culture and hospitality.

The closing ceremony was on 15 August 2025, with remarks by Major General Zahid Mehmood, Retd, Principal NIPCONS. He welcomed participants, defence attachés, and guests, highlighting Pakistan's commitment to UN peacekeeping and the role of CIPS as a Centre of Excellence in training peacekeepers. He expressed confidence in the faculty and infrastructure, hoped officers would cherish their stay in Pakistan, and wished them success.



Certificates were given to successful participants by the Chief Guest, His Excellency Dr. Ihab Mohamed Abdelhamid Hassan, Ambassador of Egypt. Souvenirs were presented to the Principal NIPCONS by allied officers as thanks.

In his closing address, H.E. Dr. Ihab Hassan congratulated the successful participants of UNSOC-48 and commended the diversity of attendees, which reflected the multicultural

environment of UN missions. He lauded CIPS for its significant contribution to peacekeeping training and expressed confidence that the participants would apply the knowledge and experience gained during the course in future UN assignments. He concluded by extending his best wishes for their professional success and expressed hope that all participants would carry with them lasting memories of Pakistan's hospitality and warmth.



PEACEKEEPING TRAINING

United Nations Military Observers Course (UNMOC-43)

25 August – 5 September 2025



The United Nations Military Observers Course – 43 (UNMOC-43) was conducted at the Centre for International Peace and Stability (CIPS) from 25 August to 5 September 2025. The course was designed to equip peacekeepers for their deployment as United Nations Military Observers (UNMOs) in current and prospective UN Peacekeeping Operations.

A total of 18 officers from the Pakistan Army, including three lady officers, attended the course. Participants underwent a three-tiered training process, encompassing Core Pre-deployment Training Materials (CPTM), Specialized Training Materials (STM), and the facets of in-mission training. Military Observers from selected missions provided briefings on their mission environments, mandates, and the specific roles and assignments. This approach offered participants a more contextualized understanding of their deployment areas.

The closing ceremony for the course took place on 5 September 2025. The ceremony concluded with the certificate distribution, followed by closing remarks delivered by the Associate Dean of the CIPS. He welcomed the participants and faculty, noting that the two-week training at CIPS reflected the diversity of the UN and closely resembled real UN office

operations. Dr. Makki highlighted the achievements of the DPOT which has conducted 221 courses, training over 4,234 peacekeepers according to UN policies, and maintained partnerships with leading regional and international peacekeeping centers. He emphasized Pakistan's crucial and ongoing contribution to UN peacekeeping, including its soldiers, police, diplomats, civil servants, and relief workers serving under the UN flag, and its status as a top Troop Contributing Country (TCC). In closing, he congratulated the UNMOC-43 graduates, expressing confidence that the course will be a significant step in expanding their understanding of the UN and preparing them for their future roles as Military Observers in complex peacekeeping missions. He wished all participants continued success in their careers.



PEACEKEEPING TRAINING

United Nations Staff Officer Course (UNSOC-49)

15 – 26 September 2025



The United Nations Staff Officer Course – 49 (UNSOC-49) was conducted at the Centre for International Peace and Stability (CIPS). The course was designed to provide participants with a comprehensive understanding of the United Nations’ functioning, basic principles, guidelines, and policies. Its primary objective was to equip attendees with the essential knowledge and skills required to effectively perform their duties as Staff Officers (SOs) in Field Headquarters (FHQ) and Sector Headquarters (SHQ) during UN Peacekeeping Operations.

A total of 16 participants from the Pakistan Army, including five lady officers, participated in the course. The participants received instruction from a diverse group of trainers, including rep from the DPOT Faculty, the Pakistan Army and Police Directorates, UNHCR, and various Subject Matter



Experts (SMEs). The course was conducted in accordance with Integrated Training Service (ITS)-developed materials. The Core Pre-Deployment Training Materials (CPTM) formed the foundation of the program, while participants benefited from DPO/DOS guidance materials, including peacekeeping training policies, standard operating procedures, and operational guidelines.

A highlight of the course was a guest lecture delivered by Major General Zia Ur Rehman, HI(M), Retd, former Force Commander of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO). His session provided invaluable insights into the operational realities, challenges, and decision-making processes faced by UN Staff Officers in the field.

The closing ceremony taking place on 26 September 2025 started with the distribution of certificates among the successful participants. In his closing remarks, Brig Sajjad Ahmad, SI(M), Retd, HoD DPOT, commended the participants of UNSOC-49, noting that although the course spanned only two weeks, it successfully provided a realistic understanding

of a UN Field Headquarters environment. He highlighted that the Department of DPOT had made remarkable progress by organizing 222 courses and training over 4,235 peacekeepers in accordance with UN policies and guidelines. He further emphasized that CIPS continues to maintain strong institutional partnerships with leading regional and international peacekeeping training institutions. Concluding his address, Brig Sajjad congratulated all graduates of UNSOC-49, expressing confidence that the course would serve as a valuable milestone in broadening their understanding of UN systems and enhancing their preparedness for future roles as Staff Officers. He extended his best wishes to all participants for continued professional success.



PEACEKEEPING TRAINING

United Nations Military Observers Course (UNMOC-44)

6 – 17 October 2025



The United Nations Military Observers Course – 44 (UNMOC-44) was conducted at the Centre for International Peace and Stability (CIPS). The course aimed to equip peacekeepers with the essential knowledge, skills, and attitudes required for their roles as UN Military Observers in both current and prospective UN Peacekeeping Operations. The training was conducted in line with the UN Integrated Training Service (ITS) framework to ensure participants' effective preparation for deployment.

A total of 38 officers completed the course. Among them, 20 participants represented allied nations, including Jordan, Kazakhstan, Rwanda, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Egypt, Mozambique, Malawi, Nigeria, Sri Lanka, South Africa, Malaysia, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, China, and Iraq, while 18 officers were from the Pakistan Army.

Participants underwent a structured, multi-tiered training process that included Core Pre-deployment Training Materials (CPTM), Specialized Training Materials (STM), and in-mission training. Experienced Military Observers shared insights on mission environments, mandates, and the specific roles and responsibilities of UN Military

Observers, enabling participants to gain a contextual understanding of operational dynamics in peacekeeping areas.

A highlight of UNMOC-44 was a two-day event on Peace Operations. On Day One, participants attended a book presentation on “Military Diplomacy: Reflections by Former UN Force Commanders” by Lt Gen Dr. Dennis Gyllensporre Retd and Lt Col Prof. Håkan Edström Retd, offering valuable insights from the experiences of former UN Force Commanders. On Day Two, an expert panel





discussion on “The Future of UN Peace Operations” was held, moderated by Dr. Col Arshad Mehmood Retd and distinguished speakers, including Lt Gen Dr. Dennis Gyllensporre Retd, Lt Col Prof. Håkan Edström Retd, Lt Gen Maqsood Ahmad Retd, and Maj Gen Dr. Shahid Ahmad Hashmat Retd.

Participants explored Pakistan’s cultural heritage through visits to Islamabad’s landmarks, Murree’s Chinar Golf Club, Lok Virsa, and the Pakistan Monument, concluding with a farewell dinner at Ramada Islamabad that highlighted Pakistan’s warmth and hospitality.

At the closing ceremony, the distinguished guests, H.E. Khazar Farhadov, Ambassador of Azerbaijan to Pakistan, and H.E. Harerimana Fatou, High Commissioner of Rwanda to Pakistan, presented the certificates to the successful participants. Brigadier Sajjad Ahmad then presented souvenirs and CIPS publications to the chief guests.

In his address, H.E. Khazar Farhadov congratulated the participants on completing the course and emphasized that the diversity of UNMOC-44 mirrored the multicultural environment that peacekeepers encounter during UN missions. He commended CIPS for its status as a Centre of Excellence and acknowledged the Department

of Peacekeeping Training for conducting over 200 courses in alignment with UN guidelines. He described UNMOC-44 as a significant milestone in enhancing participants’ understanding and preparing them for future peacekeeping missions, while expressing appreciation for Pakistan’s renowned hospitality and the professional value of the experience. The ceremony ended with a souvenir exchange where allied nations presented tokens of appreciation to Brigadier Sajjad Ahmad, SI(M), Retired, HoD DPOT, marking a successful course.



PEACEKEEPING TRAINING

United Nations Military Peacekeeping Intelligence Officers Course (UNMPKIO-1)

20 – 31 October 2025



The United Nations Military Peacekeeping Intelligence Officers Course (UNMPKIO-1) was held from 20 to 31 October 2025. The purpose of this course was to provide a thorough understanding of the peacekeeping environment in which United Nations personnel may operate in remote, fragile security environments. As peace operations continue to evolve and adapt within this complex operational context, UN Military Peacekeeping Intelligence Officers (UNMPKIO) are required to engage in a comprehensive pre-deployment training program in accordance with the Department of Peace Operations (DPO) Operational Readiness, Assurance, and Performance Standards. The training materials focused on intelligence frameworks and built upon the UNSO lessons to better prepare MPKIO for UN peacekeeping missions.

The course observed the participation of eight officers from the Pakistan Army, including two lady officers.

The UN Military Peacekeeping Intelligence Officers Course employed a blended training approach that combined interactive lectures, case studies,



syndicate discussions, and scenario-based practical exercises. Instruction was provided by Subject Matter Experts (SMEs), Peace Operations Training faculty, experienced UN representatives, and intelligence practitioners to ensure both theoretical knowledge and operational relevance. A compressed Core Pre-Deployment Training Module (CPTM) was delivered during the first three days, followed by specialized intelligence-focused training involving intelligence tools and skills, culminating in a comprehensive scenario-based exercise at the end of the course to improve practical skills in a UN peacekeeping setting.



In his closing remarks, Associate Dean CIPS, Dr. Muhammad Makki, expressed his pleasure with the participants of UNMPKIO-1, highlighting that training at CIPS reflects the United Nations' diversity and professionalism. Dr. Makki observed

that, despite its brevity of two weeks, the course successfully simulated a UN office environment. He shared that the DPOT, in its brief yet impactful history, has conducted 223 courses and trained over 4,294 peacekeepers in accordance with UN policies and guidelines. He appreciated the DPOT faculty for successfully running the UNMPKIO course for the first time, which marked an achievement and demonstrated their dedication to UN Peacekeeping. Furthermore, he underscored that CIPS maintains institutional partnerships with leading regional and international peacekeeping training institutions. Concluding, he expressed confidence the course would improve their understanding of the UN system and their future roles as Intelligence Officers. He wished all participants continued success.



PEACEKEEPING TRAINING

UN Pre-Deployment Training Course (UNPDTC-43)

3 – 14 November 2025



The United Nations Pre-Deployment Training Course – 43 (UNPDTC-43) was held at the Centre for International Peace and Stability (CIPS) from 3 to 14 November 2025. This essential training served as a critical preparatory platform for peacekeeping personnel, equipping them with the foundational knowledge required to operate effectively in UN peacekeeping missions. The primary objective of the course was to foster a shared understanding of UN peacekeeping principles, procedures, and policies. Throughout the training, participants engaged with key thematic priorities, including conduct and discipline, sexual exploitation and abuse, the protection of civilians, human rights, gender mainstreaming, conflict-related sexual violence, child protection, and environmental protection.

A total of 13 personnel from the Pakistan Army attended the course.

The training followed a structured methodology aimed at preparing peacekeepers for their multifaceted roles in assisting host nations in their pursuit of peace. Through modules based on the



Core Pre-deployment Training Materials (CPTM), participants studied the UN's systems, legal frameworks, and specialized subject areas. Adjunct faculty presentations from UN partners further enriched the learning experience, while scenario-based exercises strengthened participants' abilities to respond effectively to diverse operational, cultural, and security challenges.



The closing remarks were delivered by Brigadier Sajjad Ahmad, SI(M), Retired, Head of the Department Peace Operations Training (DPOT). He congratulated the participants on completing the course and noted that the training at CIPS closely reflects the diversity and operational realities of actual UN missions. Brigadier Sajjad highlighted Pakistan's longstanding and meaningful contributions to UN peacekeeping, reaffirming its status as one of the leading Troop Contributing

Countries (TCCs). He also underscored that, in its relatively short history, the DPOT has organized 223 courses and trained over 4,294 peacekeepers in accordance with UN policies and guidelines. He emphasized Pakistan's enduring commitment to global peace efforts, consistently deploying soldiers, police officers, diplomats, civil servants, and relief workers to conflict-affected regions under the UN flag. He extended his best wishes to all participants for continued professional success.



PEACEKEEPING TRAINING

UN Engagement Platoon Course (UNEP-05)

3 – 14 November 2025



The United Nations Engagement Platoon Course – 05 (UNEP-05) was conducted at CIPS from 3 to 14 November 2025 under the United Nations Reinforcement Training Package (RTP) for the newly introduced Engagement Platoon concept. The course aimed to strengthen meaningful engagement with gender in conflict-affected communities and promote the integration of individuals across all roles and levels within peacekeeping missions to foster long-term, sustainable peace.

A total of four officers from the Pakistan Army participated in the course and were awarded certificates upon completion.

The training methodology was structured to equip peacekeepers with the essential knowledge and skills required to perform their duties effectively in UN missions. Participants were introduced to

the various functions and expectations associated with Engagement Teams. They also benefited from presentations delivered by Adjunct Faculty and subject-matter experts, which provided valuable insights into operational realities. Additionally, in-mission learning was reinforced through seminars and extensive scenario-based and tabletop exercises, ensuring a comprehensive and experiential training environment.

The closing ceremony featured remarks by Brigadier Sajjad Ahmad, SI(M), Retired, Head of the Department Peace Operations Training (DPOT). He congratulated the participants on completing the course and highlighted that the training at CIPS mirrors the diversity and operational challenges of actual UN missions. Brigadier Sajjad commended the achievements of the Peacekeeping Training Department, which has conducted 223 courses and trained over 4,294 peacekeepers in accordance



with UN guidelines. He also reaffirmed Pakistan's longstanding and meaningful contributions to UN peacekeeping and its position as one of the leading Troop Contributing Countries (TCCs). Brigadier Sajjad expressed confidence that UNEP-05 would

serve as a significant milestone in expanding participants' understanding of UN systems and preparing them for their future roles as members of Engagement Platoons.



