

Participation of the Armed Forces in the International Operations

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Having proclaimed its non-aligned status, Ukraine became a new kind of participant of the European geopolitical scene. This study aims at describing how the peacebuilding process was understood and implemented in the past and how it is applied today. It also provides detailed description of the participation of Ukrainian military and civilian personnel in peacekeeping missions around the world describing it from the political and technical perspective. The author also projects the future Ukrainian contribution to those missions.

Ukraine is an active participant in United Nations efforts on maintaining international peace and security. During twenty years of independence, over 34 thousand Ukrainian soldiers and police officers have carried out a peacekeeping mission in more than twenty operations under the UN mandate.

Ukraine is a committed supporter of UN peacekeeping reform to strengthen its capacity and eliminate the existing shortcomings.

Priority attention should be paid to ensure air mobility of UN peacekeeping operations, and improve the legal protection of “blue helmets”².

President of Ukraine Viktor Yanukovich

The proclamation by Ukraine in July 2010 of its non-aligned status led to the appearance of a fundamentally new geopolitical player in the European continent. Although this policy excludes the participation of Ukraine in military–political alliances and significantly reduces the possibility of using armed forces in “external fields”, but also it defines “... the priority of participation in the implementation and development of European security, continuation of a constructive partnership with NATO, as well as

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² Speech by President of Ukraine Viktor Yanukovich at the General Debate of the 66th session of UN General Assembly, <http://www.president.gov.ua/news/21273.html>

other military-political blocs on all issues of mutual interest ...” senior officials have repeatedly insisted that the new security strategy should not cause withdrawal or passivity in all possible formats of national security – Ukraine is interested in preserving and enhancing the positive achievements of cooperation in the security field with foreign countries, international organizations and associations. From this point of view, active participation of the Ukrainian State in peacemaking is a traditional policy, to the development of which much attention will be paid.

However, this contribution to global and regional stability, in our opinion, should not be limited to purely technological aspects of peacekeeping and requires consideration of a wider range of factors such as analysis of current conflict trends, reviewing of scientific assessments of the peacekeeping phenomenon, identifying major peacekeeping formats, making forecasts of further development of these activities, etc.

Peacekeeping – an external dimension

Modern peacemaking is the product of (and, to some extent, one of the features of) the so-called Yalta-Potsdam (bipolar) system of international relations. But this specified world order format has ceased to exist with the collapse of the Soviet Union. After 1991 there have been many international meetings, which created many of the universal instruments but their implementation has not formed a new self-sufficient consensus – various subjects of security relations constantly accused each other of selectivity, double standards and imbalances in interpretation of international obligations. In practice, this caused the erosion of many legal and moral standards in the second half of the twentieth century, such as the inviolability of borders and territory, the right of peoples to self-determination, inviolability of inalienable human rights and so on. Therefore, in our opinion, the reduction of consistency and growth of situativity in international relations is the first factor that has made a significant impact on the further development of the phenomenon of peacekeeping.

The second factor is defined by the discussion that unfolded around the crisis of the institution of the state as a form of human communities’ self-organization, which is also a consequence of the post-bipolar development, since absence of clear universal rules stimulates an identity crisis. Many countries are unable to provide traditional public functions, such

as a monopoly on violence/coercion; provision of such services as education, health, infrastructure, ensuring political order. At this stage, it is not just about putting into circulation the concept of state disability – currently three groups are classified (weak, failing and failed/collapsed) and some 60 countries³ have already been rated by their degree of disability. In addition, a broad debate goes on about the optimization of the state that finds expression in modernization and reformist discourse, which is declared by officials of certain states. The last essential element that provides the review of the place and role of the state in existence in society, is a number of recent trends such as the rapid growth of the Earth's population, increasing importance of religious and ethnic factors in international relations, the lack of a sustainable balance between the development processes of globalization and the actualization of national identities (especially – in the multi-ethnic countries) and more.

The third factor that impacts the peacekeeping is constant national security doctrine reviewing. Since the end of World War II theoretical researches in this area developed constantly under different political schools, such as realist, constructivist, peace studies, human security, critical studies, etc. In practice, this meant a change of emphasis in such fundamental categories as power (where “hard” military components are supplemented by “soft” impacts), subjectivity (variations in the triangle “state-interstate-non-state”), the degree of rationality/anarchism and so on. Phenomena of conflict in international relations evolved – first of all, the phenomenon of war, which currently has a tendency to localization, minimization and support of military action by non-military means (information and economic). Inner-state military conflicts have become the main source of violence and instability. The number of so-called “new challenges, risks and threats” is constantly growing – nowadays traditional terrorism, transnational organized crime and drug trafficking can already be complemented by “currency wars” and “passport expansions.”

