

Lesson 1.3



Principles of UN Peacekeeping

Aim, Relevance and Learning Outcomes

Aim

To introduce the basic principles and success factors of UN peacekeeping and explain how to put them into practice.

Relevance

The **basic principles of UN peacekeeping** guide UN peacekeeping personnel. They provide you with an overview to help you do your work.

The basic principles and success factors are keys to successful UN peacekeeping. They are linked to and strengthen each other. Everyone involved in UN peacekeeping must know, understand and be able to apply them, whether in the field or at headquarters.

This lesson introduces the basic principles and success factors essential to UN peacekeeping. It explains what each means and how they apply to peacekeeping work.

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1.3 Principles of UN Peacekeeping 

Aim

- To introduce the basic principles and success factors of UN peacekeeping and explain how to put them into practice

Relevance

- The basic principles of UN peacekeeping guide UN peacekeeping personnel and provide navigational aid to help with your work
- The principles are linked and strengthen each other
- Everyone involved in UN peacekeeping must know, understand and be able to apply them in the field and at UNHQ

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Learning Outcomes

Learners will be able to:

1. Explain the basic principles of UN peacekeeping.
2. Describe the importance of legitimacy and credibility of peacekeeping missions and the consent of the parties to the conflict, and the roles of peacekeeping personnel to ensure and monitor ongoing consent and credibility.
3. Explain what national and local ownership mean and why they are essential to peacekeeping success.

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1.3 Principles of UN Peacekeeping 

Learning Outcomes

1. Explain the basic principles of UN peacekeeping.
2. Describe the importance of the legitimacy and credibility of peacekeeping missions and the consent of the parties to the conflict, and the roles of peacekeeping personnel to ensure and monitor ongoing consent and credibility.
3. Explain what national and local ownership mean and why they are essential to peacekeeping success.

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Lesson Map



Minimum lesson duration: 45 minutes (including learning activity 1.2.1).

Lesson at a Glance	Pages	Slides
Basic Principles of UN Peacekeeping	4-14	4-7
Required Learning Activity 1.3.1: Defining the Basic Principles of UN Peacekeeping	6	4
Other Success Factors	14-21	8-11
Lesson Closing	22	13
Handout – Summary of Key Messages	23-24	-

Optional Learning Activities	
Optional Learning Activity 1.3.2: Importance of Other Success Factors	<i>See 1.3 Learning Support</i>
Optional Learning Activity 1.3.3: Basic Principles and Success Factors (1)	
Optional Learning Activity 1.3.3: Basic Principles and Success Factors (2)	



Trainer Tips: See 1.3 Learning Support for tips on starting the lesson, learning activity instructions, optional learning activities, learning evaluation and references.

The Lesson



Trainer Tips: The **basic principles** and **success factors** are outlined in the *Principles and Guidelines on UN Peacekeeping Operations*, *usually often* called the *Capstone Doctrine*, released in 2008. Doctrine is policy which guides behaviour. The *Capstone Doctrine* sets out the highest level of policy for UN peacekeeping. Peacekeeping policy and practice evolve to respond to the changing realities of violent conflict and challenges to global peace and security. While no new doctrine on basic principles and success factors has been formally released since the *Capstone Doctrine*, Security Council resolutions and reports of the Secretary-General have continuously updated policy to meet new and evolving challenges.

- In 2023, the Secretary-General released the policy brief *A New Agenda for Peace*, part of *Our Common Agenda*.
- In 2018, the Secretary-General's *Initiative on Action for Peacekeeping* identified eight areas of improvement, agreed between the UN and more than 150 Member States. It was followed by the *Action for Peacekeeping + (Plus)* which set implementation priorities for 2021–2023.

These examples of contemporary policy add to and build on fundamental principles covered in this lesson.

Basic Principles of UN Peacekeeping

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1.3 Principles of UN Peacekeeping 

The Basic Principles of UN Peacekeeping

- Consent of the parties
- Impartiality
- Non-use of force, except in self-defence and defence of the mandate



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Three basic principles guide UN peacekeeping and reinforce each other:

- **Consent of the parties** to the conflict or war in question to having a UN peacekeeping mission deployed to the area.



