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Guiding package

Topic (3): Combating extremism and armed conflicts in the developing countries through the promotion of sustainable peace and security

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1. **Abstract**

 “Saving succeeding generations from the scourge of war”[[1]](#footnote-0) was the main motivation for the creation of the United Nations in 1945 after two world wars. It has targeted peace and security as one of its main goals. The UN over the past years intervened in many conflicts to prevent them from escalating into wars. On the 29th of May 1948, the first UN peacekeeping mission was officially authorized. The blue helmets were firstly deployed during the 1948 Arab-israeli war[[2]](#footnote-1). At the present time, over 110,000 military personnel contribute in the UN peacekeeping operations in order to promote enduring and sustainable peace in regions where war may potentially occur and in societies that just came out from wars. The investment in lasting peace is shown through the improvement of infrastructure and building an environment with facilities that will help spreading moderate and open minded mind-sets to prevent extremist ideologies. An open minded person is a person that is willing to consider and tolerate new ideas. This person is also unprejudiced and non stereotyped. It is clear that in regions where ongoing armed conflicts exist, the development of extremist ideologies and the possession of arms and heavy weapons is most likely to happen. Thus the promotion of disarmament and the prevention of arms trafficking are two of the main requirements to prevent conflicts. The use of preventative diplomacies in form of mediations and negotiations is an important component to maintain sustainable peace.

1. **Introduction:**

In its annual meeting, the World Economic Forum has released its “yearly assessment of the biggest dangers facing the world over the next decade”[[3]](#footnote-2). Not to mention that state and armed conflicts are considered as the biggest threat to world stability based on this report. Usually these conflicts come from opposite extremist ideologies and geopolitical tensions. It is clear though that the development of extremist ideologies and fanaticism processes in environments where there is no education and facilities. Based on the Oxford Dictionary, extremism is “the holding of extreme political or religious view”[[4]](#footnote-3). In addition, an extremist will not accept any person who thinks differently or adapts a different point of view. The issue drawn in that case is the danger an extremist can create; this includes all sort of threats, armed clashes, and even genocides. It is then the role of the United Nations and any other non-governmental organization to help limit the process of the development of any sort of extremism. As for the United Nations, their first motivation -based on the preambulatory clauses of their chart- is to help prevent the wars from happening and to maintain global peace and stability. In fact, in 1948 the United Nations called its peacekeeping troops for duty for the first time. Ever since this happened, the Blue Helmets are meant to protect civilians and UN personnel in battlefields. In addition, they help providing security across the conflict zones and lead negotiations to help implementing peace agreements.

1. **Definition of key terms:**

***1- Extremism:*** The adaptation of extreme political or religious point of views.

***2-Armed conflicts:*** Political disputes in which both sides possess arms and weapons

***3- Peacekeeping:*** The United Nations peace preservation program in which international enforcements and supervisions are applied between communities either in ongoing armed conflicts or emerging from wars.

***4- Sustainable Peace:*** An enduring state or a period in which there is no war and ongoing armed conflicts after a treaty signed between two warring states.

***5- Developing country:*** A low ranked country in the Human Development Index seeking to become advanced economically and socially.