Although in recent years the regulatory and institutional capacities changed radically, the question of their adequacy and effectiveness in ensuring security remains open.

³ See, for example, „List of countries by Failed States Index”, http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_countries_by_Failed_States_Index or „Failed States Index 2011”, <http://www.fundforpeace.org/global/library/cr-11-14-fs-failedstatesindex2011-1106q.pdf>

The main features of the peacekeeping evolution

Fundamental changes in the global security environment have led to the evolution of peacekeeping, which is supplemented by such – often equivalent and interchangeable – concepts like “peace enforcement”, “peacebuilding”, “humanitarian intervention” and “responsibility to protect”.

We opine that, one of the most important was the concept of peacebuilding. The appearance of this term is associated with the activities of the UN Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, who in his “Agenda for Peace” spoke about creating a new environment, not only relating to termination of hostilities but with methods of traditional peacekeeping⁴.

The idea was promoted by politicians and scholars. Regarding a definition of peacebuilding goals the majority agreed with Boutros-Ghali, that priority should be given to the prevention of recurrence of conflict – in the discussion on “negative peace” the absence of armed conflict was supplemented by “positive peace”, which meant establishment of a public dialogue, the transformation of values and restoration of the rule of law.

Such important aspects as peacebuilding strategy and related activities were also researched actively. “Minimalists”⁵ believe that peacebuilding refers to the root causes of conflict, which is an anticipated event and could be monitored by peaceful means. In contrast “maximalists”⁶ believe that peacebuilding strategy should be aimed at the neutralization of the political will of the conflicting parties to use violence.

Peacebuilding-related activities should be aimed at changing the position of the principles of the key conflict stakeholders, which includes the priority of economic development and the protection of the inalienable rights of man and the citizen.

In contrast to traditional peacekeeping, some changes to the chronological aspects of peacebuilding have been made – primarily through pre-

⁴ Boutros-Ghali, B., *An Agenda for Peace*, 2nd edn, New York: United Nations, 1995

⁵ Cockell, J., *Conceptualising Peacebuilding: Human Security and Sustainable Peace*, in: M. Pugh (ed.) *Regeneration of War-Torn Societies*, London: Macmillan, 2000, pp. 15-34; Doyle, M. and Sambanis, N., *International Peacebuilding: a Theoretical and Quantitative Analysis*, *American Political Science Review* 94, 2000, pp. 779-802; Cousens, E., Introduction, in: E. Cousens and C. Kumar, with K. Wermester (eds.) *Peacebuilding as Politics: Cultivating Peace in Fragile Societies*. Boulder, CO: Lynne Rienner Publishers, 2001, pp. 1-20

⁶ Most, B. and Starr, H., *Inquiry, Logic, and International Politics*. Columbia, SC: University of South Carolina Press, 1989

ventive diplomacy, which must precede critical outbreaks of violence⁷. In addition, peacebuilding takes place after the failure of preventive actions and traditional peacekeeping. In general, the entire conflict period coverage is the only difference between the peacekeeping and post-conflict peace settlement.

In terms of participants, external parties play a major or even exclusive role in peacebuilding processes⁸. External forces' involvement is often based on primarily altruistic motives that contain a specific ideological load – promotion of liberal values, protection of democracy, development of capitalist relations, etc.)

Mr. Boutros-Ghali⁹ drew attention to the need to consider the nature of conflict: inter- or intrastate. Practice shows that peacebuilding has a place in cases when public disputes develop into civil war, a significant inter-ethnic conflict or even into degradation of the state.

In the context of evaluating the appearance of peacebuilding causes, it is possible now to distinguish two interrelated approaches. First – the normative – based on the fact that liberal ideology is the driving force of the peacebuilding operations¹⁰. Promoting democracy and opening national markets represent attempts to transform some states so that they become peaceful and productive members of the international community. From this point of view peacebuilding is understood as a set of measures aimed at the peaceful settlement of conflicts. “Normativity” consists in the possibility of a global liberal consensus only after the end of the Cold War.