Examples – Consent of the Parties

De-escalation in Ukraine

On 23 February 2022, the Secretary-General described the Minsk Agreements – the fragile peace process regulating the conflict in eastern Ukraine – as surviving “in an intensive care unit thanks to a number of life support devices”. The Secretary-General also flagged the need to preserve the integrity of peacekeeping, which he spelled out only takes place “with the consent of the host country”.

- **Impartiality** of the UN in a conflict is shown in the even-handed and unbiased contact with all parties to a conflict by a UN peacekeeping operation. In other words, the UN does not take sides.



Examples – Impartiality

Withdrawal of UN Mission from Mali

MINUSMA adapted to evolving developments on the ground and a host of logistical constraints beyond its control, driven by the imperative of the safety and security of peacekeepers. For example, a UN aircraft was shot at during landing. The UN noted that the withdrawal was carried out with full transparency and impartiality.



Key Message 1: The three basic principles of UN peacekeeping are:

- Consent of the parties to conflict to host a peacekeeping operation
- Impartiality of the UN in a conflict – the UN does not take sides
- Non-use of force, except in self-defence and defence of the mandate.

There are three basic principles of peacekeeping that continue to set UN peacekeeping operations apart as a tool for maintaining international peace and security. They apply to all peacekeepers in field operations or missions and at headquarters.

The principles apply to and mean the same in all types of peacekeeping operations:

- traditional
- multidimensional
- transitional authority.

They apply in all peacekeeping planning, implementation and conduct.

Required Learning Activity 1.3.1

Defining the Basic Principles of UN Peacekeeping	
Method:	Brainstorming, small groups, plenary discussion
Purpose:	To emphasize and reinforce the meaning and essential importance of the three basic principles of UN peacekeeping
Time:	10–12 minutes

See 1.3 Learning Support for instructions.

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1.3 Principles of UN Peacekeeping 

Required Learning Activity 1.3.1: Defining the Basic Principles of UN Peacekeeping

Purpose: To emphasize and reinforce the meaning and essential importance of the three basic principles of UN peacekeeping

Time: 12 minutes

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Consent

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1.3 Principles of UN Peacekeeping 

Consent

- **All UN peacekeeping operations deploy at least with the consent of the host authorities.**
- **What peacekeepers can do:**
 - Scan and analyse the peacekeeping environment
 - Learn about the host country, communities and customs
 - Report on the changing interests and motivation of parties
 - Build mutual respect and trust

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Key Message 2: Consent means permission for something to happen or agreement to do something. UN peacekeeping operations deploy with the consent of the main parties to a conflict, or at least with the consent of the national host authority.

The deployment of UN peacekeeping operations requires the consent of at least the host authorities. The rise of intra-State conflicts between different armed groups fighting each other and State forces has complicated the implementation of the principle of consent. The UN may not always be able to secure the consent for peacekeeping from some armed groups or interests.

Leading representatives or negotiators give the Security Council consent for a peacekeeping mission during the planning phase.

Consent ensures a mission has the political and physical freedom of action and support needed to carry out tasks detailed in its Security Council mandate. These are known as mandated tasks.

Security Council action **without the consent of the parties to a conflict** is typically a peace enforcement mission, rather than a peacekeeping mission.

Without consent, a UN peacekeeping operation risks becoming a party to the conflict itself. This goes against the second basic principle, **impartiality**. In some intra-State conflicts where the consent of only the host State is obtained, and not that of all parties involved, the UN may be seen to be supporting an illegitimate regime.

A host State or other party to a conflict may withdraw consent. A withdrawal of consent leads to changes in the international community's strategy. A withdrawal of consent by any of the parties challenges the legal basis for a peacekeeping operation. It may mean that the Security Council withdraws the operation.

Consent can be uncertain or unreliable. Parties to a conflict may block aspects of a peacekeeping mission's mandate because of a lack of trust.

Weak command and control systems within parties to a conflict may mean differences of opinion between central and local levels of command. Spoilers may be active. These are people who have an interest in disrupting a return to peace and security. They may be outside the control of main parties to a conflict.