PEACEKEEPING TRAINING

UN Comprehensive Protection of Civilians Course (UNCPoCC-15)

8 – 19 December 2025



The United Nations Comprehensive Protection of Civilians Course – 15 (UNCPoCC-15) was conducted from 08 to 19 December 2025 at the Centre for International Peace and Stability (CIPS), NUST Islamabad. This UN-certified course aimed to educate and sensitize participants on the functioning of the United Nations, the roles and responsibilities of peacekeepers, and the operational and conceptual framework of the Protection of Civilians (PoC) in peace operations.

The course was attended by 38 participants representing diverse professional backgrounds, including military personnel, police officers, and civilians. Of these, 12 participants were from the military and police, while 26 were civilians from various institutions, reflecting the multidisciplinary and inclusive nature of the training program.

The course methodology focused on the latest Specialized Training Material (STM) for the Protection of Civilians, including lectures from



the Core Pre-deployment Training Materials (CPTM). Subject Matter Experts (SMEs), including representatives from UN organizations, also delivered lectures.

The closing ceremony of UNCPoCC-15 marked the successful completion of the course. Addressing the participants, Associate Dean



CIPS, Dr. Muhammad Makki, congratulated the trainees and commended their commitment, professionalism, and active engagement throughout the program. He appreciated the diverse representation of participants from various professional and academic backgrounds, alongside uniformed personnel, and emphasized that the protection of civilians is a fundamental obligation of all parties to a conflict and a core priority of the United Nations. Despite global efforts, he noted, civilians continue to bear the heaviest burden of armed conflict, making PoC central to peacekeeping mandates and both a moral and legal obligation under the UN Charter and international law.

Dr. Makki highlighted that effective PoC implementation requires well-trained personnel, adequate resources, and clear rules of engagement, underscoring the importance of training and preparedness. He noted that CIPS has conducted 227 courses and trained over 4,355 peacekeepers in line with UN policies and guidelines. He further highlighted that for more than 76 years, Pakistan has been a leading contributor to UN peacekeeping, providing military, police, diplomatic, and civilian personnel to missions worldwide. In closing, he expressed confidence that participants would apply their learning to protect civilians and strengthen UN peacekeeping efforts.



Engaging Minds: Interactive Training in Action



Experiencing Pakistan's Cultural Heritage







4 Peacekeeping Essays

PEACEKEEPING ESSAYS

Bentiu Paradise: A floating Fortress

How the Pakistani Military Engineers Task Force is Keeping Bentiu Afloat

From SPA0 UNIMISS



Amid the flooded plains of Unity State, South Sudan, Peacekeepers from the Pakistan Army Engineers under UNMISS wage a daily battle against rising waters to safeguard Bentiu — the “floating town” of resilience. Through unbroken vigilance, technical mastery, and humanitarian dedication, they have preserved vital lifelines for over 170,000 internally displaced persons. Their

story is a testament to the evolving mandate of peacekeeping operations — the Protection of Civilians against climate change and the transformation of Bentiu from long-standing floodwaters into new wetland ecosystems.

“Bentiu stands as a symbol of endurance — where water tested walls, but willpower held the line”

“Bentiu stands as a symbol of endurance — where water tested walls, but willpower held the line”

A Town between Conflict and Climate

Nestled deep in Unity State, South Sudan, lies Bentiu — a town whose name has become synonymous with endurance. Since the outbreak of conflict in 2013, Bentiu has been home to tens of thousands of people displaced by violence, many of whom live under the protective umbrella of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS). While peacekeepers once defended the people of Bentiu from the ravages of war, by 2021 they were forced to confront a new and relentless adversary, the forces of nature.

Unprecedented rainfall, intensified by climate change, transformed the once verdant plains into a vast inland sea. Runoff from Lake Victoria, the overflow of the White Nile into the Sudd wetlands, and weeks of continuous downpour combined to submerge entire villages. Within months, Bentiu was effectively cut off, reduced to a marooned island measuring barely 800 by 800 meters, encircled by floodwater and reachable only by one fragile access road and a narrow airstrip.

For the people of Bentiu, survival became a race against the rising waters. And at the forefront stood Pakistan Military Engineers Task Force (Pak METF), stepping into a new role **“the Blue Helmets in the Flood”**.



A local of Bentiu navigating the challenges of daily life on his only mode of transport

First Line of Defense: Engineering for Humanity

Pak METF deployed in 2020 as part of the UNMISS Force, arrived with a mandate that went beyond typical peacekeeping duties – keep life’s vital arteries flowing in a land under siege by

nature. As the first floods arrived in late 2021, Pakistani engineers responded to strengthen Bentiu’s surrounding dykes, thereby securing the continuity of humanitarian efforts. The blue helmets elevated roads to keep supply routes open, reinforced flood barriers to contain rising waters, and kept the airstrip operational despite persistent rainfall. Bentiu endured not by chance, but because the UNMISS Pakistani Engineers faced the fury of nature every day, preserving the fragile infrastructure that kept the town connected, supplied, and alive.



Pak METF excavator reinforcing HESCOs to enhance the protection of the IDP camp

The Night the Waters Came

October 9, 2022, after a week of torrential rain, the unthinkable happened: the western dyke suffered a 9-meter-wide breach. Within minutes, water surged towards the camp, threatening the UN base and the IDP camp housing over 150,000 locals. Bentiu’s only road link and airstrip were at immediate risk. At 0235 hours, engineering teams launched an emergency response, rushing heavy equipment into position. The speed, precision, and discipline of their actions reflected months of pre-flood contingency planning, continuous dyke inspections, and tightly coordinated inter-agency emergency procedures.



Pak METF human chain reinforcing breached section manually

Turning the Tide: United in Action

As the crisis unfolded, UNMISS activated a coordinated, multi-national emergency response under the leadership of Force Commander Lieutenant General Mohan Subramanian. Infantry battalions from Ghana and Mongolia, UNMISS engineering units, and local volunteers rallied alongside Pakistani engineers on the front line. The operation became a powerful test of endurance, cooperation, and resolve.

Under relentless rain, soldiers and civilians worked shoulder to shoulder, forming human chains and fortifying the dykes with HESCO barriers and sandbags. For fourteen exhausting hours, pumps roared and engines thundered without pause. By dusk, the breach was sealed and Bentiu, once again, was pulled back from the brink.



UNMISS FC, Lt Gen Mohan Subramanian being briefed on flood situation of Bentiu

UNMISS later confirmed that if the engineers had not contained the breach, the consequences would have been catastrophic. Floodwater would have forced tens of thousands of displaced families to flee once again, swept away shelters and food stocks, and destroyed vital UN facilities used to deliver humanitarian aid. The contaminated water would also have created ideal conditions for the rapid spread of cholera and other deadly waterborne diseases in a camp already struggling with overcrowding and poor sanitation. By stopping the flood, the mission did far more than protect infrastructure. It prevented a humanitarian collapse, preserved essential relief operations, and maintained a fragile sense of security and stability for the entire Bentiu region, where survival depends on every functioning road, dyke, and airstrip.

Current Situation: A Daily Battle Against the Waves

Three years later, Bentiu stands — but it stands on vigilance. The waters have not retreated; they have only learned to wait. Each morning, the Pakistani Engineers begin their routine inspection and reinforcement drills. Bulldozers move earth, excavators reshape floodwalls, and dump trucks transport tons of soil to shore up weak points. With the recent intensification of the Nile and its tributaries, and above-average rainfall patterns during 2024–25, the challenge has grown. Yet the engineers remain undeterred. Their battle from sunrise to sunset is not fought for medals but for the quiet assurance that Bentiu's people and the UN camp remain safe.



Pak METF-5 excavator reinforcing dyke astride only road of Bentiu – Main Supply Route

Lessons Drawn for Optimizing UNMISS Operations

The contributions of Pakistani Engineers in Bentiu provide valuable strategic and operational insights for peacekeeping missions operating in climate-vulnerable regions. Key takeaways included:

1. Strategic Influence

- **Redefining Mandate:** Protection of Civilians against Climate Change/ Risks must be directly integrated as a core pillar, further to physical, sexual, and gender-based violence.
- **Bentiu – is it a flood or a new ecosystem?** The water surrounding Bentiu, initially the result of severe seasonal flooding, is now transforming into a wetland ecosystem. Hence, the response needs reshaping:

- If regarded as a flood, the response prioritizes dykes and drainage construction/maintenance.
- If recognized as a new ecosystem, strategies might shift towards adapting wetland-based funds, robust infrastructure, and ecosystem management.
- **Reassessing Bentiu IDP Camp:** Bentiu is surviving on artificial protection, as it is not naturally safe. Evolving climate changes accentuate the country's largest IDP settlement vulnerabilities to multiple risks. Despite communal issues associated with its relocation, inclusion of durable, deliberate and long-term flood-water protective infrastructures is essential.
- **Improving Early Warning Systems (EWS):** Bentiu has been experiencing floods since 2021 with increasing frequency each year. The effectiveness of flood EWS in the region is partial, making flood prediction imprecise. This implies a reactive approach rather than proactive measures, which can be reversed by strengthening EWS for timely alerts and active preparedness.

2. Operational Effects

- **Development of Multi-Layered Dyke Systems:** Multi-tiered dyke networks, controlled flood retention areas, and compartmentalized zones proved vital in mitigating large-scale inundations. The concept of "defense-in-depth" for water management is now central to UNMISS's flood mitigation framework.
- **Continuous Reconnaissance and Monitoring:** Persistent monitoring through ground and water patrols during rainy seasons is essential. Preventive maintenance and real-time adjustments greatly decrease the probability of catastrophic failures.
- **Joint Training and Interoperability:** Integrated response exercises amongst various contingents demonstrated that coordinated operations drastically improve response time and resource utilization.

- **Preparedness through Logistics Prepositioning:** Stockpiling essential materials/ equipment such as HESCOs, sandbags, de-watering pumps and earthmoving equipment before the onset of rain ensured continual engineering operations.



Flood Monitoring Team assessing water levels around Bentiu camp

Conclusion

By 2025, Bentiu's flood defenses have been significantly strengthened through the construction of secondary dykes, internal access ramps, improved drainage channels, and reinforced embankments, enabling the town to manage rising floodwater far more effectively than in the past. Even as seasonal rains grow heavier and more unpredictable, the legacy of the Pakistani engineers' work continues to protect both the UN base and the surrounding displaced communities, demonstrating that modern peacekeepers are not only guardians of security but also architects of resilience and survival.

Looking ahead, safeguarding Bentiu's future will require more than emergency responses alone. UNMISS should undertake a comprehensive strategic review of flood risks, infrastructure vulnerabilities, and climate trends, and deepen its collaboration with international climate-resilience partners, development agencies, and hydrological experts. By combining engineering solutions with long-term planning, such as sustainable drainage systems, early-warning mechanisms, and community-based flood management, Bentiu can move from a cycle of crisis response to one of durable stability, ensuring that the town and its people are better prepared for the increasingly harsh realities of a changing climate.



“By containing the floods in Oct 2022, the unit with support of other units in Bentin’s sector thousands of lives IDP camp at Bentin. Despite unprecedented floods, not seen in past six decades, the airstrip was kept functional at Bentin. Pak METF played a stellar role in maintaining the stretch of Main Supply Route entrusted to it. A pride of UNMISSs, this has upheld the exemplary reputation of Pak Army.”

Lieutenant General
Mohan Subramanian
Force Commander

PEACEKEEPING ESSAYS

PAKBATT-XI: Ensuring Security and Stability during the 2025 CAR National Elections

From MINUSCA

Introduction

The 2025 National Elections in the Central African Republic (CAR), scheduled for 28 December 2025, took place in a complex political environment marked by mixed public confidence and heightened tensions. Citizens and political stakeholders approached the elections with cautious optimism, yet challenges such as historical grievances, sporadic violence, and competing political interests continued to shape the electoral process.

In Sector Center, election preparations progressed; a total of 138 candidates were officially registered to compete elections. However, the National Electoral Body (ANE) faced significant operational difficulties, including mobilization issues, which limited public participation; insufficient funding, which hampered logistics and outreach; security threats from residual armed groups and criminal elements; and poor infrastructure, which complicated the distribution of electoral materials and access to remote polling stations.

In this context, the role of MINUSCA and PAKBATT-XI was crucial. Beyond traditional peacekeeping, they ensured freedom of movement for voters and election staff, safeguarded sensitive electoral materials, and protected civilians from potential threats or disruptions. Their presence not only strengthened security but also reinforced public confidence, showing that electoral processes could proceed safely even in unstable areas. By bridging the gap between limited state capacities and the practical demands of election management, PAKBATT-XI provided a stabilizing presence essential for the smooth, credible, and secure conduct of the 2025 CAR elections.