The other approach generally recognizes global democratization as a key element, but places greater emphasis on the importance of international humanitarian law. In accordance with this concept “transformation priorities” have been made, which consist of increasing the value of individual and human rights as far as the legitimacy of government action towards its citizens and a simultaneous decrease in the value of state sovereignty¹¹. In practice,

⁷ Lund, M., *Preventing Violent Conflicts: A Strategy for Preventive Diplomacy*, Washington, DC: United States Institute of Peace Press, 1996

⁸ Pugh, M., Introduction: The Ownership of Regeneration and Peacebuilding, in: M. Pugh (ed.) *Regeneration of War-Torn Societies*, London: Macmillan, 2000, pp. 1-12

⁹ Boutros-Ghali, B., *An Agenda for Peace*. 2nd edn. New York: United Nations, 1995

¹⁰ Paris, R., *At War's End: Building Peace After Civil Conflict*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2004

¹¹ Talentino, A., One Step Forward, One Step Back: The Development of Peacebuilding as Concept and Strategy, *Journal of Conflict Studies* 25, 2004, pp. 33-60; Finnemore, M., *The Purpose of Intervention: Changing Beliefs About the Use of Force*, Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 2003

this was manifested in the appearance of so-called “humanitarian intervention” by which the international community (often – only part of it) has been trying to stop the violent actions of some governments against their people.

Humanitarian intervention can overcome typical operational shortcomings of traditional UN peacekeeping, such as:

- Occasionally inadequate supplies of resources and doctrinal support (preparation and training of personnel, logistics, lack of heavy weapons and equipment, etc.);
- Organizational gaps and lengthiness in time between the crises and the reactions;
- Weak support from intelligence;
- Excessive competition between military and non-governmental participants of peacekeeping operations.

At the same time, it should be noted that the concept of “humanitarian intervention” from the positions of universal international law has ambiguous justification (unlike the UN traditional peacekeeping, which is clearly resolved in the Charter of this Organization). In our opinion, in this case we can talk more about its political, ethical or moralistic nature. For this reason, this concept of peacekeeping is the most discussed.

New trends in peacekeeping formats

It is clear that all the innovations in peacekeeping are associated with certain international organizations and associations, whose authority and role in the global world processes largely determine the universal legitimacy of conducted peacekeeping operations. The most important modern contributors to peacekeeping are the UN, NATO and the EU. However, in our opinion, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) deserves special attention, because its activity in the area of peacekeeping has some unique characteristics.

In our opinion, OSCE operations impact on the phenomenon of peacekeeping in two interrelated directions. The first is the formation of standards and ideology of regional security, which is reflected in: territorial and functional universality of the Organization’s competence, the ten principles of the Helsinki Final Act 1975, declaring cooperation as a fundamental principle of relations, indivisibility of security, and more. From this perspective, we can talk about further development of some platform supporting the UN.

The second concerns peacekeeping. Historically, among the three Organization's "baskets", the biggest attention was paid to the development of the humanitarian component. Another feature is the preference for peacekeeping related tasks, such as border patrolling or verification work. The third feature of the OSCE involvement in peacekeeping operations can be considered a specialization in post-conflict rehabilitation (thus the term "post-conflict" does not involve a formal separation of such components as "conflict management", "conflict resolution" and "rehabilitation activities").

Key aspects of post-conflict rehabilitation of the OSCE are:

- Military stabilization through promoting confidence and security building measures;
- Assistance in the disarmament executed by parties to the conflict;
- Restoring democratic governance;
- Restoring the rule of law;
- Assistance in the recovery mechanisms of democratic elections.

In general, considering the criterion of a realization format (contributing organization, priorities of peacekeeping activities and observance of legal procedures), at least three stable types of peacekeeping can be distinguished:

- Universal (UN);
- Cooperative (OSCE);
- Collective (NATO and the EU).

In our opinion, now a ground has been forming for "allied" peacekeeping, which is associated with humanitarian interventions held usually by situational (ad hoc) state alliances. To this group can also be imputed the intention of forming a Collective Security Treaty Organization to develop future peacekeeping activities already stated and partially implemented at a regulatory and institutional level.