Consent means more than signing an agreement of intent. It means helping to implement.



Examples – Withdrawal of Consent for UN Peacekeeping

Withdrawal of UN peacekeeping from Mali (2023)

In June 2023, the UN Security Council terminated the mandate of the Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) because the Malian transitional government withdrew its consent. The mission had been established in April 2013 with the consent of the Government at the time, to support political processes and carry out security-related tasks.



Examples – Withdrawal of Consent for UN Peacekeeping

Withdrawal of UN Peacekeeping from Ethiopia and Eritrea (2000)

In this example, a formal consent on paper was contradicted by a withdrawal of consent in reality:

The UN Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE) was established by the Security Council in July 2000. Its mandate was to monitor the cessation of hostilities that had been agreed to by the two countries. In July 2008, the Security Council terminated UNMEE's mandate in response to:

- An effective refusal of consent by the parties to the conflict
- Crippling freedom-of-movement restrictions imposed by Eritrea on UNMEE
- The cutting-off of fuel supplies.

The operation could not carry out its mandated tasks. The safety and security of UN personnel were at risk.



Key Message 3: Peacekeepers must watch for, be ready to prevent and communicate to key mission contacts any indications of loss of consent at local or national levels.

Consent of the parties to a conflict to the deployment of a peacekeeping operation does not mean consent exists at local or subregional levels. The parties to a conflict may be internally divided or have weak command and control structures.

Important work for all UN peacekeeping personnel is to continuously scan and analyse the peacekeeping environment for:

- Signs or indications of loss of consent
- Ways support and consent can be strengthened.

Peacekeeping personnel must also actively communicate any signs or indications of withdrawal of consent through their mission reporting channels. By sharing observations with the units in the mission that manage intelligence, peacekeeping personnel help the mission prevent any loss of consent at local, subregional and central levels.

How can peacekeeping personnel interpret local signals and watch for key indicators of ongoing consent?

- One way is by understanding the history, customs and culture in the area where the mission is taking place. Once they know to where they will be deployed, peacekeepers are encouraged to study the host country and its communities and customs.
- Another way to ensure continued consent is to build relationships with community members and organizations and to maintain open communication channels.

What are peacekeepers to do with observations of change in consent and support?

- Keeping their eyes open is a first step. Peacekeeping personnel must also continuously assess and report on the changing interests and motivation of involved parties, their supporters and community members.
- When peacekeepers work directly with community members to build mutual respect and trust, they contribute to sustainable peace.

Impartiality

Slide 6



1.3 Principles of UN Peacekeeping 

Impartiality

- **UN peacekeeping operations implement mandates without favour or prejudice.**
- **What peacekeepers can do:**
 - Build and keep good relations.
 - Avoid activities that may compromise the image of the mission.
 - A mission may take actions if a peacekeeping process is being undermined. Be prepared to explain the rationale for these actions to lessen possible backlash against the mission.

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Trainer Tips: *Impartiality is crucial to maintaining the consent and cooperation of the main parties to a conflict. The principle of impartiality supports the principle of consent. The two reinforce one another. Ask learners about the difference between impartiality and neutrality. Tell them that things will become clear as the lesson progresses.*

Impartiality does not mean doing nothing. Impartiality is different from inactivity or neutrality.

- Impartiality means a UN peacekeeping operation should have even-handed and unbiased contact with all parties to a conflict.
- UN actions should reflect the fair implementation of a mandate.
- UN peacekeepers should not be impartial in their dealings with the parties to the conflict and not neutral in the execution of their mandate.

A peacekeeping operation is similar to a good referee in a sports game, who punishes both sides equally when they break the rules. A peacekeeping operation cannot allow any actions that violate:

- The peace process or peace agreements
- International norms and principles upheld by a UN peacekeeping operation.

Impartiality does not necessarily mean that all parties are treated exactly the same at all times. In some cases, some local parties are obvious aggressors, victims or both. Their actions may contradict agreements and Charter principles, as well as mission standards. In such cases, victims will be treated differently from aggressors but impartiality will not be affected.