Election Stages and Timeline

The electoral process is organized into three main stages:

1. Pre-Election (28 November – 25 December 2025)

- 28 Nov – 5 Dec: Assessment of polling stations
- 5 – 11 Dec: Deployment of ANE staff to prefecture capitals
- 13 – 26 Dec: Political campaigns across the sector

2. Election Period (26 December 2025 – 4 January 2026)

- 25 – 27 Dec: Distribution of sensitive materials
- 28 Dec: Election Day

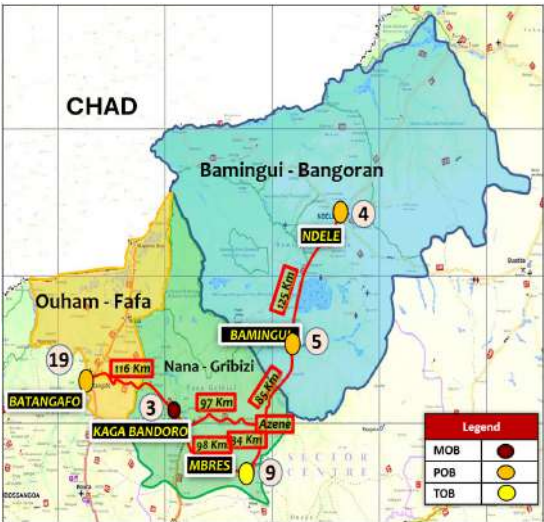
3. Post-Election (5 January – 4 April 2026)

- 5 Jan: Announcement of temporary/initial results
- 20 Jan – 18 Mar: Announcement of final results

Security Threats in Sector Center

The security situation in Sector Center remains fragile. Threats included criminal activity, residual armed group elements, intercommunal tensions related to transhumance, and isolated instances of indiscipline by state forces. NDELE and BATANGAFO were key hotspots with risks of attacks along major routes, voter intimidation, and disruption of electoral materials. In this context, PAKBATT-XI diligently carried out its tasks and is there to provide assistance. A summary of incidents in PAKBATT-XI's area of responsibility (AOR) is provided ahead,

Incidents 2025 (28 March - 15 December 2025)						
Incident Type	KB	NDELE	MBRES	BAMINGUI	BFO	Total
Presence of AEs	-	1	-	2	2	5
Robbery	-	1	2	2	3	8
Killing	-	1	3	-	3	7
Injury	1	-	-	-	3	4
HRV	-	-	-	-	1	1
Kidnapping	-	-	1	-	2	3
Others	2	1	3	1	5	12
Total	3	4	9	5	19	40
• Presence of AEs remains the major issue in AOR • Threat lies on the flank with Batangafo & NDELE being the major hotspots in AOR • Current DDR process - significant decrease in number of incidents						



PAKBATT-XI Operational Tasks

PAKBATT-XI, deployed at maximum capacity across five locations, remained committed to maintaining the highest military standards and in strict compliance to SCHQ/FHQ directives. As per the SCHQ deployment plan for Elections, PAKBATT was to establish 3 additional TOBs and conduct patrols/ escorts for UN officials under challenging

operational and geographical constraints. The movement was highly challenging because the roads were in poor condition, with passages occasionally inaccessible and covered in mud and water. Furthermore, the threat of attacks persisted. Under these conditions, PAKBATT successfully accomplished its objectives.

Road Conditions in PAKBATT AOR





NDELE to MIAMANI



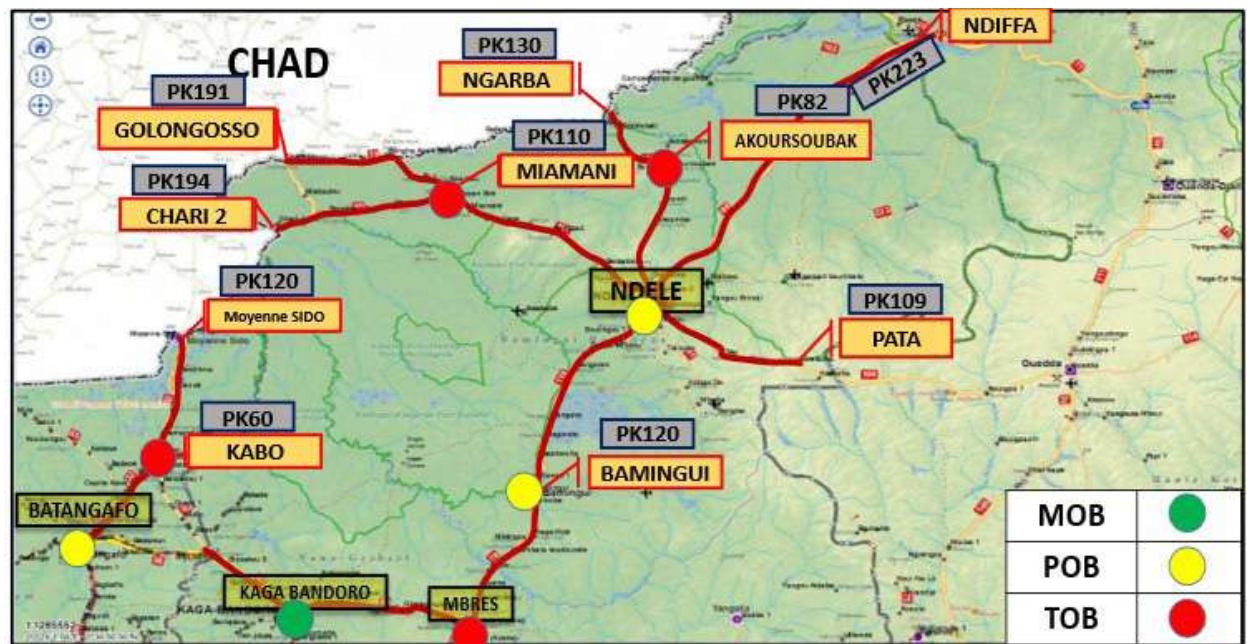
NDELE to MIAMANI



BATANGAFO to MOYENNE SIDO



BATANGAFO to MOYENNE SIDO



Operational Challenges and Mitigation Measures

The deployment of PAKBATT-XI during the 2025 CAR elections involves operating in a complex and high-risk environment. Several key challenges have been identified, each requiring careful planning and proactive measures to ensure mission success.

1. Poor Road Infrastructure

The road network throughout the Area of Responsibility (AOR) is largely undeveloped, with many routes unpaved, narrow, and susceptible to flooding or washouts during the rainy season. This significantly impedes movement, particularly for light vehicles and non-armored transport, affecting the timely deployment of personnel, equipment, and sensitive electoral materials. To mitigate this, rigorous driver training programs have been implemented to enhance navigation and vehicle handling in difficult terrain. In addition, regular maintenance of vehicles and equipment is conducted to reduce the risk of mechanical failure, while careful logistical planning ensures that key supplies, reinforcements, and emergency response units can reach their destinations without delay.

2. Vast and Rugged Terrain

PAKBATT-XI's operational area spans a large, rugged, and densely vegetated landscape, characterized by limited infrastructure, poor road networks, and sparse telecommunications coverage. These conditions pose significant challenges for command and control, rapid troop movement, and situational awareness. The deployment of three additional TOBs further increases the complexity of maintaining effective communication across the sector. To address this, detailed prior planning was carried out, including the distribution of signal equipment such as COE (SAT sets) to ensure reliable communication between all TOBs and command centers. Additionally, mapping and reconnaissance of terrain obstacles was conducted to facilitate safer and more efficient patrol routes.

3. Force Protection Concerns

Extended deployments in a hostile and unpredictable environment increase the risk to personnel, particularly in light of recent security incidents in

Sudan and the eastern CAR region. Troops may face threats from armed groups, criminal activity, and opportunistic attacks, as well as natural hazards such as flooding and wildlife encounters. To mitigate these risks, all personnel are provided with comprehensive personal protective equipment (PPE), including body armor, helmets, and first-aid kits. In addition, field defense stores, fortified positions, and contingency plans for rapid evacuation or reinforcement are maintained to enhance troop safety. Daily risk assessments, strict adherence to standard operating procedures, and continuous coordination with allied contingents ensure that protective measures remain effective throughout the deployment.

By anticipating these challenges and implementing robust mitigation strategies, PAKBATT-XI ensured that its personnel could operate safely and effectively, maintaining security, safeguarding civilians, and supporting the smooth conduct of the 2025 CAR elections.

Conclusion

Under the operational command of SCHQ, PAKBATT-XI was fully prepared to carry out its assigned tasks and ensured a secure and stable environment throughout the 2025 CAR National Elections. Through a persistent presence at key locations, proactive patrolling, and close coordination with allied contingents, the battalion mitigated threats to civilians, election staff, and sensitive electoral materials. Their efforts ensured that voters could safely reach polling stations, election officials could perform their duties without disruption, and critical electoral materials were protected, even in challenging terrain and under constant security risks. By combining disciplined planning, rapid response, and effective use of resources, PAKBATT-XI not only fulfilled its mandate under MINUSCA but also reinforced public confidence in the electoral process. Ultimately, their actions helped preserve stability in Sector Center, prevented potential humanitarian crises, and supported credible, peaceful elections, demonstrating how peacekeeping forces acted as both protectors and enablers of democratic governance in high-risk environments.

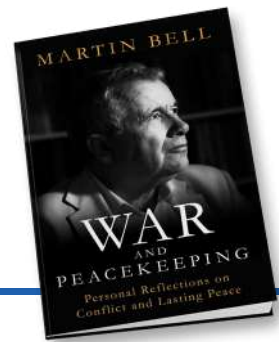


Awarded Best Photograph at the 28th IAPTC Annual Conference Photo Competition, organized by the International Association of Peacekeeping Training Centres

Book Review: War & Peace Keeping

by Martin Bell

Reviewed by: Brig Umair Khalid Amin, Retd
Professor of Practice, DPOT



This book is written by Martin Bell, the author of several books on conflict, empires, and politics. He is a former BBC reporter and a member of the UK Parliament. This book reflects his personal insights on Conflict and Lasting Peace. The introduction is particularly engaging and sets the tone for the rest of the book. It begins with the author's experiences in Vietnam and then moves through conflicts in Nigeria and Serbia, where he was wounded, as well as Angola and Nicaragua, before focusing mainly on Bosnia and Herzegovina. Many of these countries have witnessed United Nations peacekeeping operations at different points in time.

The author had a distinctive writing style that resembled poetry in prose. Drawing on his extensive political experience, the author reflects on the impact of politics on governance and highlights how nationalistic leaders may inspire hope among their people, yet frequently fail to fulfil their promises, ultimately leading their nations into the quagmire of conflict and destruction.

It explains the genesis of the United Nations in relation to the League of Nations. A notable example discussed is how Germany was rebuilt rather than punished after the war, eventually becoming a key pillar of NATO and a driving force behind European industry, progress, and development. The author also reflects on the rising tides of neo-hatred and ethno-nationalism on both sides of the Atlantic, which have made peacekeeping increasingly difficult and the prospects of war more likely.

The book provides a chronology of the Middle East and the United Nations' role in "The Birth of Peacekeeping," highlighting the region's connection to UN peacekeeping operations. Key events are tabulated as follows:

1956 – Suez Canal crisis: Establishment of UNEF, the Emergency Force, marking the first true UN peacekeeping mission.

Post-1967 & 1973 Arab-Israeli conflicts: Further UN involvement in the region.

Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF)

UNEF II – Deployed after the 1973 Arab-Israeli war.

1978 – UNIFIL – The UN Interim Force in Lebanon, created to restore peace and assist the Lebanese government.

The book also explains how the iconic "blue helmets" were introduced. During UNEF, after nine Canadian peacekeepers were shot by Israeli forces, the need for protective helmets became evident. Until then, peacekeepers wore simple berets. Procuring official blue helmets would have taken fourteen weeks, so the multinational force improvised by painting their own helmets with a splash of blue, creating the symbol now universally associated with UN peacekeepers. Dag Hammarskjöld, the second Secretary-General of the UN, is recognized as the originator of the blue helmets and the father of UN peacekeeping.

The book further emphasizes peace enforcement, portraying him as the guiding force behind its development. In 1964, during the crisis in Nicosia, Cyprus, the UNFICYP mission highlighted the need to actively ensure peace, giving rise to the concept of peace enforcement. The narrative continues with an analysis of Cyprus, exploring how British internal politics influenced the Troop Contributing Country (TCC) dynamics, since the majority of UNFICYP forces were British.

The book examines the UN Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina (UNMIBH), which was approved in 1995 and lasted until 2002, when it was succeeded by the EU Police Mission. A defining feature of the UN forces in Bosnia was their largely passive role. They acted as bystanders rather than protectors, leaving civilians vulnerable during the ethnic cleansing campaigns. In the aftermath, the Kofi Annan-led doctrine of R2P (Responsibility to Protect) emerged. The author also delves into the historical, political, and economic factors behind genocides in Rwanda and Somalia, as well as the conflicts in Kuwait and Iraq, highlighting how the push-and-pull dynamics of superpowers often undermined UN peacekeeping efforts.

At the time, the author was serving with his battalion, the Suffolk Regiment, in Nicosia, described as the world's most sandbagged city. He then shifts to the concept of maximum force, using Bosnia as a key example, the focus of much of the book. The

narrative provides a detailed historical overview of Yugoslavia, tracing its evolution from 1919 through the post-Habsburg era and examining its connections to the Ottoman legacy.

The book provides a detailed account of Kofi Annan's tenure as UN Secretary-General, highlighting both the highs and lows of his leadership. It examines how UN bureaucratic resistance often hampered peace efforts, why lasting peace in Angola could not be achieved quickly, and when UN intervention in Kosovo was conceived. A separate chapter is devoted to landmines in the context of UN peacekeeping operations, noting that Vietnamese, Kosovans, and Afghans have been the most affected. The discussion explores the choice of weapons, the calculated mindset behind their use, and their devastating social impact.

Drawing on his experience as a BBC correspondent, the author provides an insightful analysis of the media's dual role—both positive and negative—in UN conflict zones. He traces the history of war reporting back to the Crimean War of 1858, exploring the emergence of belligerent journalism and its connection to modern conflicts. The book also examines the roles of major news organizations such as BBC, CNN, and RT (Russian Television). Separate chapters offer the author's reflections on Somalia, South Sudan, and Congo. At times, discussions of the internal political ups and downs in the UK and the US appear, which, while informative, feel somewhat tangential to the book's main focus.

Finally, the book concludes with twelve lessons on soldiering, both broad and specific. The author explores how obedience shapes the effectiveness of UN peacekeeping, how military traditions support cohesion in a multinational environment, and how respect for rank and mandate contributes to mission success. He also emphasizes the importance of flexibility in shaping the image of the blue helmets. The book closes with a discussion on rules of engagement versus the exercise of judgment and common sense in peacekeeping, underscoring that there is often more to learn from failures than from successes.



5 Pakistani Blue Helmets in the Field

PAKISTANI BLUE HELMETS IN THE FIELD

Guardians of Peace: Two Decades of Pakistani Service in Congo

Comd SS Speech Closure Ceremony

Today, we gather to mark a significant milestone - handover of sacred responsibility of Protection of Civilians from MONUSCO to Democratic Republic of Congo's Local Law Enforcement Agencies. The transition marks a crucial step in countries path towards self-sufficiency and stability.