Ukrainian peacekeeping today

The question of participation of Ukrainian peacekeeping contingents and personnel is regulated by several legal acts, including:

- The Law of Ukraine on Participation in International Peacekeeping Operations (No. 613-XIV of 23 April 1999);
- The Law of Ukraine on the Procedure of Sending Armed Forces' Units to Other States (No. 1518-III of 2 March 2000);

- The Decree of the President of Ukraine on the Procedure of Consideration of the Proposals about the Participation of Ukraine in International Peacekeeping Operations (No. 153 of 1 February 2000);
- The Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine on Some Questions of Maintenance of Peacekeeping Contingents and Personnel financed by Costs of State Budget (No. 401 of 30 March 2006);
- The Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine on the Adoption of the Procedure of the Material, Technical and Financial Provisions of the Peacekeeping Contingent and Personnel, which Participates in International Peacekeeping Operations (No. 963 of 11 July 2002);
- The Decree of the President of Ukraine on the Adoption of the Strategy of International Peacekeeping Activity of Ukraine (No. 435 of 15 June 2009);
- The Law of Ukraine on the Ratification of the Agreement between the European Union and Ukraine Establishing a Framework for the Participation of Ukraine in the European Union Crisis Management Operations (No 137-VI of 6 March 2008) and so on.

The Strategy of international peacekeeping activities of Ukraine approved the Decree of the President of Ukraine No 435 of 15 June 2009, and defined for the first time at the state level the tasks, conditions and prospects of Ukraine's participation in international peacekeeping operations.

Considering its non-aligned foreign policy, peacekeeping activation allows Ukraine to become an influential player in international security and stability issues, deepening relationships in the defense field with key foreign partners, to promote national economic interests in the regions where operations are conducted, while enhancing the combat readiness of the Armed Forces of Ukraine and their training personnel.

Since 1992, Ukraine has directed peacekeeping and national contingents, and military and police observers, and staff officers, and has provided material and technical recourses and participated in over 20 peacekeeping operations under the auspices of the United Nations (UN peacekeeping), several OSCE peacekeeping operations, the EU Police Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the multinational forces in Kosovo (KFOR) the NATO Training Mission in Iraq, the International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan, the NATO antiterrorist operation "Active Endeavour" in the Mediterranean, the EU naval operation "Atalanta" to combat piracy off the Somali coast and within the joint peacekeeping forces in the security zone of the Transdnestrrian region of Moldova.

In the context of the above-mentioned trends in the field of peacekeeping and the analysis of practical experience in international operations of restoration and maintaining peace and stability the following conclusions can be made:

1. Ukraine's participation in UN activities in the maintenance of international peace and security, that arises from Ukraine's commitments under the UN Charter, as well as collective efforts to ensure peace, security and stability in the formats of the OSCE, NATO and the EU have become an integral part of defending our country's national interests in the international arena and an important factor in foreign policy.

2. Involvement in peacekeeping operations, including the UN, brings powerful multidimensional positive military-political and political-economic dividends:

- Strengthening the international authority of Ukraine as a reliable, predictable and responsible partner that fulfills its international obligations;
- A practical course of European integration and development of constructive cooperation between Ukraine and NATO, as the majority of countries with which Ukraine is jointly involved in the operations are both EU and NATO members as well as strategic partners of our country;
- Creating favorable conditions and a climate for the realization of national economic and political interests in the region of operation;
- Servicemen of the Armed Forces of Ukraine and the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine employees get valuable professional experience during participation in multinational peacekeeping and crisis management operations, and they also maintain a high combat readiness and training level;
- Additional financial resources the state budget received as compensation payments for the participation and providing peacekeeping personnel in UN missions;
- Promotion of mutually beneficial cooperation with Euro-Atlantic and European security structures;
- Promotion of reform processes of the Armed Forces of Ukraine and the transformation of the training system of the above-mentioned capabilities, the development of military infrastructure;
- Increasing the interoperability of certain capabilities and improving the expeditionary capability of the Armed Forces of Ukraine.

3. Credibility, gained by Ukraine in UN peacekeeping activity, is a useful political and diplomatic leverage for defending the national interests of our

country in the UN and the Secretariat of the Organization. In particular, this factor played a significant role in Ukraine becoming a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council for the term 2000-2001, and will be a key element of our campaign during the election to the UN Security Council for the period 2016-2017.

4. During the “evolutionary selection”, Ukraine consolidated leadership positions in UN peacekeeping operations in provisional capabilities of military transport helicopters, which are a critically important element of the successful completion of UN missions mandate tasks in a number of strategically important regions. Considering the urgent need of permanent UN peacekeeping operations for this type of aircraft, the so-called “helicopter specialization” of Ukraine provides additional leverage to strengthen our country’s position in the UN. This factor has contributed to launching a joint initiative to expand the involvement of material and technical assistance from the Organization to improve the peacekeeping capacity of Ukraine (primarily, to modernize the domestic helicopters’ fleet and to train flight and technical staff, one of the elements of which should be a pilot project to restore 10 Ukrainian Mi-8T and to prepare the crew).