Peacekeeping personnel will have contact with humanitarian workers. Humanitarian work involves aid and action designed to save lives. Humanitarian work is guided by principles that use the same terms, impartiality and neutrality.

The meaning of impartiality is different for humanitarian actors. For organizations such as the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), impartiality means being guided solely by needs, providing humanitarian assistance without discrimination. No discrimination is made on the basis of nationality, race, gender, class or religious or political beliefs. Neutrality for humanitarian actors means to take no sides in hostilities, or engage in controversies of a political, racial, religious or ideological nature.

Differences in the definition and usage of this term may seem minor, but they are important because they help interpret mandates and determine actions in the field.



Trainer Tips: Tell learners that further details on the humanitarian principles (humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence) are covered in Lesson 2.1.



Key Message 4: A UN peacekeeping operation must be seen to be fair, open and transparent. This maintains the principle of **impartiality**. A mission has to:

- Build and keep good relations with all parties to the conflict and local community members
- Avoid all activities that might compromise the image of the mission as impartial.

A mission may decide to take action if a peacekeeping process is being undermined. The rationale for action must be well established and communicated. The mission needs to communicate to everyone why it has decided to take the actions it takes, and what evidence it used in its decision.

The goal of clear, open communication is to lessen possible backlash against the mission. The role of the strategic communications and public information unit (PIO) in the mission is critical at such times.

Non-Use of Force Except in Self-Defence and Defence of the Mandate

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1.3 Principles of UN Peacekeeping 

Non-Use of Force Except in Self-Defence & Defence of the Mandate

- **Security Council authorizes “all necessary means” to defend the mandate**
- **What peacekeepers can do**
 - Exercise restraint
 - Ensure use of force is precise, proportional and appropriate
 - Be mindful of the need for early de-escalation of violence and return to non-violent means of persuasion.
 - Know the rules of engagement (ROE) or directive on the use of force (DUF)

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Key Message 5: Force refers to the use of arms or weapons by armed personnel, military and police where applicable. Use of force has evolved to mean both lethal and non-lethal use of force.

Self-defence includes the right of an individual or group to defend itself if an armed attack occurs against a UN Member State. One aspect of changing peacekeeping conditions in recent decades is the increase in targeting of the UN. The initial principle was that UN peacekeeping operations always have the authority to use force in self-defence. The use of force is now also accepted in defence of the mandate.

An increasing emphasis on the need to protect civilians means many peacekeeping mandates include this task, for which the use of force may be necessary. Even with a mandate authorizing the use of force, a UN peacekeeping operation only uses force in a gradual manner.

Contemporary protection of civilians mandates tasks the UN with protecting civilians against violent attacks. Earlier mandates required such attacks to be imminent, but these restrictions are now often removed. This means that the mission is allowed to take proactive measures to neutralize attackers before they strike (including through lethal force, to the extent necessary and proportional).



Example – Recurrent Attacks

Where peacekeepers have been subject to recurrent attacks of a military nature, they do not have to wait until they are struck again before taking proactive defence measures. In missions such as MINUSMA, the mandate specifically authorized force to counter recurrent attacks. In other missions, the military can rely on the defence of the mandate authority to take proactive action.



Key Message 6: In any use of force, a peacekeeping operation must:

- Exercise restraint
- Ensure use of force is precise, proportional and appropriate to local context
- Be mindful of the need for early de-escalation of violence and return to non-violent means of persuasion.

Awareness of the wider environment and being able to interpret and respond to signs and information is part of personal survival as well as mission success.\

Many factors influence a decision about use of force:

- Political implications
- Mission capability
- Public perceptions: local, regional and international
- Humanitarian impact
- Force protection
- Safety and security of personnel
- Effect on national and local consent for the mission.

The use of force aims to influence and deter spoilers who work against the peace process or seek to harm civilians or UN personnel and property. The aim is not military defeat.

Peacekeepers should use as little force as possible to achieve the result they need, which is to maintain consent for the mission and its mandate.

Specific documents outline the use of force. All peacekeeping personnel must know:

- The mission-wide rules of engagement (ROE) for the military
- The directive on the use of force (DUF) for police components.

