Module 1: An Overview of United Nations Peacekeeping Operations

Lesson 1.1

United Nations Peacekeeping
Relevance

As peacekeeping personnel you:

- Represent the UN
- Carry out decisions made at UN Headquarters in New York
Learning Outcomes

Learners will:

- Explain the UN and its purpose
- Identify the UN Charter as the guiding document
- List principal organs involved in UN peacekeeping
- List departments active in UN peacekeeping
- Describe three levels of authority for decision-making in UN peacekeeping
Lesson Overview

1. An Introduction to the UN
2. Principal Organs of the UN Involved in Peacekeeping
3. Departments of the Secretariat Active in Peacekeeping
4. Strategic, Operational & Tactical – Levels of Authority in Peacekeeping
Learning Activity 1.1.1

Film: United Nations Peacekeeping

Instructions:
- What did you learn from this film?
- What images stay with you?
- What was interesting?

Time: 10 minutes
- Film: 2:17 minutes
- Discussion: 5-7 minutes

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=st12PMiFg4Y
Learning Activity 1.1.2

Consequences of Violent Conflict

Instructions:

- Place yourself in your home country, in your own home, with your family
- Imagine how a violent conflict would affect your life

Time: 15 minutes

- Visualization: 5-7 minutes
- Brainstorming: 5-7 minutes
1. An Introduction to the UN

- Violent conflict is devastating
- Peacekeeping preserves peace when conflict ends
The United Nations

- Universal and impartial international organization
- Founded in 1945 after World War II
- “[…]to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war[…]”
  (Preamble of the UN-Charter)
UN Charter

- Founding document
- Defines main purposes and principles
- “Maintain international peace and security” – a main purpose
Principal Organs

- General Assembly
- Security Council
- Secretariat
- International Court of Justice
- Economic and Social Council
- Trusteeship Council
UN Specialized Agencies, Funds & Programmes
2. UN Principal Organs Involved in Peacekeeping

- General Assembly
- Security Council
- Secretariat
General Assembly

- Main forum for Member States to make decisions
- Committees, e.g. C-34
Security Council

- Primary responsibility for maintaining international peace and security
- Power to investigate threats and take appropriate measures
Secretariat

- Secretariat: led by Secretary-General
- Secretary-General: “Chief Administrative Officer” of the Organization
3. Secretariat Departments Active in Peacekeeping

Security Council
Secretary-General
Secretariat

USG DFS
USG DPKO
USG DPA

DFS
DPKO
DPA
Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO)

- Executive direction of peacekeeping operations
Department of Field Support (DFS)

- Delivers support to UN field missions
- Finance, personnel, administration, information and communication technology, logistics
Department of Political Affairs (DPA)

- Substantive direction to Special Political Missions
- Collaborates with peacekeeping missions – political analysis, electoral assistance
4. Strategic, Operational & Tactical Levels of Authority in Peacekeeping

- General Assembly
- Security Council
- Secretary-General
- Secretariat (DPKO, DFS, DPA)
- Head of Mission
- Mission Headquarters & Leadership Team
- Component Heads
- Civilian Units
- Military Units
- Police Units
- Regional Offices
Summary of Key Messages

- UN maintains peace and security
- UN Charter is the guiding document
- General Assembly, Security Council, Secretariat involved in UN peacekeeping
- DPKO, DFS, DPA active in UN peacekeeping
- Strategic, operational, tactical - levels of authority for decision-making in UN peacekeeping
Questions
Learning Activity

Learning Evaluation