5. In February 1994, Ukraine declared its readiness to participate in United Nations standby arrangements to improve the UN operative system reaction to crises – the mechanism by which some of the troops, entered into the system, are in readiness in their territory and can be sent to a particular mission after the UN Secretariat’s corresponding request. Since then, Ukraine has been incorporated with the member countries of the mentioned mechanism. In August 1997 a Memorandum of understanding was signed between the UN Secretariat and Ukraine about particular resources given by our country to be disposed by the above-mentioned system (airborne-commando battalion, transport aviation squadron, a group of military observers, staff officers and military police).

6. Consolidation of our state’s status as an important contributor to UN peacekeeping activity was supported by active political and diplomatic actions:

- In 2002 the UN General Assembly approved unanimously a resolution contributed by the delegation of Ukraine, which proclaimed May 29 the International Day of Peacekeeping;
- Following Ukrainian initiative, on 7 November 2008, the UN General Assembly endorsed a Declaration on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of UN peacekeeping (almost 100 countries were co-authors);

- During its 64th session the UN General Assembly approved unanimously the initiative of Ukraine to review the system of compensation provided by the Organization to the countries supplying military helicopters to UN peacekeeping operations.

7. In accordance with its national interests, Ukraine is involved in the ongoing process of fundamental reform of the UN peacekeeping mechanism to enhance its effectiveness based on a conceptual document of the UN Secretariat “New Horizons” as an agenda of reforming the entire system of UN peacekeeping in the short and long term. Supported by the delegation of Ukraine, it is gradually implementing the recommendations of the UN Secretariat to improve interaction in the triangle of the UN Security Council – the country-contributor – the UN Secretariat, to strengthen measures of ensuring the peacekeepers’ safety, as well as for more active involvement of supplier countries in the implementation of peacekeeping operations in all phases of conducting, from planning to completing peacebuilding. As a member of the UN Security Council in 2000-2001, Ukraine took an active part in implementing a number of constructive forms of consultation and cooperation between Belarus, supplier countries and the UN Secretariat.

8. Ukraine has made a significant contribution to the international legal framework improving the ensuring of an appropriate level of protection and security of UN peacekeeping operations:

- In 1994 Ukraine initiated the development of the Convention on the Safety of UN and Associated Personnel and in July 1995 was one of the first member states to ratify it;
- During the 64th session of the UN General Assembly our state got unanimous recognition by the Member States for its call for the need to expand the rights and legal protection of the peacekeeping personnel participating UN peacekeeping missions;
- The president of Ukraine Viktor Yanukovich in his speech at the general debate of the 65th session of the UN General Assembly welcomed consensus support of the Ukrainian initiative and called the UN to further improve the legal protection of “blue helmets”.

9. Organization of training in Ukraine for the international peacekeeping personnel with the assistance of the Organization’s instructors and on the basis of standardized training modules developed by the UN was allocated as a separate field of interaction Ukraine-UN. As a result of a successful international course for UN military observers at the Yavoriv Training Centre, the experts of the Organization certified a training course for

officers of multinational staffs at the National Defence Academy of Ukraine in accordance with UN standards of training.

10. At all interaction levels with the United Nations, the UN Secretariat and the permanent members of the UN Security Council, Ukraine took the issue of peacekeeping as one of the priority sites. Amid high assessments of Ukraine's contribution to UN efforts in maintaining or restoring international peace and security it is recognized that the level of Ukrainian peacekeeping troops and personnel, maintenance of weapons, technology and logistics, as well as the moral-psychological state of the personnel afford to perform effectively peacekeeping tasks. As a result, Ukraine periodically receives addresses from the UN Secretariat to expand participation in peacekeeping operations as well as regular requests from the management of field missions to the UN Secretariat about the extension of Ukrainian "blue helmets" assignments.

11. Most incidents involving Ukrainian peacekeepers happened under circumstances independent of the UN and not related to their official tasks. Analysis of losses among the personnel of Ukrainian peacekeepers (about 30 people), which Ukraine has suffered since 1992 while participating in operations of the UN peacekeeping shows that the predominant majority of them were related to the violation of safety rules and discipline and to the lack of psychological preparation of some staff members. In this context, the UN Secretariat appreciates the serious attitude and purposeful measures taken by the Ukrainian side at various levels in order to correct deficiencies.

