



**PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS: AN OVERVIEW OF KAZAKHSTAN'S
PARTICIPATION**

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Abstract

The United Nations was created to "save succeeding generations from the scourge of war" and one of its main goals is the maintenance of international peace and security. Peacekeeping, although not explicitly provided for in the Charter, has become one of the main tools used by the United Nations to achieve this goal. Over the past three decades, United Nations peacekeeping has become a complex global undertaking. During this time, the conduct of United Nations peacekeeping operations was based on the experience of many thousands of men and women who participated in more than 60 operations launched since 1948. Over the past three decades, the scale of international peacekeeping activities has increased significantly. In particular, it can be argued that the number of so-called "providers" of peacekeeping activities has increased. Today, not only the United Nations (UN) is involved in the processes of peacekeeping, but also a large number of regional organizations and some temporary coalitions of States are involved in this activity. Peacekeeping has changed significantly during this time and continues to change. At the moment, peacekeeping is one of the most important tools of international governance in the field of security at all levels and, above all, at the regional level.

Keywords: United Nations, peacekeeping, Kazbat

The vast majority of modern armed conflicts are intra-State, although more than a quarter of them are internationalized. At the beginning of the XXI century, large-scale civil wars are increasingly being replaced by less intense, but no less exhausting armed confrontation between the authorities and disparate rebel movements. Radical cross-border religious organizations and movements are increasingly interfering in this confrontation. The peculiarities of modern armed conflicts leave their mark on international peacekeeping activities and on the discussion about improving its effectiveness. It is not just about a quantitative expansion of the scale of such activities, but about its qualitative change: the international community has become more involved in the course of conflicts. As a result, the role of peacekeeping as an instrument of international regulation and management in the field of regional security has significantly increased.

Just like any other concept, the doctrine of peacekeeping is far from perfect. Processes related to peacekeeping and conflict resolution continue to cause various disputes and are criticized for low efficiency, sometimes tragic mistakes made during the implementation of peacekeeping operations. The debate continues on the right of the international community to intervene in intra-



State conflicts if the State itself is not ready or unable to protect the lives and ensure the safety of the civilian population. Perceptions of the nature of peacekeeping operations have changed. Their types have diversified. However, at the turn of the 21st century, peacekeeping activities have been widely recognized in the international community. Peacekeeping is now perceived as the most impartial and least politicized form of regulation and management in the field of international and regional security, contributing to the prevention of armed conflicts, their cessation and political settlement, the restoration of peace and peaceful life [1].

An important fact is that there is currently no single well-established and generally accepted definition of the concept of "peacekeeping", and it is unlikely that it can exist. The fact is that, depending on the need, different points of view are used in different cases on such a complex concept as modern peacekeeping. Here is the definition of peacekeeping, adopted from UN publications. UN publications define peacekeeping as "one of the most effective tools available to the UN to assist countries experiencing a difficult period of recovery from a conflict situation". This definition focuses on a very important, but only a single aspect of peacekeeping. Note that we are not talking about any forms of international intervention in conflicts. Most published definitions of peacekeeping interpret this concept from a functional point of view, namely as "a special type of collective military measures implemented by the international community" [2].

Being a responsible participant in international efforts to ensure global peace and security, the Republic of Kazakhstan, along with other countries, shares responsibility for maintaining peace and security on the planet. An important aspect of Kazakhstan's participation in peacekeeping is the desire to assist the international community in preventing and ending armed conflicts. In recent years, the servicemen of the Republic of Kazakhstan, along with other members of the international community, have repeatedly participated in preventing or eliminating the consequences of conflicts in foreign countries. The geography of such places is extensive: Western Sahara, Ivory Coast, Lebanon and Iraq.

The history of peacekeeping activity of the Republic of Kazakhstan has more than 30 years. The practical participation of the armed forces of the Republic of Kazakhstan in peacekeeping activities began during the civil war in Tajikistan, when the first group of servicemen from countries such as Russia, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan was sent to the combat zone. In the period from September 1992 to 2000, the peacekeeping forces of Kazakhstan took part in



ensuring security and strengthening checkpoints in border areas.