As the Commander of the Pakistani Contingent, I stand before you with pride and respect, representing a group that has dedicated itself to peace and stability in the Democratic Republic of Congo for twenty years. We begin with honoring the memory of the 31 valiant Pakistani peacekeepers who made the ultimate sacrifice, leaving a legacy of heroism and selflessness. Each life lost is a profound grief, a reminder of the cost of peace.

In every community we have served, our presence has been a beacon of hope and safety. Joy and warmth with which we are received by local children are not merely gestures of welcome but are profound acknowledgments of our role here. Kids who stand at the gates, cheering and waving whenever they see us, provide the truest form of appreciation and certification that we, as a contingent, take back home. It is a vivid, living testament to the positive impact we have made on their lives.

In our two decades here, Pakistani contingent deployed five battalions across different territories, each operating base blossoming into an island of security. Over the years, we've witnessed a remarkable phenomenon: communities, once dispersed over vast areas, have gradually accumulated around these bases, seeking security and stability they offer. This has directly benefited approximately 3 million people - about 50% of local population - underscoring tangible impact of our presence for over twenty years.



Our commitment has been relentless and multifaceted, characterized by continuous kinetic and non-kinetic operations spanned over two decades. We have conducted above 4000 major and minor kinetic operations that have substantially reduced the influence of armed groups. Additionally, through 2,620 Key Leader Engagements (KLEs), 1,439 Civil-Military Cooperation activities (CIMIC), establishment of 21 assistance programs for orphanages, support for 43 schools, and the organization of 102 medical camps, we have woven a fabric of support and cooperation that has enriched both our mission and lives of countless Congolese.

Thanks to 14 years of dedicated peacekeeping efforts, we've seen a remarkable reduction in Human Rights Violations (HRVs) and Protection of Civilians (PoC) concerns. In South Kivu, the monthly average of HRVs has plummeted by 700% since 2010. Back then, we saw 70-80 killings, 200-300 ransom cases, and 20-30 rapes per month. Fast forward to April 2024, and we've seen a significant



drop to just 12 killings and ransom cases. This progress is a testament to the effectiveness of our approach and professionalism of our peacekeepers.

Today marks a significant milestone in our journey as we prepare to hand over the responsibility of protecting civilians to the local law enforcement agencies. We have worked closely with these dedicated men and women, training and equipping them to take on this paramount task. As we transition this responsibility, we do so with confidence in their abilities and with hope in our hearts. We pray that they serve their communities with dedication and integrity that we have strived to uphold. We wish them every success as they continue to safeguard the well-being of their people and ensure the stability of this region.

To the international community and our partners in peacekeeping, your support, collaboration, and

acknowledgment have been invaluable. Serving alongside you in this noble endeavor has been a profound honour.

To the people of Congo, your trust, warmth, and courage have inspired us. You have shown us the true meaning of resilience and community. As we reflect on our past achievements and the lessons we have learned, we are reminded of why we serve and the impact we can make.

In closing, as we reflect on the past and look towards the future, let us carry forward the spirit of service, dedication to peace, and love of community that have defined our mission here. These are the values that unite us, that make us stronger, and that remind us why we serve.

Thank you all, and may peace prevail in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

PAKISTANI BLUE HELMETS IN THE FIELD

A Journey for Peace - MINUSCA



The 23 Punjab (Light Anti-Tank) Regiment was deployed with MINUSCA on 28 March 2025. During its tenure, it consistently exhibited exceptional professionalism, courage, and operational skill. The battalion's remarkable performance earned widespread recognition and appreciation at various international forums.



During its deployment, the unit conducted 3,814 patrols, including 512 escort missions, and carried out 93 CIMIC (Civil-Military Coordination) and community outreach activities. In terms of soft-power initiatives, it organized five Free Medical Camps and six vocational training courses for the local population. Several of these humanitarian

and outreach efforts were prominently featured on MINUSCA's social media platforms, reflecting the positive impact of the battalion—and Pakistan as a whole—on the local community.

The Battalion achieved one of the best overall results among all infantry units in CAR during the

Operational Readiness Assurance Inspections (ORA) and secured a 100% compliance rating in all Contingent Own Equipment inspections.

Operationally, the unit successfully executed multiple demanding missions, notably two successive

NDELE-NDIFFA escort operations conducted from 11-21 Apr and 29 Apr - 05 May 2025. These missions ensured the safe and timely movement of UN logistics convoys despite hostile threats, extremely challenging terrain, adverse weather conditions, and significant logistical constraints.



The Battalion played a pivotal role in providing comprehensive security and logistical support during the 2025 General Elections in the Central African Republic, the first such peaceful elections after 37 years. While deployed across eight widely dispersed and hostile locations, the unit's contribution was formally acknowledged and appreciated by the Force Commander and civil leadership.



In support of lasting peace and stability, the battalion provided robust security to Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration (DDR) teams, facilitating the successful execution of DDR operations and the reintegration of Armed Elements (AEs) into society. Two DDR missions were conducted in the Ouham-Fafa region. The first mission, at Kette Sido (31 July–26 August 2025), resulted in the surrender of 137 ex-UPC AEs. The second mission (26 November–5 December 2025) led to the successful registration of 29 UPC AEs into the DDR programme.



Moreover, Various high-level dignitaries, including the Deputy Mission Support (DMS), Head of Office (HoO), and Sector Commander (SC), visited the unit. The contributions of the 23 Punjab (Light Anti-Tank) Regiment were highly commended for exemplary discipline, operational efficiency, and professionalism. The battalion's superior standards in operational readiness, conduct, and organizational effectiveness were particularly appreciated, bringing credit to both the unit and the Pakistan Army.



In accordance with its mission mandate, and while ensuring the protection and security of various UN agencies, the battalion conducted multiple escort operations, cumulatively covering 567,109 kilometers across the MINUSCA Area of Responsibility. This remarkable effort underscored sustained mobility, endurance, and a high state of operational readiness. Overall, the 23 Punjab (Light Anti-Tank) Regiment made a significant contribution to mission success, further enhancing the reputation of both the unit and the Pakistan Army through its professionalism, dedication, and valour.



In February 2026, the Pakistan Battalion (PAKBATT) conducted a Medal Parade at MOB KB to formally confer United Nations medals upon its personnel in recognition of their dedicated service and unwavering commitment to the mission mandate. The event was executed with exemplary military precision and featured a well-coordinated medal parade drill, a combat demonstration, a cultural performance showcasing Pakistan's heritage, and a solo band performance. The ceremony reflected the highest standards of discipline, professionalism, and esprit de corps, while also strengthening camaraderie among the contingents serving under MINUSCA.



Throughout its deployment with MINUSCA, the 23 Punjab (Light Anti-Tank) Regiment consistently demonstrated exceptional professionalism, courage, and operational excellence. From conducting numerous patrols and escort missions to facilitating DDR operations, humanitarian outreach, and community engagement, the battalion significantly contributed to peace, stability, and the welfare of the local population. Its high standards of discipline, operational readiness, and organizational effectiveness earned recognition from senior UN officials and international forums, while the Medal Parade at MOB KB highlighted the dedication, commitment, and esprit de corps of its personnel. Collectively, the battalion's outstanding performance not only advanced the mission's objectives but also enhanced the prestige and reputation of the Pakistan Army on the global stage.



PAKISTANI BLUE HELMETS IN THE FIELD

Recognition of Excellence: Major Ayesha Shaukat Khan Honoured by UNFICYP



Major Ayesha Shaukat Khan from Pakistan, serving as Military Public Information Officer (MPIO) with the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) from February 2025 to March 2026, was honoured with a medal for excellent performance by the UNFICYP Force Commander, Major General Erdenebat Batsuuri. The honour stands as a testament to her professionalism, commitment, and valuable contribution to the mission, while also highlighting Pakistan's proud tradition of service in United Nations peacekeeping operations.





6 International Visits, Engagement & Outreach

INTERNATIONAL VISITS, ENGAGEMENT & OUTREACH | CIPS VISITS

Allied Officers at the Command and Staff College Quetta (CSC) Visit to CIPS NUST

10 February 2025



Rector National University of Sciences and Technology (NUST), Dr Muhammad Zahid Latif, engaged in a stimulating and reflective interaction with a delegation of allied officers from friendly countries currently undergoing training at Command and Staff College Quetta. The session focused on the enduring challenge of achieving sustainable peace in South Asia, a region marked by both historical rivalries and evolving security dynamics.

Held at the NUST Centre for International Peace & Stability (CIPS) on 10 February 2025, the discussion combined a keynote talk with an interactive question-and-answer segment. Throughout the session, the Rector posed thought-provoking questions that encouraged participants to critically assess the region's peace prospects alongside the persistent risk of conflict.

In his address, Dr. Zahid Latif underscored the intricate nature of contemporary conflicts, highlighting the overlapping challenges of inter-state tensions and intra-state instability. Reflecting on historical patterns, he noted that wars have often been justified as a means to achieve peace. However, he questioned whether armed conflict can truly deliver lasting stability, urging the audience to consider alternative pathways that prioritize dialogue, cooperation, and conflict prevention.

Concluding his remarks, the Rector emphasized the role of institutions such as NUST-CIPS in advancing peaceful solutions. He highlighted the Centre's commitment to encouraging informed dialogue, building awareness, and promoting non-violent approaches to conflict resolution as essential components of a more peaceful global order.

Strengthening Pakistan–China Academic Ties: CIPS Engagement with Chinese Delegation

10 April 2025



The NUST Centre for International Peace & Stability (CIPS) played a central role in a high-level academic engagement at National University of Sciences and Technology, as a Chinese delegation visited the university to explore avenues for collaboration in peace studies, policy research, and academic exchange. The visit formed part of broader efforts to strengthen institutional linkages between Pakistan and China, with an emphasis

on dialogue, knowledge-sharing, and people-to-people engagement. The session was moderated by Amir Yaqub, Director NIPS, who highlighted the cultural dimensions of cooperation underpinning long-standing bilateral ties.

Welcoming the delegation, Dr. Muhammad Arif Malik, Pro-Rector Planning & Resources, emphasized the importance of academic diplomacy in advancing mutual understanding between the two





countries. The delegation was led by Lei Xin, Deputy Director General, Information Center, International Department of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, who reaffirmed China's commitment to expanding academic, cultural, and people-to-people relations with Pakistan. Ashfaq Hasan Khan, Director General NIPS, also reflected on the enduring strategic partnership between the two nations and acknowledged the support of Yang Nuo, Minister Counsellor at the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Islamabad, in facilitating the visit.

A key highlight of the engagement was an interactive session with faculty and students from CIPS and the NUST School of Social Sciences & Humanities (S3H), focusing on cooperation in peace and security research, joint initiatives, and potential student and scholar exchange programmes. The delegation was introduced to CIPS's mandate, research focus, and training activities, alongside NUST's wider knowledge ecosystem and international collaborations.



Advancing Global Peacekeeping Partnerships: Rwandan Delegation's Visit to CIPS

26 - 28 August 2025



A delegation from Rwanda, comprising Col Jill Rutaremara (Retd), Col Berna Kayirangwa, and Lt Col Shyaka Kajugiro (Defence Attaché), visited the Centre for International Peace and Stability (CIPS) from 26 to 28 August 2025. During the visit, the delegation was introduced to Pakistan's substantial contributions to international peacekeeping efforts and CIPS's role as a regional centre of excellence in peacekeeping training. Particular emphasis was placed on the Centre's distinctive hybrid model, which integrates Peace and Conflict Studies with Peacekeeping Training, as well as its pioneering application of Virtual Reality-based simulation in training environments.

The delegation also held a detailed interaction with Principal NIPCONS Maj Gen Zahid Hussain HI(M), Retd, where discussions focused on strengthening bilateral cooperation in peacekeeping education

and training. Highlighting Pakistan's long-standing engagement with United Nations Peacekeeping as one of the world's leading troop-contributing countries, Gen Zahid underscored the value of instructor and student exchange programmes in enhancing operational readiness and shared learning. The Rwandan delegation commended Pakistan's peacekeeping contributions and appreciated CIPS's role in advancing global peace, with a special invitation extended for their participation in the upcoming United Nations Military Observers Course 44 (UNMOC-44) scheduled in October 2025.



CIPS at the Forefront of Pakistan–Italy Cooperation in Peace and Security Education

9 October | 2025



The NUST Centre for International Peace & Stability (CIPS) hosted a high-level delegation from Italy's Center for Higher Defence Studies (CASD) on 9 October 2025 to advance international cooperation in peace and security education. Led by Lt Gen Stefano Mannino, President CASD/SSUOS, the delegation visited with the objective of exploring academic and research collaboration aligned with contemporary peacekeeping and strategic studies. The delegation was received at NUST by Maj Gen Arif Malik (Retd), Pro-Rector Planning & Resources, who outlined the university's academic framework while highlighting CIPS's growing role as a centre of excellence in peacekeeping training and policy-oriented research.

Discussions during the engagement focused specifically on potential collaboration with CIPS, identifying priority areas such as United Nations peacekeeping, International Humanitarian Law (IHL) training, joint research initiatives, faculty exchange programmes, and the formulation of a structured roadmap for sustained academic cooperation between Pakistan and Italy. The interaction reflected a shared commitment to strengthening capacity-building efforts and promoting peace-focused academic collaboration through long-term institutional partnerships.



Strengthening Strategic Dialogue on Peacekeeping: U.S. Delegation Visit to CIPS

29 August 2025



A United States delegation comprising Col Joshua Stephenson (Army Attaché), Maj Steinmetz, and Norva Hall visited the Centre for International Peace and Stability (CIPS) on 29 August 2025. During the visit, the delegation was briefed on Pakistan's substantial contributions to global peacekeeping, CIPS's role as a regional centre of excellence in peacekeeping training, and its distinctive hybrid model integrating Peace and Conflict Studies with Peace operations Training. The delegation also observed CIPS's innovative application of Virtual Reality-based simulation, underscoring the Centre's commitment to modern, technology-enabled peacekeeping training.