These two documents clarify:

- Different levels of force for different circumstances
- How each level of force is to be used
- Required authorizations.



Trainer Tips: The rules of engagement (ROE), directive on the use of force (DUF) and international humanitarian law together determine how force is to be used in support of a mission mandate. Details on these topics are covered in Lesson 1.4 Legal Framework for UN Peacekeeping.

Other Success Factors

Slide 8



1.3 Principles of UN Peacekeeping 

Other Success Factors

- Legitimacy
- Credibility
- Promotion of national and local ownership



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Key Message 7: Legitimacy, credibility and promotion of national and local ownership are additional factors critical to the success of peacekeeping operations.

Legitimacy

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1.3 Principles of UN Peacekeeping 

Other Success Factors: Legitimacy

- **UN peacekeeping operations have international legitimacy**
- **Quality and conduct of personnel can affect perceived legitimacy**
- **What peacekeepers can do**
 - Maintain high standards of professionalism, competence and integrity
 - Respect local customs, laws and the environment
 - Zero tolerance for any kind of sexual exploitation and abuse

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Key Message 8: To be legitimate means to be lawful, permitted or valid. A UN peacekeeping operation has international legitimacy because:

- It is based on the Charter and on international law
- It is popularly accepted by Member States.

The following facts help UN peacekeeping operations to be seen to have international legitimacy:

- The UN, Security Council and Secretary-General are committed to the principles and purposes of the Charter, as well as to international law
- The Security Council has the lead responsibility for global peace and security
- The Security Council issues a specific mandate for any peacekeeping operation
- Member States consent to deployment and contribute personnel, equipment and funding
- The Secretary-General – a recognized, impartial and well-respected international figure – directs peacekeeping operations.

The conduct of an operation influences how those on the ground perceive its legitimacy. Depending on the strength and fairness a mission applies in achieving its mandate, perceptions of legitimacy can change.

The quality and conduct of military, police and civilians linked to the mission can directly influence perceived legitimacy.



Key Message 9: The UN expects all peacekeeping personnel to act and behave to the highest standards. Behaviour must be consistent with the important responsibilities entrusted to a UN peacekeeping operation.

High standards include professionalism, competence and integrity.



Examples – Behaviour of conduct contributing to the perceived legitimacy of a peacekeeping operations

- High standards in implementing the mandate
- The use of force is proportional, gradual and within the rules laid out for it
- Zero tolerance for any kind of sexual exploitation and abuse, and other forms of serious misconduct
- The strong discipline imposed on personnel
- The high respect shown to local customs, cultural artefacts, institutions, laws, and the environment
- The decency with which local people are treated.

All peacekeeping personnel must be aware of the high standards of conduct expected of them. The UN has zero tolerance for any sexual exploitation and abuse or other serious misconduct.



Trainer Tips: *The issue of legitimacy will also be discussed in Module 3 in Lesson 3.2 Conduct and Discipline and in Lesson 3.3 Sexual Exploitation and Abuse. Remind learners about the definition of credibility from Lesson 1.1 (to be credible means to be believable and worthy of confidence and trust).*

Credibility

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1.3 Principles of UN Peacekeeping 

Other Success Factors: Credibility

- **Depends on achieving mandate**
- **Affected by the ability to manage and meet expectations**
- **What peacekeepers can do**
 - Contribute to mandate implementation
 - Remain confident, capable and unified
 - Manage expectations - avoid making false or unrealistic promises to local communities

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Key Message 10: To be **credible** means to be believable and worthy of confidence and trust. The credibility of a UN peacekeeping operation depends on the belief that the mission can achieve its mandate. Credibility can depend on how capable and effective the mission is at managing and meeting the expectations of the international and local communities.

UN peacekeeping occurs in volatile, highly tense and difficult environments. Lawlessness and insecurity may be widespread at local levels. Spoilers and those who want to exploit the political and security vacuum will find opportunities. The UN peacekeeping operation may threaten some interests. The mission is likely to be face challenges that will show any weakness and division present.

To achieve and maintain its credibility, the mission requires:

- A clear mandate that can be achieved
- Resources and capabilities to match the mandate
- A sound mission plan
- Clear communications about the plan
- Impartial and effective implementation at all levels.