***6- Global Peace:*** Worldwide stability and a period in which there is no international tensions.

1. **Background information:**

 The first peacekeeping operation established by the UN in 1948 occurred when the Security Council granted the implementation of “the [United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO)](http://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/missions/untso/) to the Middle East to monitor the Armistice Agreement between Israel and its Arab neighbours. In order to comprehend the causes of armed conflicts and violent extremism, we should sort violent extremist groups by categories. Radically, our world has encountered three different types. First are the social/communist groups that first appeared in the end of the 20th century. That type is mainly committed to socialist revolutions and arise from the establishment of communist/social states. The most popular identified groups of that type mainly originate from Europe; “[Baader-Meinhof Group](https://www.thoughtco.com/red-army-faction-also-baader-meinhof-group-germany-3209151) (renamed Red Army Faction, defunct as of 1998) (Germany), Red Brigades (Italy) and the Revolutionary Struggle (Greece)”[[5]](#footnote-4). The national liberation groups are another type, they represent an obvious cause of why extremists turn to violence for the purpose of achieving their national so-called patriotic goals. Some of those associations are: [ETA](https://www.thoughtco.com/eta-basque-homeland-and-freedom-3209129) (Basque), Fatah (PLO) (Palestinian) and Irgun (Zionist). Last but not least is the most common type, we’ve witnessed their attacks, ideologies and their impact on our world that is still ongoing and consecutive. That type consists of all political-religious groups that base their attacks on diverse fanatic creeds. Such as: [Al Qaeda](https://www.thoughtco.com/al-qaeda-network-3209108) (transnational, Islamist), [Klu Klux Klan](https://www.thoughtco.com/the-ku-klux-klan-history-721444) (U.S.; Christian), [Abu Sayyaf (Philippines; Islamist)](https://www.thoughtco.com/al-qaeda-network-3209108), Egyptian Islamic Jihad, and [Hamas (Palestinian; Islamist)](https://www.thoughtco.com/what-is-hamas-2353468). The obtention and establishment of sustainable peace, is a global favorable situation. It consists of a sustainable safe environment and stable space for all. Following the second world war and the enormous number of lost lives, numerous world leaders have came together and met in San Francisco with the same purpose of obtaining sustainable peace for all and founded the United Nations. Since then, that non-governmental organization has worked through the following seven decades under the same purpose and goal to ‘save succeeding generations from the scourge of war’[[6]](#footnote-5). On the other hand, recently the armed conflicts have increased in an inconceivable way. Therefore, it has become an extremely arduous journey that has drained lots of effort and resources, but the world and the UN are still going through that process and keeping the goal of San Francisco's world leaders in mind. Sustainable peace briefly consists of several points; the improvement of infrastructure all around the world, the promotion of demilitarization, the prevention of arms trafficking, peaceful resolutions of past and current unresolved conflicts, the avoidance of extremist ideologies that cause violence, the protection of civilians during any armed conflicts, and the reduction of the economical impact of all sorts of terrorist attacks. Over the last 20 years, the world have witnessed attacks such as the World Trade Center attack on the 9th of September 2001 and Charlie Hebdo attack in Paris, France.

1. **Major countries and organizations involved:**

**Bangladesh:** has been the top UN peacekeepers contributor over the last few years. 9,432 military personnel serve as Blue Helmets for the United Nations helping enforce sustainable peace in conflict zones. The Bangladesh Armed Forces and the Bangladesh Police are known for their effective contribution ever since Bangladesh were involved in the first United Nations Peace Support Operations (UNPSO) in 1988. Their first two operations were deployed in Iraq and in Namibia with only 15 military observers. On the other hand, Bangladesh is also considered as a country where peace support operations is needed. In fact ongoing peacekeeping missions are actually held in Bangladesh to maintain peace. Bangladesh’s last armed conflict was against the Arakan army on the Bangladesh-Myanmar borders. Last but not least, as a result of its contribution in the UN peacekeeping missions, 130 Bangladesh peacekeepers have reached their final destination.

**People’s Republic of China's** president Xi Jinping has recently announced in a United Nations summit that the Chinese Army will contribute with 8,000 volunteer peacekeepers to the peacekeeping force. China is now considered the only Security Council permanent member to offer help with such a great number. Claiming that China is a responsible power, the Chinese President also expressed that China will form a part of the “Peacekeeping Capability Readiness System”, a rapid-deployment standby team. Noting that the UN's peacekeepers currently have operations in Western Sahara, Central African Republic, Mali, Haiti, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Darfur, Syria, Cyprus, Lebanon, Abyei, South Sudan, Ivory Coast, Kosovo, Liberia and India and Pakistan.

**The Islamic Republic of Afghanistan** has been a battlefield throughout the last 15 years. It is also considered a country in which extremist and terrorist ideologies are developed. Many terrorist groups are known for their birth in the Afghan territories. It is clear that these terrorist groups, such as Taliban and Al-Qaeda, form extreme danger towards the global stability. Afghanistan has witnessed more than 10 terrorist incidents only in 2017.