In discussions with Maj Gen Zahid Hussain HI(M), Retd, Principal NIPCONS, the evolving regional security landscape, particularly developments in Afghanistan, was highlighted. The Principal emphasized the importance of elevating Pakistan-U.S. relations from a tactical to a strategic level of cooperation, especially in the peacekeeping domain. Continued participation of U.S. officers in CIPS-conducted courses was acknowledged as a positive step toward deeper collaboration, and

an invitation was extended to the U.S. Military Attaché and Ambassador to attend future CIPS-hosted Round Table Conferences and seminars. The U.S. delegation expressed appreciation for the engagement and commended Pakistan's peacekeeping efforts, with particular recognition of CIPS's contributions to advancing global peace.



Strengthening Institutional Linkages in UN Peace Operations: ASEAN Engagement with CIPS

17 December 2025



The Department of Peace Operations Training, CIPS (DPOT-CIPS) at the National University of Sciences and Technology hosted a high-level ASEAN diplomatic delegation on 17 December 2025, marking an important engagement in the domain of international peace and security. The visit underscored Pakistan's long-standing commitment to United Nations Peacekeeping. It highlighted DPOT-CIPS's role as a national hub for peacekeeping training, research, and capacity-building in line with UN standards. The engagement also reflected Pakistan's intent to deepen cooperative ties with ASEAN Member States through institutional and knowledge-based collaboration.

The visiting delegation was led by **Rongvudhi Virabutr**, Ambassador of Thailand and Chair of

the ASEAN Committee in Islamabad, and included **Pengiran Haji Kamal Bashah**, High Commissioner of Brunei Darussalam; **Wunna Han**, Ambassador of Myanmar; **Mohammad Azhar Mazlan**, Ambassador of Malaysia; **Pham Hong Quang**, Second Secretary, Embassy of Vietnam; and **Axelsyah R. Mirza**, Third Secretary, Embassy of Indonesia. The visiting diplomats appreciated Pakistan's principled and sustained contributions to UN Peace Operations and acknowledged DPOT-CIPS as a valuable partner for training and knowledge generation. The visit marked a constructive step toward strengthening Pakistan-ASEAN cooperation, with promising prospects for future collaboration in peacekeeping training, research, and capacity development.



Moments from the ASEAN-CIPS Dialogue



Awareness Session on Substance Misuse Held at CIPS to Promote Campus Well-Being



An awareness session on substance misuse was held at the Centre for International Peace and Stability (CIPS) at the National University of Sciences and Technology, with Director General of the Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF), Abdul Moeed, as the Chief Guest. He was warmly received by Principal NIPCONS Maj Gen Zahid Mahmood, HI(M), (Retd), who welcomed the initiative as a vital step toward promoting student well-being, resilience, and campus safety.

The session aimed to sensitize students, faculty, and staff to the risks associated with substance misuse,

its long-term social and health consequences, and the collective responsibility of academic institutions in prevention and awareness efforts. Emphasis was placed on the effective implementation of the Higher Education Commission's (HEC) policy framework to ensure a healthy, safe, and positive learning environment. The engagement reinforced CIPS's commitment to holistic education by addressing non-traditional security challenges that directly affect youth and society, while encouraging informed dialogue and proactive community involvement.





Why Study at Centre for International Peace & Stability

1 INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY

Join a diverse and inclusive community of students and professionals from around the world, fostering cross-cultural understanding and collaboration.

2 RIGOROUS ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

Pursue advanced degrees in peace and conflict studies and strategic studies, guided by experienced faculty members and researchers.

3 CUTTING-EDGE RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS

Engage in meaningful research projects and analysis within our dedicated R&A cell, contributing to global peace and stability initiatives.

4 HOLISTIC APPROACH

Benefit from a hybrid model that integrates academic learning with hands-on practical application, providing a well-rounded education.



INTERNATIONAL VISITS BY CIPS FACULTY

CIPS Visit to the High Commission of the Republic of Rwanda, Islamabad

19 December 2025



The Centre for International Peace and Stability (CIPS) facilitated an academic visit by Dr. Humaira and CIPS students to the High Commission of the Republic of Rwanda in Islamabad on 19 December 2025. The visit was conducted as part of the Peacekeeping and Peacebuilding course and aimed to deepen students' understanding of genocide, with particular focus on how the Rwandan and Bosnian genocides have influenced contemporary peacekeeping and peacebuilding missions.



The delegation was warmly received by Her Excellency Harerimana Fatou, High Commissioner of the Republic of Rwanda, accompanied by the Defence Attaché, Lt Col Shyaka Ismail. Lt Col Ismail delivered a comprehensive and insightful presentation regarding Rwanda's experience of genocide, post-conflict recovery, reconciliation, and nation-building, providing perspectives that significantly complemented academic learning.

The visit proved to be a valuable academic experience, providing students with firsthand diplomatic, historical, and policy-relevant insights into peacekeeping and post-conflict reconstruction.

5th CPEC Consortium of Universities Conference

16 June 2025



Dr. Gulshan, Assistant Professor at CIPS, along with MS students Ms. Madeeha Malik, Ms. Ayesha Noor, Mr. Raja Zark-Ullah Khan, Ms. Omama Atif, and Ms. Zoha Tariq, represented the Centre for International Peace and Stability (CIPS) at the China-Pakistan Youth Dialogue, held as part of the 5th CPEC Consortium of Universities Conference on 16 June 2025 at Shenzhen University, China.

The CIPS delegation actively engaged in discussions on enhancing youth engagement through academic exchanges, youth hubs, academic tourism, screen diplomacy, and the creative arts, highlighting the critical role of people-to-people connections in strengthening bilateral cooperation. The participation of Dr. Osman Hasan, Pro-Rector (Academics) of NUST, further underscored the university's commitment to advancing meaningful academic partnerships and youth leadership with the CPEC framework, reinforcing CIPS's position as a key contributor to international academic dialogue and collaboration.



Dr. Rubina Awarded Prestigious Robin Copeland Memorial Fellowship 2025



In 2025, Dr. Rubina was selected among five women worldwide for the highly prestigious Robin Copeland Memorial Fellowship (RCMF), supported by CRDF Global. Centered on the theme “Women in Nuclear Security,” the fellowship provided a transformative international platform to represent Pakistan and the Centre for International Peace and Stability (CIPS), NUST, while contributing to global conversations on nuclear security, leadership, and gender inclusion.

The fellowship began in Kuala Lumpur, where Dr. Rubina participated in the World Institute of Nuclear Security (WINS) Southeast Asia Regional Training Workshop held from June 11–13, 2025. The workshop brought together regional experts and



practitioners to explore collaborative strategies for strengthening nuclear security frameworks across the Indo-Pacific. Through interactive sessions and policy-focused discussions, the forum facilitated meaningful exchanges of best practices and fostered professional networks aimed at enhancing regional cooperation and capacity building.

As part of her fellowship research, Dr. Rubina also collaborated with Nuklear Malaysia, gaining firsthand exposure to the country’s advancements in nuclear safety, security, and peaceful applications. Observing innovative technologies, most notably Amora, a radiation-mapping robot, provided critical insights into how automation and emerging technologies reinforce nuclear safety mechanisms. These engagements significantly informed and enriched her ongoing capstone research project under the RCMF, strengthening the academic and practical dimensions of her work.



Global Recognition for Nuclear Security Research: Dr. Rubina at the WiN Conference, London



Dr. Rubina participated in the Women in Nuclear (WiN) Global Conference held in London, an esteemed international forum that brought together women professionals, policymakers, and experts from 54 countries working across nuclear science, security, and policy domains. As part of the conference, she presented her capstone research, contributing to high-level discussions on nuclear security and highlighting Pakistan's growing academic engagement in global security dialogues.

The conference also provided exposure to emerging innovations, including a live demonstration of Spot, the robotic dog, illustrating the role of artificial intelligence and robotics in enhancing nuclear safety and security practices. Beyond technical training, the event provided mentorship, collaboration, and leadership opportunities for women in the nuclear field. Her journey not only enhanced her expertise but also reinforced the importance of integrating technology, cooperation, and inclusivity into the



broader framework of peace and security studies. CIPS-NUST continues to take pride in Dr. Rubina's achievements and her role in strengthening Pakistan's academic and professional engagement in global nuclear security dialogues.

Advancing Maritime Cooperation: Dr. Gulshan at the International Indian Ocean Symposium



**The Second International Symposium on "the Indian Ocean:
Toward A Maritime Community with a Shared Future"** December 10-11, 2025



Dr. Gulshan, from the Centre for International Peace and Stability (CIPS), NUST, participated as a panelist at the 2nd International Symposium titled "The Indian Ocean: Towards a Maritime Community with a Shared Future," hosted by Fudan University from December 10-12, 2025. The symposium brought together scholars, policymakers, and practitioners to examine emerging maritime dynamics and cooperative frameworks in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR).

The discussions focused on key themes including the blue economy, marine governance, and sustainable development, combining academic perspectives with practical policy insights. Through in-depth panels and interactive sessions, the symposium highlighted opportunities for regional cooperation



as well as the challenges facing maritime security, environmental sustainability, and economic development across the Indian Ocean.



7 Guest Lectures & Conferences

GUEST LECTURES AND CONFERENCES

UN Peace in Practice and the African Experience: Insights from Maj Gen Zia Ur Rehman HI(M), Retd

16 September 2025



On 16 September 2025, the Peace Operations Department (CIPS) organized a guest lecture titled “UN Peace in Practice and the African Experience,” delivered by Maj Gen Zia Ur Rehman HI(M), Retd, former Force Commander of MINURSO. The session was attended by UNSOC 49 participants, faculty, and students from DPOT and DIS. It opened with remarks by Principal NIPCONS, Maj Gen Zahid Mahmood HI(M), Retd, who welcomed the speaker and highlighted the importance of the CIPS Guest Lecture Series.

In his lecture, Maj Gen Zia Ur Rehman outlined the evolution of UN peacekeeping and the challenges of

modern military diplomacy, including multipolarity, changing definitions of terrorism, non-state actors, and drone and cyber warfare. Drawing on his experience in Congo and Western Sahara, he highlighted the complexity of territorial disputes and multi-stakeholder conflicts, while also underscoring Pakistan’s significant contribution to peacebuilding, community rehabilitation, and successful mission completion. The session concluded with an engaging Q&A, after which Principal NIPCONS thanked the speaker and presented him with a souvenir. The lecture was highly informative and deepened participants’ understanding of the evolving nature of UN peace operations.



Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry Delivers Lecture on Pakistan–India: Dynamics of Conflict and Peace

06 October 2025



On 6 October 2025, the CIPS hosted Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry for a thought-provoking lecture titled “Pakistan–India: Dynamics of Conflict and Peace.” The event drew an engaging audience of students and faculty from both CIPS and the Jinnah School of Public Policy and Leadership (JSPPL).

Am Aizaz, traced the historical trajectory and contemporary dimensions of Pakistan–India relations, offering a nuanced perspective on the enduring complexities between the two neighbors. He emphasized four key imperatives for the future: sustained and principled dialogue, robust defence preparedness, a broadened understanding of national security aligned with Pakistan’s National Security Policy 2022, and the effective projection of

Pakistan’s narrative in international forums.

A lively Q&A session followed, with participants engaging on the prospects of dialogue, normalization, and the role of academia in shaping narratives.

In his closing remarks, Major General Zahid Mahmood HI(M) (Retd), Principal NIPCONS, expressed his gratitude to Ambassador Chaudhry for his insightful address and commended his valuable contribution to the CIPS Guest Lecture Series. He presented a souvenir to the distinguished speaker as a token of appreciation for his time and thought-provoking engagement with the academic community.



CIPS-NUST hosted an interactive session with Ms. Elizabeth Threlkeld, Director, South Asia Program, Stimson Center (Washington, D.C.)

7 November 2025



The session explored avenues for academic and research collaboration between CIPS and the Stimson Center in the domains of strategic studies, traditional and non-traditional security. Discussions also emphasized enhancing student

and faculty engagement, promoting women and youth participation in nuclear governance, and advancing regional dialogue on peace and stability in South Asia.



Interactive Session with Sajid Tarar at CIPS-NUST



On November 17, 2025 CIPS-NUST hosted an interactive session with Mr. Sajid Tarar, a Pakistani-American entrepreneur and activist who founded American Muslims for Trump and leads the non-profit Center for Social Change.

The session focused on the “Evolving Dynamics of Pakistan-US Relations” and examined key shifts in diplomatic engagement, geopolitical interests, and

emerging areas of cooperation between the two countries. Discussions highlighted opportunities for strengthening bilateral ties through academic dialogue, policy-oriented research, and people-to-people exchanges. The session also underscored the importance of fostering informed debate among students and scholars on contemporary foreign policy challenges and future avenues for Pak-US strategic engagement.



Pakistan-Kazakhstan Relations Keynote by Ambassador Yerzhan Kistafin

2 December 2025



Nust Institute of Policy Studies (NIPS) organized a keynote address titled, “Pakistan-Kazakhstan Relations: Avenues of Cooperation” by H.E. Yerzhan Kistafin, Ambassador of Republic of Kazakhstan to Pakistan, on 2nd of December, 2025 at CIPS Auditorium, NUST.

The event was conducted in collaboration with CIPS, S3H, JSPPL, and NLS. Diplomats, scholars, policy experts, government officials, NUST Faculty, and students attended the event.



Book Presentation and Expert Panel on the Future of UN Peace Operations

16–17 October 2025



Department of Peace Operations Training (DPOT) at the Centre for International Peace and Stability (CIPS), NUST, Islamabad, organized a two-day academic engagement focusing on contemporary issues in UN peace operations and their future. The first day featured a book presentation titled *Military Diplomacy: Reflections by Former UN Force Commanders*, followed by an *Expert Panel Discussion on the Future of UN Peace Operations* on the second day. Both events were graced by senior leadership, including the Principal

NIPCONS, President IAPTC, Associate Dean CIPS, Director General MOFA, and respective Heads of Departments, as well as a representative from the Global Alliance for Peace Operations (GAPO), Geneva. The activities brought together international and local officers from the UN Military Observers Course (UNMOC-44), along with faculty and students from the NUST Institute of Peace and Conflict Studies (NIPCONS), facilitating informed dialogue on the evolving landscape of UN peacekeeping.