12. Due to the involvement of Ukraine in the UN operations in different regions of the world, UN peacekeeping channels are used actively by the Ukrainian side for urgent assistance to the citizens of Ukraine that were in trouble in the areas of instability.

13. Due to the significant contribution of Ukraine to the UN peacekeeping efforts, our state is represented in the appropriate structural units of the UN Secretariat – the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Field Support (eight members including current and former officers of the Ministry of Defence and the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine).

Priorities for the future

As mentioned above, the active participation in peacekeeping operations is the traditional policy of Ukraine and non-aligned status won't make

a radical impact on this priority. In the near future, the attention of the government will be paid to the following areas in order to strengthen the peacekeeping capacity of Ukraine:

1. Focus on implementation of political agreements between Ukraine and the UN achieved at the highest levels relating to the geographical expansion of our country's participation in the United Nations' peacekeeping operations, primarily by sending aircraft detachments. In the short term: Ukrainian helicopter unit (four Mi-24s) to the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO), the deployment of a police contingent in the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH), sending Ukrainian officers to a Slovak military contingent in the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP).

2. Participation in peacekeeping operations and NATO missions undertaken under the UN Security Council mandate, and also examining opportunities to expand participation in EU-led operations, for financial and resource support of such participation.

3. Developing clear internal mechanisms and identifying the specific ways of implementing the Strategy of international peacekeeping activities of Ukraine approved by the Decree No. 435 of the President of Ukraine of 15 June 2009. In particular, it is proposed to take steps to review and to optimize (simplify) the internal decision-making system in the field of peacekeeping and also to improve certain legal aspects that regulate the submission and participation of Ukrainian contingents and personnel in UN peacekeeping operations and other peacebuilding collective efforts. As a result, this will narrow down the timing of the request to the UN Secretariat, the OSCE, the EU and NATO and it will also ensure readiness to deploy timely national contingents, peacekeeping personnel, and to provide material and technical resources and services.

4. Creating a system of targeted funding of international peacekeeping activities by directing revenues for participating in UN missions in the budget of the Ministry of Defence of Ukraine (regarding participation of formed police units – the budget of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine) for their intended use to provide training, maintenance and rotation of peacekeeping staff and personnel. Formation of the targeted reserve funds within the state budget for the preparation and submission of new peacekeeping troops, in case of complaints regarding the participation in the operation and the adoption of political decisions, reduced to the maximum terms of inter-agency coordination and practical implementation of relevant decisions.

5. The introduction of innovative forms of participation of Ukraine in United Nations peacekeeping activities, in particular by expanding the practice of engaging in projects initiated by our state with the intermittent support of the UN; the formation of joint multinational troop units with international partners; the deployment of Ukrainian units in fields of engineering (extraction and water treatment, infrastructure missions), medicine, mine-clearance and others; sending Ukrainian officers to the foreign contingents in UN peacekeeping operations to consolidate and expand participation in them.

6. Strengthening political and diplomatic support for the peacemaking activities of Ukraine by ensuring the active participation of our country in the relevant UN mechanisms, in particular – the Special Committee of the UN on peacekeeping, the UN General Assembly Fourth Committee (Special Political Affairs), in case of Ukraine's election to the UN Security Council for the period 2016-2017 – also in the Security Council Working Group on peacekeeping operations, the Working Group on contingent assets, and others.

7. Development of an information-image program to cover the activity of contingents and personnel of the Armed Forces of Ukraine and the staff of the Ministry of Internal Affairs within the peacekeeping operations of the UN to consolidate for Ukraine the status of active and effective contributor to international peacekeeping efforts and to strengthen the positive reputation of Ukraine in the world.

8. Improvement of the national participants' selection system in UN peacekeeping operations, in particular by raising the relevant criteria and requirements for them, including partly the physical and psychological indicators and knowledge of foreign languages, and norms of legal accountability for adherence to the UN code of conduct in order to minimize the number of disciplinary violations and the number of casualties among Ukrainian peacekeepers due to accidents.

9. Increasing dynamics of Ukraine's cooperation with the UN Secretariat in order to prepare in Ukraine international peacekeeping personnel on the basis of standardized training modules developed by the UN.

10. Expanding representation of our country in the structural units of the UN Secretariat, primarily – the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Field Support, and in field missions.

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