**African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM):** is a peacekeeping mission runned by the African Union. The AMISOM is created by the African Union’s Peace and Security council in 2007 in order to establish peace and security in Somalia. Somalia has been a battle zone for Al Shabab and the Federal Government of Somalia since many years ago. 14 million people are suffering from a war that started in 2009. However the history of Somalia being a war zone bring us back to 1986 when armed rebel groups started attacking the government and the army. Ever since Somalia is in an economic crisis and unsafe of its people. The AMISOM carries support by assisting with free movements and safe passages for the people to roam around the country. They tend to help civilians as well as politicians, clan leaders, religious leaders, and representatives of the civil society.

1. **UN involvement:**

 Since the attention of the world has been drawn to the conflicts caused by extremism, the United Nations got involved and started their journey against armed conflicts. “Deny access to illegal weapons and ammunition, and you deny criminals, armed groups and extremists a central means to perpetrate violence intimidation” [[7]](#footnote-6) were the words stated by Ban ki Moon when asked about armed conflicts by extremist groups. The former UN secretary general has basically stated a general solution for the subject of matter. Following those words and the increase of extremism and armed conflicts in the developing countries caused by the lack of sustainable peace and security, the UN has established an action plan (check UN involvement). Other than the action plan, all efforts by the peacekeeping have increased starting their first mission in 1948 “since then, there have been a total of 69 UN peacekeeping operations around the world.”[[8]](#footnote-7)

[**United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO)**](http://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/missions/monusco/)**:** is considered as the biggest UN peacekeeping operation. With the total of 22,283 peacekeeper, the operation held in the Democratic Republic of the Congo includes 18,571 uniformed personnel, 3,319 civilian personnel and 393 UN volunteer. The mission has been authorized to use all needed resources to help protect the civilians, humanitarian personnel and human rights defenders in case of any threat of attack. The mission is also meant to support the Democratic Republic of the Congo’s government and to help maintain peace and stability.

**Extract from the UN action plan:** [[9]](#footnote-8)

1. Ensure that, in circumstances where military action becomes necessary to counter the expansion of violent extremist groups, any such response is in full compliance with international law, in particular with the Charter of the United Nations, international human rights law, international refugee law and international humanitarian law;

 2. Engage opposing parties and regional actors earlier on and seek to forge international consensus so as to give regional and United Nations diplomacy the leverage that it needs to broker solutions. Delaying engagement reduces options, and increases financial and human costs;

3. Encourage individuals to leave violent extremist groups by developing programmes that place an emphasis on providing them with educational and economic opportunities. To avert perceptions of injustice which might result from extending assistance to these perpetrators, such programmes should not draw from initiatives addressing the needs of the wider civilian population;

4. Explore opportunities to introduce alternative dispute resolution mechanisms, such as mediation, arbitration and restorative justice, to resolve conflict and achieve sustainable peace;”

1. **Possible solutions:**
2. The United Nations shall recommend each state party to have its own National plan of action against extremism, extremist ideologies, conflicts and possibilities of any kind of war. That action plan, should include specific steps such as the spreading of sustainable peace and security. This is through the development of infrastructure and facilities that will help develop open minded mind-sets. For example, nations should focus on building schools and educational buildings to insure proper mind-set development.
3. The establishment of an organization under the supervision of the UN, responsible of organizing constant events in developing countries with the purpose of raising awareness concerning peacekeeping and extremism.
4. Nationally develop education programmes and economical opportunities to encourage individuals to leave any sort of extremist violent groups. Nations should focus on education, this is through the formation of teachers and administrations.
5. Enhance the security and preservation of cultural and religious monuments to avoid any sorts of attacks by extremist groups that can lead to manifestations and protesting. The UN blue helmets are charged of protecting these monuments as well as the UNESCO.
6. **Guiding Questions:**

1-What has caused extremist violent groups to have such ideologies?

2-What is the ranking of my country in the global peace index?

3-What has my country done until now in purpose of solving that quandary?

4-What are the solutions that countries have already tried but failed? And why?

5-Is my country a developing country?

6-Why has extremism increased especially in the last couple of years?

7-How do extremist leaders promote and convince others with their ideologies?