Day 1: Book Presentation — *Military Diplomacy: Reflections by Former UN Force Commanders*



By Dr Lt Gen Dennis Gyllensporre, Retd & Dr Lt Col Håkan Edström, Retd

The first day opened with a welcome address by Dr Muhammad Makki, Associate Dean CIPS, who highlighted the event's significance in capturing the lived experiences of peacekeepers in complex environments. He praised the book as a vital resource in understanding the intersection of diplomacy and military leadership, reflecting CIPS's hybrid approach of combining academic insight with field experience.

Dr Lt Gen Dennis Gyllensporre, Retd

Ex Force Commander of the UN Mission in Mali (MINUSMA)

Dr Gyllensporre thanked organizers and lauded Pakistan's key role in global peacekeeping. He praised Pakistani troops for their professionalism, teamwork, high morale, and integrity in challenging missions. He described the book as a valuable collection of military diplomacy insights, emphasizing mediation's role in diplomacy and the unique challenge of balancing soldier and diplomat roles. Dr Gyllensporre highlighted that diplomacy is vital for the UN, intertwined with peacekeeping, but

often underappreciated. He urged military leaders to improve their diplomatic skills to enhance cooperation on peace missions.

Dr Lt Col Håkan Edström, Retd

Ex Platoon Leader United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL)

Dr Edström, a former Platoon Leader with the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), shared insights about the book, emphasizing that its findings are relevant to peacekeepers, students, and researchers at various levels. He explained that the book brings together the perspectives and experiences of numerous peacekeepers, offering a comprehensive understanding of peace operations and military diplomacy. Highlighting a gap in academic literature on the subject, he noted that the authors identified three core dimensions of military diplomacy: confidence-building, advancing mission priorities, and exercising effective military leadership.

Followed by Q&A session: Participants raised thought-provoking questions on the UN's role in peacekeeping, the challenges and opportunities in military diplomacy, and the importance of political

diplomacy in complex mission environments. The speakers shared practical insights, linking field experiences with strategic lessons for future peace operations.

Closing Remarks

Principal NIPCONS Maj Gen Zahid Mehmood, HI(M), Retd, in his closing remarks, expressed sincere appreciation to Dr Lt Gen Dennis Gyllensporre, Retd and Dr Lt Col Håkan Edström, Retd, for their valuable

insights on military diplomacy and leadership in complex environments. He noted that the discussion reinforced the enduring values of discipline, integrity, and service that define the profession of arms and the ethos of CIPS. He commended the organizing team and participants for their dedication to making the event a success. He also expressed gratitude to the distinguished guests for their presence and continued support in the shared pursuit of global peacekeeping excellence.





Day 2: Expert Panel Discussion — *The Future of UN Peace Operations*



Moderated by Dr Arshad Mehmood, the session opened with remarks emphasizing the multidimensional nature of modern conflict and the need for the UN to adapt to evolving global realities while staying true to its founding mission.

Dr Lt Gen Dennis Gyllensporre, Retd spoke on *“Evolving Demand for Peacekeeping: Assessing Future Needs and Capabilities in Conflicts such as Ukraine and Gaza.”* He observed the UN’s growing hesitation toward traditional peacekeeping and advocated a revival of apolitical, impartial operations to restore the institution’s credibility. He proposed potential UN roles in Gaza and Ukraine, emphasizing the need for robust monitoring and engineering support mechanisms.

Dr Lt Col Håkan Edström, Retd followed with insights on *“Great-Power Competition and Its Implications for NATO and U.S.–China Roles in Peace Support Operations.”* He traced the decline in troop contributions to UN missions to escalating geopolitical rivalries and shifting regional priorities. Highlighting NATO’s post-2014 transformation and China’s assertive posture in the South China Sea, he underscored how great-power politics increasingly shape global peacekeeping dynamics.

Lt Gen Maqsood Ahmed, HI(M), Retd, former Military Advisor to the UN Secretary-General, spoke on *“Robust Peacekeeping and Its Challenges.”* He outlined the evolution of peacekeeping mandates under the UN Charter and discussed lessons

learned from missions in Sierra Leone, Mali, the DRC, and Darfur. He emphasized that despite the shift toward more robust operations, success depends on political will, balanced capacities, and strong leadership from contributing nations.

Dr Maj Gen Shahid Ahmad Hashmat, HI(M), Retd, addressed *“Restoring Global Confidence in the UN’s Ability for International Conflict Resolution.”* He stressed that peacekeeping remains the UN’s most visible instrument of peace, but that it requires institutional reform and renewed credibility to meet 21st-century challenges. He observed that as global power shifts towards multipolarity, the UN must adapt by reinforcing its structures, ensuring its moral and operational credibility, and securing the resources and support of member states to maintain relevance and effectiveness in safeguarding peace and stability.

Key Takeaways

- Global power dynamics directly shape UN peacekeeping, influencing troop contributions, operational effectiveness, and the credibility of missions.
- Political will and capacity must be aligned; the success of missions requires both adequate resources and strong commitment from member states.
- The Global North and Global South must share responsibilities equitably



- Peacekeeping is as much a diplomatic endeavor as a military operation, requiring coordinated strategies, effective leadership, and flexible, context-sensitive decision-making.
- Credibility and impartiality are essential for trust; UN missions risk losing legitimacy if influenced by power politics or the dominance of P5 member states
- The UN Secretariat cannot act independently; decisions are shaped by member states and host countries, highlighting the importance of multilateral engagement and political support.
- Institutional reform is necessary to adapt to evolving security challenges, enhance operational effectiveness, and maintain impartiality.
- Sustainable peace is a long-term process; missions must be designed to address underlying political, social, and economic drivers of conflict, not just immediate security concerns.
- Adaptive leadership is critical; commanders and civilian leaders must respond dynamically to changing operational and political environments.
- Resources and strategic planning are vital; adequate troop strength, logistical support, and funding are essential for implementing mandates successfully.
- The UN must evolve for a multipolar world; strengthening structures, operational capabilities, and credibility is crucial to remain relevant amid shifting global power balances.

Closing Remarks

Maj Gen Zahid Mehmood, HI(M), Retd, Principal NIPCONS, expressed his gratitude to the panelists for their insightful contributions to peace and international security. He emphasized that the 21st-century generation aspires to live in a world defined by peace, where conflicts are addressed constructively and core political, social, and economic issues are resolved to achieve positive and sustainable peace. He noted panel discussions offer vital platforms to explore solutions, foster dialogue, and deepen understanding of political and regional issues, bridging academia, policy, and practice. He highlighted Pakistan's long-standing commitment to UN peacekeeping, with significant contributions that support international peace and stability. He praised the CIPS organizing team for their excellent coordination and execution of the event, which reflects the institution's commitment to fostering scholarly dialogue and practical knowledge. He concluded by expressing hope that such initiatives will continue to inspire participants to promote peacebuilding and strengthen multilateral cooperation. He further emphasized the importance of upholding impartiality and credibility, which are essential for effective peace operations, citing Pakistan that have consistently supported UN peace efforts.



Round Table Conference on Indo-Pak Military Conflict: Implications, Challenges, and Opportunities for Regional Stability.

26 June 2025



On 26 June 2025, the NUST Institute of Policy Studies (NIPS) and the NUST Center for Peace and Stability (CIPS) co-organized a high-level roundtable on *“Indo-Pak Military Conflict: Implications, Challenges, and Opportunities for Regional Stability.”* The event brought together statesmen, former civil and military officials, diplomats, academics, and policy experts, who emphasized that rising regional instability, India’s aggressive posture, and developments related to the Indus Waters Treaty require stronger deterrence and proactive diplomatic and legal responses.

Keynote speakers, including Zamir Akram, Arshad Mahmood, and Ahmer Bilal Soofi, discussed regional security dynamics, strategic stability, and legal implications of recent developments. Participants highlighted the need for a whole-of-nation approach, enhanced economic and technological capacity, and stronger regional engagement. In his concluding remarks, Ashfaq Hasan Khan stressed the importance of promoting a fact-based global narrative, strengthening media capacity, and improving regional connectivity to address emerging challenges.

Pathways to a Green Pakistan: Dialogue on Climate and Human Security

26 June 2025



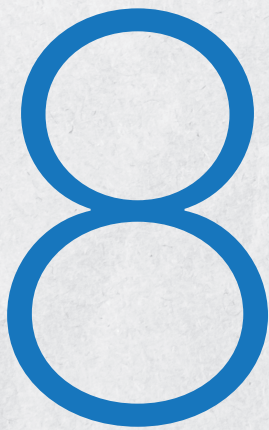
National University of Sciences and Technology (NUST), through its Centre for International Peace and Stability (CIPS), organised a roundtable titled *"Pathways to a Green Pakistan: Advancing Non-Traditional Security through Collaborative Climate Action for Sustainable Development."*

The session brought together experts from academia and key institutions, including the Security Division, GIZ, National Disaster Risk Management Fund (NDRMF), Nustainable, and CePwS, to discuss the intersection of climate change and human security. Speakers emphasised the need for

human-centered climate policies, stronger regional cooperation, and inclusive approaches addressing the gender-climate nexus, as well as the role of media in shaping public narratives.

The event highlighted NUST's commitment to sustainability through interdisciplinary research spanning renewable energy, disaster management, and policy innovation. A plantation ceremony led by the Principal NIPCONS Maj Gen Zahid Mehmood, HI(M), concluded the session, reaffirming the university's vision for a greener and more resilient Pakistan.





Workshops

WORKSHOPS

International Peace and Security (IPS) Summer Course 2025

14 - 25 July 2025



The NUST Centre for International Peace and Stability (CIPS) successfully concluded its two-week International Peace and Security (IPS) Summer Course 2025, held from July 14 to 25, 2025. The programme offered an exceptional learning experience, bringing together distinguished scholars, practitioners, and emerging professionals to explore the evolving complexities of global peace, security, and conflict resolution.

Set against a backdrop of profound transformations in the global security landscape, the course addressed both traditional threats and emerging non-traditional challenges. Participants engaged with pressing issues ranging from violent extremism and asymmetric warfare to the weaponization of information, climate-induced insecurity, and migration. These discussions underscored the urgent need for critical rethinking and innovative responses in the domain of international peace and security.

Key sessions examined soft approaches to countering violent extremism, the reconfiguration of counter-terrorism strategies, and the legal and ethical dimensions of human security and migration. Participants also explored the risks associated with the militarization of development aid in post-conflict settings and highlighted the importance of feminist and inclusive frameworks for sustainable peace. Additional discussions focused on shifting



regional and global power dynamics, the evolution of peacekeeping operations, and the growing significance of hybrid threats, cyber warfare, and strategic competition in the digital age.

By engaging with these diverse yet interconnected themes, the IPS Summer Course equipped participants with analytical tools, policy insights, and ethical frameworks necessary to navigate and contribute meaningfully to the complex field of international peace and security.



Pedagogical Approach

CIPS adopted a meticulously structured pedagogical methodology tailored to the course's learning outcomes. The programme blended interactive lectures, engaging discussions, and thought-provoking guest sessions delivered by esteemed national and international experts. Active participant engagement was a core feature, creating an enriched learning environment that encouraged critical reflection and collaborative learning.

Participants

The IPS Summer Course 2025 attracted

undergraduate and graduate students, early-career professionals, researchers, and practitioners from diverse academic and professional backgrounds. The inclusive nature of the programme enabled participants to deepen their understanding of peace and security issues while benefiting from a rich exchange of perspectives.

Through its comprehensive curriculum and interactive learning model, the IPS Summer Course 2025 reaffirmed CIPS-NUST's commitment to advancing knowledge, dialogue, and capacity-building in the field of international peace and security.





9

CIPS Research, Achievements & Academic Collaborations

CIPS RESEARCH, ACHIEVEMENTS & ACADEMIC COLLABORATIONS

NUST Journal of International Peace and Stability (NJIPS)



At the Centre for International Peace and Stability (CIPS), The NUST Journal of International Peace & Stability (NJIPS), an Open Access, peer-reviewed, bi-annual academic journal, stands as a significant milestone resulting from the collaboration between the Department of Peace Operations Training (DPOT) and Department of International Studies (DIS). The defining aim of the journal has been to revive the understanding of contemporary peace and conflict dynamics to address the most ruinous predicaments to international development—and, by extension, international peace.

Latest Insights: NJIPS Volume 8, Issues 1 & 2

Explore the latest advancements, cutting-edge research and thought-provoking articles by scholars and practitioners, addressing critical issues shaping the global peace landscape by diving into Volume 7, Issue 1 & Issue 2 of the NJIPS. All articles are readily available for perusal and download at no cost. To access the most recent issues, visit the designated DOI links: <https://doi.org/10.37540/njips.v8i1> and <https://doi.org/10.37540/njips.v8i2>

Submission

NJIPS welcomes submissions on a wide range of issues that constitute the field of peace and conflict, including UN peacekeeping, armed conflict and peacebuilding, regional and international security, conflict resolution, and violent extremism and terrorism. For more information about the author guidelines and submission process, please visit: <https://njips.nust.edu.pk/index.php/njips/>

On behalf of the NJIPS editorial team, we would like to express our heartfelt appreciation to all authors who contributed to Volume 6. It was with the mere cooperation, enthusiasm, and spirit of the authors and reviewers that we could make NJIPS a success.