Local people have high expectations for a UN peacekeeping operation. They believe it will address their most pressing needs. The ability to manage these expectations over the course of a peacekeeping operation affects mission credibility.

Credibility, once lost, is hard to regain. A mission with low credibility becomes marginalized or insignificant and ineffective. Consent may erode. Legitimacy may be seen as weak or frayed. Critics, opponents and spoilers may exploit points of weakness.

Loss of credibility may directly affect personnel morale, further eroding mission effectiveness. **Mission success requires that credibility is maintained.**



Trainer Tips: Ask learners how they can contribute to the credibility of the mission. What does being "believable and worthy of confidence and trust" mean to them as individual peacekeepers?



Key Message 11: The mission and all personnel must work to implement the mandate, and must always maintain a confident, capable and unified posture. The mission must be able to manage the expectations of the local population.

Mission mandates may be influenced by politics in the Security Council. Deployment of personnel or equipment can take longer than expected. This increases the importance of all peacekeeping personnel working together, supporting each other's work.

Managing expectations means that every peacekeeping personnel member must be careful to avoid making false or unrealistic promises to local communities. Good intentions can backfire. A perceived failure to meet expectations, even unrealistic ones, may lead to dissatisfaction or active opposition.

Promotion of National and Local Ownership

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1.3 Principles of UN Peacekeeping 

Other Success Factors: Promotion of National and Local Ownership

- **Inclusive and consultative processes**
- **Reflects local and national perspectives**
- **Includes representatives of all members of society**
- **What peacekeepers can do**
 - Respect national sovereignty
 - Support and build national capacity
 - Build trust and cooperation
 - Be sensitive to local needs and perspectives

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Key Message 12: National and local ownership refers to inclusive and consultative processes based on the perspectives, priorities and vision of the local stakeholders in the host country. It is grounded in the belief that building sustainable peace requires active engagement of local actors at all levels.

A UN peacekeeping mission cannot want stability and peace more than the local people and national partners do. Building sustainable peace cannot be solely an outside activity applied by international parties as the primary actors.

The UN is committed to national and local ownership of the peace process. National and local ownership is essential to peacekeeping success because it:

- Reinforces the perceived legitimacy of the mission
- Is critical to the successful implementation of a peace process or peace agreement, which the mission mandate supports
- Helps ensure the sustainability of peacebuilding after the mission has withdrawn.

Promoting national and local ownership involves:

- Including local and national perspectives on needs and the best solutions
- Nurturing national capacity (a country's ability to successfully govern itself) to re-emerge quickly from conflict to lead critical political and development processes.

National and local ownership must be representative of all members of the society.

This requires reaching out to all parts of a country and community, not just engaging with those in power or those who have guns.

- Engaging people in marginal or vulnerable groups may require a targeted effort.



Example

- Women as a group of people who are typically excluded in a society, children, particular ethnic or religious groups, the elderly and people living with disabilities.

A multidimensional UN peacekeeping operation may have to perform important State functions in the short term.



Example

- Provision of security and maintenance of public order by the military and police.

These functions are to be done in a consultative way, building or reinforcing national and local capacity for military, police and civilian functions. Local people will take over the work when the peacekeeping operation withdraws, in some cases supported by other actors, including members of the UN Country Team (UNCT).



Key Message 13: Peacekeeping personnel are to make every effort to promote national and local ownership. Each stage of planning and mission activity presents opportunities.

Peacekeeping missions must be aware of and respect national sovereignty.

All peacekeeping personnel must be sensitive to local needs and perspectives. A real understanding of the hopes of the entire local population involves recognizing all opinions and views, as well as a strong understanding of the political and wider socioeconomic context.

Peacekeeping personnel must be aware of existing national capacity and work to support and build it. A mission should avoid pushing out people who are already performing a task in an area or country.

As legitimate and capable government structures grow, the role of international actors quickly shrinks. The mission must allow people from the country to lead critical processes and State functions. For example, they should lead the army and police force and provide security and public order.