1. **Useful links:**
* UNITED NATIONS COUNTER-TERRORISM, available on: <https://www.un.org/counterterrorism/ctitf/sites/www.un.org.counterterrorism.ctitf/files/plan_action.pdf>, consulted 25/08/2017
* UNITED NATIONS PEACEKEEPING, available on: <http://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/resources/statistics/factsheet.shtml> , consulted 24/08/2017
* UNITED NATIONS INSTUTE FOR TRAINING AND RESEARCH (UNITA), available on: <http://www.unitar.org/thematic-areas/promote-sustainable-peace> , consulted 25/08/2017
* KRIK, Ashely, available on: <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/asia/china/11898603/UN-peacekeepers-How-many-personnel-does-each-country-contribute.html> **,** consulted 24/08/2017
1. **Bibliography**
* United Nations MONUSCO ***,*** available on <http://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/missions/monusco/> consulted 26/08/2017
* KHAN, Mehreen***,*** available on <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/finance/economics/11347752/These-are-the-four-biggest-threats-to-the-world-right-now.html>, consulted 25/08/2017
* UNITED NATIONS PEACE AND SECURITY, available on <http://www.un.org/en/sections/issues-depth/peace-and-security/> consulted 26/08/2017
* UNITED NATIONS CHARTER***,*** available on <http://www.un.org/en/sections/un-charter/preamble/index.html> consulted on the 26/08/2017
* UNITED NATIONS HISTORY***,*** available on <http://www.un.org/en/sections/history/history-united-nations/> consulted on the 26/08/2017
* UNITED NATIONS PEACEKEEPING***,*** available on <http://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/operations/rolega.shtml> , consulted on the 23/08/2017
* UNITED NATIONS MILITARY***,*** available on <http://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/issues/military/> consulted 25/08/2017
* ANAM, Mahfouz***,*** available on <http://www.thedailystar.net/round-tables/bangladesh-and-un-peacekeeping-challenges-prospects-1412455> consulted 27/08/2017
* BANGLADESH ARMED FORCES DIVISION, available on: <http://www.afd.gov.bd/index.php/un-peacekeeping/bangladesh-in-un-mission> , consulted 23/08/2017
* AFRICAN UNION MISSION IN SOMALIA, available on: <http://amisom-au.org/> consulted 27/08/2017
* TERRORISM IN AFGHANISTAN, available on: <https://terrorisminafghanistan.weebly.com/history-of-terrorism.html> , consulted 29/08/2017
* UNITED NATIONS OFFICE FOR DISARMAMENT AFFAIRS, “Secretary-General’s Address at the Monterey Institute of International Studies”, (January 18th 2013), available on: <https://www.un.org/disarmament/update/20130118/> , consulted on the 26th of August 2017
1. ***UN ORG,***  Available on <http://www.un.org/en/sections/un-charter/preamble/index.html> consulted 25/8/2017 [↑](#footnote-ref-0)
2. UNITED NATIONS PEACEKEEPING, available on: <http://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/operations/early.shtml> , consulted 25/8/2017 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
3. KHAN, Mehreen***,*** available on <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/finance/economics/11347752/These-are-the-four-biggest-threats-to-the-world-right-now.html>, consulted 25/08/2017 [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
4. OXFORD DICTIONARY, vailable on <https://en.oxforddictionaries.com/definition/extremism> consulted 26/8/2017 [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
5. ZALMAN, Amy***,*** available on <https://www.thoughtco.com/terrorist-groups-a-list-of-terrorist-groups-by-type-3209111> consulted 26/8/2017 [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
6. UNITED NATIONS***,*** available on <http://www.un.org/en/sections/un-charter/preamble/index.html> , consulted; 26/8/2017 [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
7. UNITED NATIONS OFFICE FOR DISARMAMENT AFFAIRS, “Secretary-General’s Address at the Monterey Institute of International Studies”, (January 18th 2013), available on: <https://www.un.org/disarmament/update/20130118/> , consulted 26/08/2017 [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
8. UNITED NATIONS PEACE AND SECURITY, available on <http://www.un.org/en/sections/issues-depth/peace-and-security/>, consulted 26/08/2017 [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
9. Plan of action to prevent violent extremism, available on <https://www.un.org/counterterrorism/ctitf/sites/www.un.org.counterterrorism.ctitf/files/plan_action.pdf> consulted 26/08/2017 [↑](#footnote-ref-8)