Following are some of the selected articles and book reviews from NJIPS for the reader's attention:

Articles & Essays:

- **The Paradox of Cyber Warfare and Clausewitz's Conception of War** by Nageen Ashraf: DOI: <https://doi.org/10.37540/njips.v8i1.183>
- **Challenges in International Peace Operations: Strengthening Partnership Peacekeeping** by Raja Aftab Khan. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.37540/njips.v8i1.199>
- **The Conflict in Mali: Causes, Actors, and Challenges** by Wardah Shahid: DOI: <https://doi.org/10.37540/njips.v8i1.191>
- **Modelling Conflict and Cooperation: A Mathematical Approach to International Relations** by Muhammad Imran Chaudhry: DOI: <https://doi.org/10.37540/njips.v8i2.200>
- **Empowering Peace: The Impact of Women in UN Peacekeeping Missions** by Amna Latif: DOI: <https://doi.org/10.37540/njips.v8i2.207>

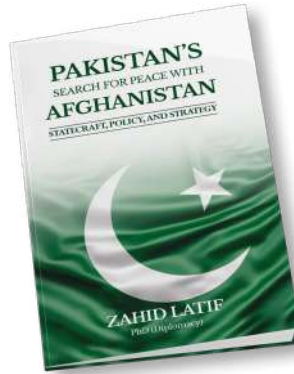
Book Reviews:

- **Japan's Peacekeeping at a Crossroads** by Hiromi Nagata, Fujishige, Yuji Uesugi and Tomoaki Honda by Muhammad Rayyan Faisal Memoona Nasir: DOI: <https://doi.org/10.37540/njips.v8i1.195>
- **Martialling Peace: How the Peacekeeping Myth Legitimises Warfare** by Nicole Wegner by Hiba Malik: DOI: <https://doi.org/10.37540/njips.v8i1.193>
- **How Peace Operations Work: Power, Legitimacy, and Effectiveness** by Jeni Whalan by Umair Ameen: DOI: <https://doi.org/10.37540/njips.v7i2.178>
- **The Peacekeeping Failure in South Sudan: The UN, Bias, and Peacekeeper's Mind** by Mark Millar by Areesha Amer: DOI: <https://doi.org/10.37540/njips.v8i1.197>



Book Talk: Pakistan's Search for Peace with Afghanistan: Statecraft, Policy, and Strategy

Dr. Zahid Latif, Rector NUST, presented his book "Pakistan's Search for Peace with Afghanistan: Statecraft, Policy, and Strategy" and led a substantive, policy-driven discussion with students and faculty from the Centre for International Peace and Stability (CIPS) and the Jinnah School of Public Policy and Leadership (JSPPL). The session focused on the book's strategic insights, offering a comprehensive framework for understanding Pakistan-Afghanistan relations. Drawing on historical policies, post-9/11 strategies, ethnic dynamics, and future pathways, Dr. Zahid examined Pakistan's evolving foreign policy toward Afghanistan, highlighting key challenges such as the Taliban factor, the Indo-U.S. presence in the region, and the imperative of pragmatic diplomacy



for sustainable regional stability.

The discussion was thoughtful and rigorous, with students actively engaging the book's themes and their implications for Pak-Afghan relations. The discussion ranged from regional perspectives to the intricacies of shaping Pakistan's policy framework, covering topics in depth and encouraging meaningful debate and thoughtful analysis. The session significantly enhanced students'

understanding of the geopolitical environment. It offered a valuable opportunity to engage directly with scholarly and practitioner perspectives, reflecting both the audience's intellectual depth and the continued relevance of Dr. Zahid's work in an evolving regional context.



CIPS Academic Publications

Journal Articles

Malik, T., & Jamil, A. (2025). Chinese Exceptionalism: The Sino-Centric World and US Threat Perceptions. *Central Asia*, 96(Summer), 1-16. <https://doi.org/10.54418/ca-96.239>

Abstract: Exceptionalism in IR is the unique and exceptional behavior of a state in the domain of foreign policy. Unlike the Manifest Destiny of the US, which emerged as an exceptional power to govern the world with its liberal tradition, value system, and governance model, those witnessing the history unfolding in the 21st century can observe more and more nation-states/civilizations behaving exceptionally. The rise of the discourse of exceptionalism, informed by universal values and rooted in civilizational heritage, producing an essentialist 'Self' and the Other, is perceived as a threat to the status quo and the so-called peaceful and rules based international system. Using an interpretative approach, this paper deals with how China perceives itself and behaves as an exceptional power. It also discusses the perceptions of threat in the US arising from Chinese exceptionalism.

Shahid, D., & Jamil, A. (2024). Assessing Military Necessity of Autonomous Weapons System (AWS) in Armed Conflicts: A Case Study of Iran-Israel. *Margalla Papers*, 28(2). <https://doi.org/10.54690/margallapapers.28.2.279>

Abstract: Rapid technological advancement has revolutionised the concept of modern warfare. The deployment of AWS has become a new high for military forces around the globe to get a comparative advantage over an adversary in any combat mission. This research aims to explain the military necessity of the Autonomous Weapons Systems (AWS) in an armed conflict. This study adopted the qualitative explanatory approach, whereas the data was collected from structured interviews, official reports, and journals. On the other hand, the case study Iran-Israel Missile Exchange has been considered to support the thematic analysis. Moreover, the study utilised the Revolution in Military Affairs (RMA) theory, which explains the dual

impacts of using AWS in combat missions. However, the study's findings reveal that the deployment of the AWS ensures military necessity for the forces in an armed conflict based on the tactical and strategic advantages. The deployment of the AWS enhances the overall operational effectiveness and gives forces leverage over their foes.

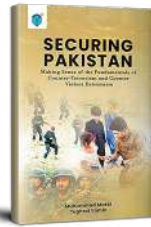
Rehman, Q. J., Mahsud, M. I., & Naeem, S. A. (2025). A comparative analysis of Yemen, Saudi Arabia, and Indonesian deradicalization programs: Approaches and best practices. *FWU Journal of Social Sciences*, 19(4), 12-26. <https://doi.org/10.51709/19951272/Winter2025/2>

Abstract: Deradicalization has emerged as a pivotal soft-power strategy in response to the global proliferation of violence perpetrated by non-state actors, extremist ideologies, and terrorist networks. Designed to counter radical thought and enable the reintegration of affected individuals into society, deradicalization initiatives have been implemented in diverse forms across countries such as Yemen, Indonesia, and Saudi Arabia. This study adopts qualitative methodologies and comparative analysis to critically examine the national programs, such as violent extremist measures (CVE) with efforts to gain public support through the "hearts and minds" approach which were mainly framed within the context of religious radicalization, explicitly focusing on tackling the rise of Islamic extremism through what was called a "battle of ideas" with particular focus on deradicalization efforts in Yemen, Indonesia, and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) and identifies best practices, essential components, and inherent limitations.. The findings demonstrate that no universal model of deradicalization exists; rather, each program is firmly embedded within its distinct cultural, political, and social milieu. Nonetheless, certain commonalities emerge across cases, including the use of psychological counseling, vocational training, and constructive engagement by state authorities. These shared elements highlight core principles that can inform the design of tailored, context-sensitive deradicalization frameworks.

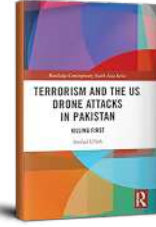
Books by CIPS Faculty



UN Peacekeeping Operations in Somalia 1992-1995
Author: Tughrul Yamin
Year: 2019



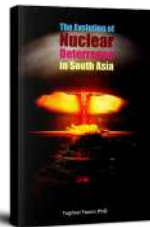
Securing Pakistan: Making Sense of the fundamentals of Counter-Terrorism and Counter Violent Extremism.
Authors: Muhammad Makki & Tughrul Yamin
Year: 2021



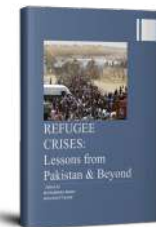
Terrorism and the US Drone Attacks in Pakistan Killing First
Author: Imadad Ullah
Year: 2021



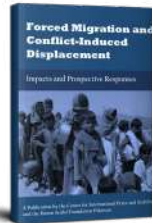
The Wrong Ally: Pakistan's State Sovereignty Under US Dependence
Author Ahmed Waheed
Year: 2018



The Evolution of Nuclear Deterrence in South Asia
Author: Tughrul Yamin
Year: 2014



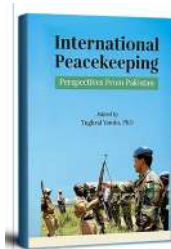
Refugee Crisis: Lessons from Pakistan and Beyond
Edited by: Muhammad Makki and Waseem Iftikhar
Year: 2015



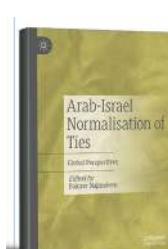
Forced Migration and Conflict-Induced Displacement A Publication Impacts and Prospective Responses
Edited by Muhammad Makki Aizah Azam, Syed Ali Akash and Faryal Khan



Cyber Space CBMS between Pakistan and India Hardcover
Author: Tughrul Yamin.
Year: 2014



International Peacekeeping - Perspectives from Pakistan
Edited by Tughrul Yamin
Year: 2022



Arab-Israeli Normalisation of Ties - Global Perspectives
Edited by Bakare Najimdeen
Year: 2024



Pakistan's Search for Peace with Afghanistan Statecraft, Policy and Strategy
Author: Zahid Latif
Year: 2025

FACULTY ACHIEVEMENTS

Best Teacher Award 2025

Dr. Humaira Shafi was honored with the Best Teacher Institutional Award 2025, a well-deserved recognition of her exceptional dedication, academic excellence, and invaluable contributions to the Centre for International Peace and Stability (CIPS). Her unwavering commitment to teaching, mentorship, and research has consistently inspired both students and colleagues. Through her scholarly rigor, innovative pedagogy, and steadfast support for academic development, Dr. Shafi has

played a pivotal role in advancing CIPS's academic mission and promoting a culture of excellence. The award was formally conferred during the 8th Center for International Peace and Stability (CIPS) Convocation Ceremony, where the Principal NIPCONS, Zahid Mahmood, HI(M), Retd, presented her with an appreciation certificate, marking a proud recognition of her outstanding achievement and dedicated efforts.

School's Best Teacher Award



Centre for International Peace and Stability

Dr. Humaira Shafi

Assistant Professor Department of International Studies

Achievements:

Completed her PhD from the University of Queensland, Australia.
 Recipient of multiple scholarships, including the prestigious Rotary Peace Fellowship.
 Has actively participated in numerous national and international conferences.
 Her areas of expertise include Gender Studies, Conflict Resolution, Peacekeeping, and Peacebuilding.
 Within three years of teaching, she has successfully supervised 12 MS students, while 7 more are currently under her supervision.
 Also serving as a co-supervisor for PhD students, contributing to advanced research in peace and conflict studies.



NUST
Defining futures



The photograph shows Dr. Humaira Shafi, a woman in a black hijab and academic regalia, standing on a stage and receiving a certificate from a man in academic regalia. They are surrounded by other faculty members and students in academic regalia, all standing behind a long wooden podium decorated with white and blue flowers. The background is a blue wall with the NUST logo.

Student Spotlight



Ms. Huria Bint-e-Ashiq has shown remarkable leadership and dedication to social change through her active engagement with the Pakistan Development Movement (PDM), a youth-led organization based in Islamabad. Beginning her journey as a human rights activist at PDM, she contributed across key focus areas including minority rights, education, climate action, intersectional rights, and women's empowerment. As Chief Ambassador, she co-led PDM's city chapters nationwide, developed the organizational framework for the Islamabad chapter, and actively

promoted gender-inclusive leadership by recruiting and mentoring young women. She also represented PDM at international platforms, amplifying youth voices on global stages.

One of her most impactful contributions was leading PDM's Menstrual Health Awareness Project, aimed at breaking social taboos through education and the distribution of menstrual hygiene kits. In addition, she remained deeply engaged in community outreach and volunteer initiatives, including activities conducted in collaboration with the Al-Khidmat Foundation. In recognition of her leadership, inclusion efforts, and service to marginalized communities, Ms. Huria received the Emerging Young Leader Award from Leading Lady Empire and was formally acknowledged by PDM and Al-Khidmat Foundation for her dedicated contributions to social development and volunteerism.



Mr. Muhammad Usman Karim, a student of MS International Relations (IR) at the Centre for International Peace and Stability (CIPS), NUST, Islamabad, has achieved a significant academic

milestone with the publication of his research article titled “Andaman and Nicobar Islands in India’s Strategic Vision: Prospects and Challenges for Development” in a HEC-recognized journal. The article offers an in-depth analysis of India’s strategic outlook toward the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, examining the interplay between development imperatives, military-civil infrastructure expansion, and environmental considerations. It further explores the islands’ growing significance in the geopolitics of the Indo-Pacific, highlighting India’s strategic collaborations with key partners, including Japan and the United States. This publication reflects Muhammad Usman Karim’s strong research acumen and contributes meaningfully to contemporary debates on regional security and strategic development. The article can be accessed at <https://beacon.mcepk.org/index.php/ojs/article/view/4>

Mr. Raja Zark Ullah, a third-semester MS Strategic Studies student at CIPS, NUST, is currently working on his thesis while serving as a Research Fellow at the Strategic Vision Institute (SVI), Islamabad. He began at SVI as an intern and, after a competitive selection process and completion of the Summer Research Program, was offered his current role. His achievement highlights how CIPS students can secure meaningful professional opportunities early in their academic careers and serves as an inspiration for current and prospective students seeking to engage with top think-tanks and policy institutions. Through this experience, Mr. Zark has gained hands-on research expertise and developed professional networks that will support his future career in strategic studies. His dedication and proactive approach reflect the high standards of scholarship and leadership nurtured at CIPS.



Pakistan Peacekeeping Contribution Highlights



Jean-Pierre Lacroix
@Lacroix_UN

Thank you to @PakistanUN_NY for hosting the #PKMinisterial preparatory meeting on making @UN Peace operations safer & more effective.

Critical to ensure peacekeepers can safely protect communities amidst growing weaponization of new technologies. #PKM2025



Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the UN and 8 others



UN Peacekeeping
@UNPeacekeeping

South Sudan 🇸🇩 is one of the countries most vulnerable to climate change. In Bentiu, where flooding is a daily threat, @unmissmedia engineers from Pakistan 🇵🇰 are reinforcing dykes and monitoring existing floodwater levels to protect 300,000 residents.