An important stage in the history of domestic peacekeeping is the creation of the Kazakhstan Peacekeeping Battalion. "Kazbat" was formed according to the decree of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan on ensuring the readiness of the Armed Forces of Kazakhstan to act in peacekeeping operations and in accordance with his order of January 31, 2000. Kazbat is the first specialized peacekeeping unit in the Central Asian region. Between 2003 and 2008, soldiers of the Kazbat peacekeeping battalion took part in Operation Iraqi Freedom under the auspices of NATO. The participation of the military contingent of the Republic of Kazakhstan in the Operation Iraqi Freedom is the first responsible mission of "Kazbat". During the five years of participation of the peacekeeping forces of the Republic of Kazakhstan in the Operation Iraqi Freedom, our servicemen took part in the clearance of mines and unexploded ordnance. According to various sources, from 4 to 5 million different explosive objects were cleared by Kazakh servicemen in the Operation Iraqi Freedom. Also, cadets of the Iraqi Military Academy were trained in sapper business by military instructors of the Republic of Kazakhstan. It should be noted that the medical personnel of the peacekeeping forces of Kazakhstan also took an active participation in providing first aid to victims of hostilities.

In 2008, the Kazakh Partnership for Peace Training Center (KAZCENT) was established on the basis of the Military Institute of Foreign Languages of the Ministry of Defense of Kazakhstan, which trains peacekeepers on the basis of a UN certificate in such courses as "Protection of Civilians", "UN Staff Officers", offering English language training under the program of international military education and training. It is important to note that KAZCENT is the only NATO-recognized Partnership for Peace Training Center in Central Asia and officially joined the International Association of Peacekeeping Training Centers (IAPTC) in 2010.

Today, Kazakhstan remains one of the leading countries in terms of the number of peacekeepers stationed in foreign countries, among the countries of the post-Soviet space. Since 2014, the military contingent of Kazakhstan has been represented in missions in Western Sahara and Ivory Coast. At the same time, it should be noted that Kazakh female servicemen also participated in the UN missions in Western Sahara and Lebanon as staff officers and military observers. Also, more than 100 servicemen of the Republic of Kazakhstan served in the UN Interim Force in Lebanon. On the territory of Lebanon, as part of the UN peacekeeping forces, Kazakh servicemen patrol the area, organize observation posts, provide assistance to the civilian



population, and also participate in all activities conducted by the mission headquarters.

It is important to note that participation in joint UN missions is beneficial for our country's military personnel - first of all, it is a very large experience of non-military operations, logistical experience, as well as financing at the expense of the UN. Therefore, it becomes clear that modern doctrines and principles of international peacekeeping are in the process of constant and dynamic improvement. The practical interaction of the UN, regional organizations and countries in the field of maintaining peace and security in the context of intra-State conflicts is far from perfect. It is formed today as a result of trial and error. However, in the last decade there has been a turn towards establishing closer and more systematic cooperation between them in this area. They are increasingly combining in their activities the tasks of maintaining peace and at the same time – peace-building. In this regard, they are gradually becoming not purely military, but increasingly civilian-military.

The participation of the Republic of Kazakhstan in international peacekeeping activities is essentially symbolic today. Kazakhstan is neither one of the countries providing the main contingents for UN peacekeeping or regional organizations, nor one of the main donors of this activity. Peacekeeping missions are becoming longer. Given the scale of this activity in the modern world and the tendency to expand it primarily on a regional basis, it is obvious that in fact peacekeeping brings great benefits to Kazakhstan, which cannot be abandoned, and therefore it is necessary to expand the volume of operations. Kazakhstan's participation in peacekeeping activities will certainly serve as a huge potential for developing the potential of the country's Armed Forces, as well as ensuring peace and stability both in the region and in the world.

References

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