All peacekeeping personnel must make every effort to build trust and cooperation with local and national actors. This inclusive and collaborative approach is critical to mission success. Peacekeeping operations are better able to pass on a mission's tasks to local people and institutions when they have built strong relationships through working together closely.

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1.3 Principles of UN Peacekeeping 

Actions to Consider

- Talk to people in all parts of society
- Do not ignore marginal or vulnerable people
- Be in touch with local officials, women's associations, youth and student groups, etc.
- Build knowledge of local history, cultures and values
- Ask for feedback and support mission surveys of client satisfaction

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Peacekeeping personnel can also consider the following actions:

- Talk to people in all parts of society. Consult with them on their needs and how the mission's work can improve lives. Relay that information back through mission communication channels.
- Do not ignore marginal and vulnerable people. Make special efforts to hear their views.
- Be in touch with local officials, non-governmental organizations, different political parties, women's associations, youth and student groups and groups for minorities and the elderly. All opinions and views need to be heard and understood in an open, transparent process. Make sure no group feels left out or discriminated against. Discrimination and exclusion may be part of the grievances that contributed to violent conflict in the past.
- Steadily build their own knowledge of local history, cultures and values. This knowledge is a critical tool in support of national and local ownership. When people feel their culture is recognized and valued, their self-respect and confidence increase.
- Informally ask for feedback and support surveys of client satisfaction with the peacekeeping mission and its work, keeping open communication lines with partners.

Lesson Closing

Slide 13



Trainer Tips: *If you have time, summarize the lesson, recalling the aim and learning objectives. Mention that the key messages support the learning objectives. Ask participants if they have questions. Ensure you distribute the Handout – Summary of Key Messages to all participants.*

Handout - Summary of Key Messages

Key Message 1: The three basic principles of UN peacekeeping are:

- Consent of the parties to conflict to host a peacekeeping operation
- Impartiality of the UN in a conflict – the UN does not take sides
- Non-use of force, except in self-defence and defence of the mandate

Key Message 2: Consent means permission for something to happen or agreement to do something. UN peacekeeping operations deploy with the consent of the main parties to a conflict, or at least with the consent of the national host authority.

Key Message 3: Peacekeepers must watch for, be ready to prevent and communicate to key mission contacts any indications of loss of consent at local or national levels.

Key Message 4: A UN peacekeeping operation must be seen to be fair, open and transparent. This maintains the principle of **impartiality**. A mission has to:

- Build and keep good relations with all parties to the conflict and local community members
- Avoid all activities that might compromise the image of the mission as impartial

Key Message 5: Force refers to the use of arms or weapons by armed personnel, military and police where applicable. Use of force has evolved to mean both lethal and non-lethal use of force.

Key Message 6: In any use of force, a peacekeeping operation must:

- Exercise restraint
- Ensure use of force is precise, proportional and appropriate to local context
- Be mindful of the need for early de-escalation of violence and return to non-violent means of persuasion

Key Message 7: Legitimacy, credibility and promotion of national and local ownership are additional factors critical to the success of peacekeeping operations.

Key Message 8: To be **legitimate** means to be lawful, permitted or valid. A UN peacekeeping operation has international legitimacy because:

- It is based on the Charter and on international law
- It is popularly accepted by Member States

Key Message 9: The UN expects all peacekeeping personnel to act and behave to the highest standards. Behaviour must be consistent with the important responsibilities entrusted to a UN peacekeeping operation.

Key Message 10: To be **credible** means to be believable and worthy of confidence and trust. The credibility of a UN peacekeeping operation depends on the belief that the mission can achieve its mandate. Credibility can depend on how capable and effective the mission is at managing and meeting the expectations of the international and local communities.

Key Message 11: The mission and all personnel must work to implement the mandate, and must always maintain a confident, capable and unified posture. The mission must be able to manage the expectations of the local population.

Key Message 12: National and local ownership refers to inclusive and consultative processes based on the perspectives, priorities and vision of the local stakeholders in the host country. It is grounded in the belief that building sustainable peace requires active engagement of local actors at all levels.

Key Message 13: Peacekeeping personnel are to make every effort to promote national and local ownership. Each stage of planning and mission activity presents opportunities.