UN Peacekeeping
@UNPeacekeeping

Pakistan pledged a Rapid Reaction Police Unit, a bridging platoon, a Level 2 hospital & to build a waste management yards in @UN_CAR. Also pledged to provide comprehensive data literacy training, deploy tactical drones, body & vehicle cams & situational awareness. #PKMinisterial



Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the UN and 5 others



UN Peacekeeping
@UNPeacekeeping

!! Watch live !! UN #PKMinisterial 2025 High-Level Session 3 - Global Perspectives on the Future of Peacekeeping.

Interventions from representatives from #Indonesia, #Uruguay, #Pakistan and more.

#PKM2025: webtv.un.org/en/asset/k17/k...





Peacekeeping missions are among @UN's most prominent peacebuilding actors.

At the #PKMinisterial side event in #Pakistan, experts explored ways to strengthen the synergies between peacekeeping and the broader peacebuilding ecosystem. #PKM2025

More: peacekeeping.un.org/en/united-nati...



As floodwaters wreak havoc across Bentiu, #SouthSudan, #UNMISS peacekeepers from #Pakistan remain the backbone of air operations — the area's only lifeline to the rest of South Sudan. #A4P



#PeaceBegins with connecting communities! #UNMISS peacekeeping engineers from #Pakistan are repairing a 140-kilometer road from Bentiu to Leer, in Unity #SouthSudan, to ensure rapid and safe delivery of humanitarian aid, enhance security, improve trade and economic growth. Full story: tinyurl.com/mr3wcdhd

#A4P



A self-defence demonstration and poetry reading were two of the contributions of women #UNMISS peacekeepers from #Mongolia and #Pakistan when the #16DaysofActivism campaign against gender-based violence was launched in Bentiu, #SouthSudan.

#WomenPeaceSecurity #A4P



With flooding at its highest levels in Bentiu, #SouthSudan, engineers from #Pakistan serving with #UNMISS are continuously reinforcing a vast network of dykes & rapidly responding to breaches to protect thousands of vulnerable families threatened by the rising waters. #A4P



United Nations and 9 others



At #UNMISS, every peacekeeper is unique. Meet Javiera Ilyas, the clinical psychologist who served with us as part of the military engineering contingent from #Pakistan in #SouthSudan. Before she returned home, she told us how she made the most of her dual vocation during her year in Bentiu.

Full story: tinyurl.com/2tpczpx
#16DaysofActivism #A4P





As floodwaters keep rising in Bentiu, #SouthSudan 🇸🇩, #UNMISS peacekeepers from #Pakistan 🇵🇰 are working day and night in a race against time to keep communities safe by building and shoring up a vast network of dikes.

#A4P



As heavy rains continue to pound Bentiu, #SouthSudan, where 300,000+ people are already displaced by flooding, #UNMISS peacekeepers from #Pakistan 🇵🇰 are working tirelessly to monitor rapidly rising water levels, maintain road access, clear drains, and rescue stranded motorists.

#A4P



Rainy season in #SouthSudan 🇸🇩 is wreaking its usual havoc, not least in flood-prone Bentiu. There, #UNMISS engineers from #Pakistan 🇵🇰 work tirelessly to keep the town & surroundings afloat. Following recent heavy downpours, they used heavy dewatering pumps to help humanitarians have continued access to areas they need to reach to help those most in need.

#A4P



As floods again threaten Bentiu, #SouthSudan, #UNMISS engineering peacekeepers from Pakistan 🇵🇰 continue to strengthen dykes to protect 300,000 vulnerable civilians. Today, 273 of these dedicated men & women were awarded the prestigious #UN medal 🏆 for their service. 🇺🇳

#A4P



Thanked Minister of Interior Mohsin Naqvi for #Pakistan's contribution to @UN Peacekeeping, including to @UNPOL which is led by Faisal Shahkar of Pakistan. Discussed how to ensure critical policing activities in peacekeeping ops have the tech required to address new threats.



Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the UN and 4 others



Expressed my gratitude to Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar for #Pakistan's critical commitment to @UN Peacekeeping ops. Discussed how we can work together to make our ops more flexible and strengthen the safety & security of peacekeepers.



Celebrating United Nations Day at CIPS

24 October 2025

CIPS-NUST proudly celebrated United Nations Day 2025, organized by the Department of Peace Operations Training (DPOT). The event brought together CIPS faculty, officials from NIPS, participants of UNMPKIOC-1 and DIS students. Among the honored guests were officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA), Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), multiple government departments, and prominent United Nations agencies, such as UNHCR, UN Women, UNICEF, and UNAIDS.

The ceremony commenced with a warm welcome to all attendees, emphasizing the significance of the United Nations in fostering global cooperation, peace, and sustainable development. Mr. Umer Siddique, Director General (UN) at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, delivered a keynote address highlighting the UN's enduring role in maintaining



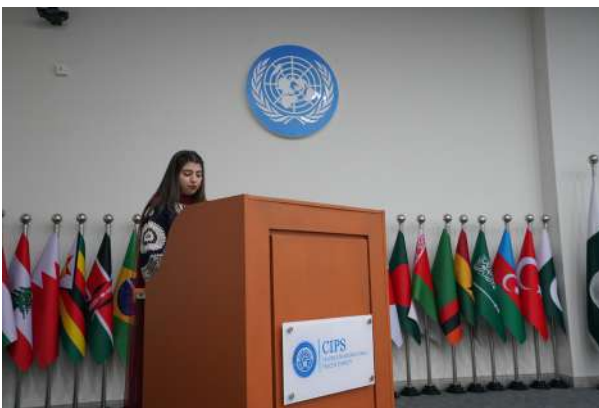
international peace and security. He also underscored Pakistan's long-standing dedication to multilateralism and its active engagement in supporting UN initiatives worldwide.

A series of distinguished speakers followed, elaborating on Pakistan's vital contributions to UN peacekeeping missions, including its deployment of personnel in conflict zones around the globe, and its commitment to upholding international peace, stability, and humanitarian principles. These remarks provided insight into Pakistan's evolving role in promoting a rules-based international order and strengthening partnerships between the UN and member states.

In his closing remarks, Dr. Muhammad Makki, Associate Dean CIPS, reaffirmed the CIPS steadfast commitment to fostering the values and ideals of

the United Nations. He emphasized the importance of nurturing a culture of peace, dialogue, and cooperation among the next generation of leaders, practitioners, and scholars.

The celebration concluded on a symbolic and unifying note with a cake-cutting ceremony, signifying unity, collaboration, and a shared commitment to global peace. Attendees left inspired, reflecting on the critical role of multilateralism and the continued efforts of Pakistan and the international community in building a more peaceful and equitable world.



CIPS Celebrates its 8th Convocation



First Row: Dr. Shakir Ullah, Dr. Tasleem Malik, Dr. Ansar Jamil, Dr. Muhammad Makki, Maj Gen (R) Zahid Mahmood, Dr. Humaira Shafi, Dr. Arshad Mahmood, Dr. Gulshan Rafiq, Ms. Tehreem Tariq

2nd Row: Ms. Marrium Mehmood, Ms. Irtabat Nasir, Ms. Minahil Baig, Ms. Syeda Zoha Zaidi, Ms. Sana Ahmed, Ms. Amina Usman, Ms. Zainab Humayun, Ms. Ramsha Mir, Ms. Noor Ul Ain Azam Khan, Ms. Maira Safdar, Ms. Hemayle Afridi, Ms. Zoha Tariq, Ms. Areesha Amer,

3rd Row: Mr. Muhammad Issa Haroon, Ms. Mariam Nadeem Bhutto, Ms. Rida Bilal, Ms. Izza Khawar, Ms. Anisa Bibi, Ms. Inaba Sajid, Ms. Asma Ali, Ms. Ghania Leila Khan, Ms. Farwa Khalid, Mr. Amjad Hussain, Mr. Niamat Ullah, Mr. Muhammad Bilal

The Centre for International Peace and Stability (CIPS) proudly celebrates the 8th Convocation of its MS students. On this momentous occasion, CIPS extends its heartfelt congratulations to all graduates for successfully achieving this significant academic milestone and wishes them continued success in their future professional endeavors.

Graduates with Distinction (CGPA 4.00)

It is worth highlighting that the following students graduated with distinction, achieving a perfect CGPA of 4.00. Their exceptional academic performance sets a commendable benchmark for their peers and reflects an unwavering commitment to scholarly excellence. This outstanding accomplishment stands as a testament to their dedication, intellectual rigor, and deep passion for their respective fields of study.

- **Tehreem Tariq**

Program: MS in Peace and Conflict Studies

Supervisor: Dr Humaira Shafi

Thesis Title: Evaluating the Role of Green Initiatives

in Advancing Sustainable Development in Pakistan: Impacts and Barriers

- **Amina Usman**

Program: MS in Peace and Conflict Studies

Supervisor: Dr. Muhammad Makki

Thesis Title: Deconstructing Islam as a cause of radicalization: The case study of Pakistan

- **Zoha Tariq**

Program: MS in Strategic Studies

Supervisor: Dr. Rubina Waeem

Thesis Title: The Impact of IMF Policies on State Autonomy: A Case of Pakistan (2019-2023)

As these distinguished graduates embark on the next chapter of their professional journeys, CIPS wishes them every success. Equipped with the knowledge, analytical skills, and critical insights gained during their academic training, they are well-positioned to make meaningful and impactful contributions to peacebuilding, policy analysis, and conflict resolution in diverse national and international contexts.

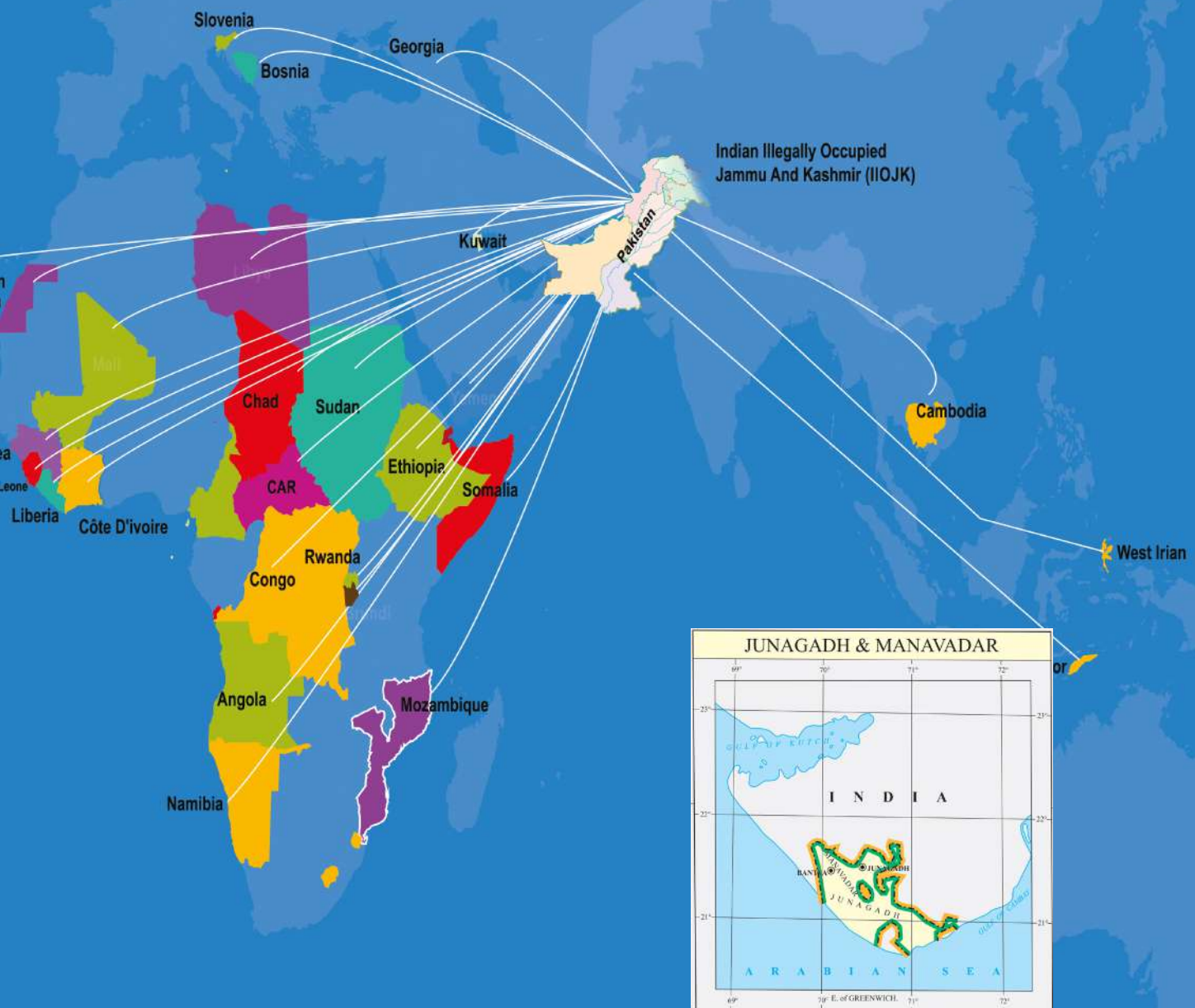


PAKISTAN PE CONTRIBUTION

PAKISTAN'S CURRENT DEPLOYMENT IN PEACEKEEPING MISSIONS

<i>UN Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO)</i>	<i>Congo</i>
<i>UN Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission (MINUSCA)</i>	<i>Central African Republic</i>
<i>UN Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA)</i>	<i>Abyei</i>
<i>UN Mission for Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO)</i>	<i>Western Sahara</i>
<i>UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS)</i>	<i>South Sudan</i>
<i>UN Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA)</i>	<i>Mali</i>
<i>UN Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM)</i>	<i>Somalia</i>
<i>UN Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP)</i>	<i>Cyprus</i>
<i>UN Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL)</i>	<i>Libya</i>
<i>United Nations Integrated Transition Assistance Mission in Sudan (UNITAMS)</i>	<i>Sudan</i>

PEACEKEEPING S (1960-TO DATE)





Centre for International Peace and Stability (CIPS)

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www.cips.nust.edu.pk