

**Security Council Mandates for UN Peacekeeping Operations:
Current Traditional (Non-multidimensional) Missions**

Walter Dorn and Karina Sangha, 9 November 2014

Mandate	Missions
Security	
Arms control ¹	MINURSO, UNIFIL, UNISFA
Border security	UNIFIL, UNISFA
Ceasefire monitoring/implementation	MINURSO, UNDOF, UNFICYP, UNIFIL, UNMOGIP, UNTSO
Demobilization, demilitarization, reintegration and/or withdrawal of forces	MINURSO, UNIFIL, UNISFA
Mine action	MINURSO, UNIFIL, UNISFA
Protection of civilians (POC)	UNIFIL, UNISFA
Protection of mission personnel	UNFICYP, UNIFIL, UNISFA
Security support ²	MINURSO, UNFICYP, UNIFIL, UNISFA
State-building	
Elections support	MINURSO (in theory)
State authority and governance capacity	UNIFIL
Transitional authority ³	MINURSO (in theory)
Rule of law	
Policing support/monitoring	MINURSO, UNFICYP, UNISFA
Humanitarian assistance	
Coordinate and support	UNFICYP, UNISFA
Create secure conditions for humanitarian access	UNIFIL, UNISFA
Displaced persons and refugees ⁴	MINURSO, UNIFIL
Reconciliation and peace processes	
Facilitation of dialogue	UNISFA
Other	
Support other operations & organizations, incl. regional organizations	MINURSO (Organization of African Unity, International Committee of the Red Cross)

¹ Usually limitations on illicit arms, especially imports. This category is in addition to DDR-related weapons control.

² Broad category includes ensuring the establishment of secure conditions necessary for elections (MINURSO), strengthen and support the armed forces (UNIFIL), providing security for oil infrastructure (UNISFA), and encouraging international peace and security (UNFICYP, UNIFIL).

³ This category includes providing administrative, legal, and legislative services on a temporary basis.

⁴ Mandate generally entails the voluntary, safe, and sustainable return of displaced persons and refugees to their homes.

Mission names (locations in bold)

MINURSO	United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara
UNDOF	United Nations Disengagement Observer Force [Golan Heights]
UNFICYP	United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus
UNIFIL	United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon
UNISFA	United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei
UNMIK	United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo
UNMOGIP	United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan [Kashmir]
UNTSO	United Nations Truce Supervision Organization [Middle East]

**Security Council Resolutions (Extracts):
Current Traditional Missions**

Name	Abbreviated Mandate
<p>MINURSO (UN Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara)</p>	<p>S/21360 (1990): Part II VIII. Organization and conduct of the <u>referendum</u> 59. UN responsibility for the referendum can be divided into three areas: a. identification and registration of eligible voters; b. establishment of conditions needed for a free and fair election; c. ensure free participation by all eligible voters and ensure secrecy of the ballot; ... XII. Proclamation of the referendum results 75. If the decision of the referendum is for integration with Morocco, the <u>demobilization</u> of any Frente POLISARIO troops who have not returned to take part in the referendum will be conducted and monitored by MINURSO; ... XIII. Composition and tasks of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara A. Civilian Unit 78. Responsible for administration, legal, and legislative matters, questions relating to <u>refugees</u>; B. Security Unit 79. Will be made up of civil <u>police</u> with the following tasks: a. maintain law and order near and at registration offices and polling stations; b. monitor activities of existing police forces; ... C. Military Unit 81. Tasks of the military unit will be: a. to monitor the <u>cease-fire</u>; b. to verify the agreed reduction in troops; c. to monitor the confinement of troops to agreed locations; d. to monitor the custody of <u>arms and ammunitions</u>; e. to provide security for the return of Western Saharans from outside the Territory; f. to assist the Security Unit; g. if required, fulfill tasks in paragraph 75.</p> <p>S/RES/690 (1991): 2. Expresses its support for the UN to work in <u>cooperation with the Organization of African Unity</u> to organize and supervise a referendum for self-determination of the people of Western Sahara.</p>

	<p>S/RES/1148 (1998):</p> <p>1. Approves the deployment of the engineering unit required for <u>demining</u> activities.</p>
UNDOF (UN Disengagement Observer Force)	<p>S/RES/350 (1974):</p> <p>1. Welcomes the Agreement on Disengagement between Israeli and Syrian Forces; ...</p> <p>3. Decides to set up a UN Disengagement Observer Force.</p>
UNFICYP (UN Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus)	<p>S/RES/186 (1964):⁵</p> <p>4. Recommends the creation of a UN peacekeeping Force in Cyprus;</p> <p>5. Recommends that the Force should preserve international <u>peace & security</u>, <u>prevent a recurrence of fighting</u>, and contribute to the maintenance and restoration of <u>law and order</u>.</p> <p>S/RES/359 (1974):</p> <p>4. Demands that all parties cooperate with the UN Force, including its <u>humanitarian</u> functions;</p> <p>5. Emphasizes that the status and <u>safety of the UN Force</u> must be respected by all parties.</p>
UNIFIL (UN Interim Force in Lebanon)	<p>S/RES/425 (1978):⁶</p> <p>3. Decides to establish a UN interim force for Southern Lebanon to <u>verify the withdrawal of Israeli forces, restore international peace & security</u>, and assist the Government of Lebanon in <u>restoring state authority</u>.</p> <p>S/RES/1701 (2006):</p> <p>Welcomes the additional forces from UNIFIL to facilitate and <u>strengthen the Lebanese armed forces</u>; ...</p> <p>3. Emphasizes the extension of the <u>control of the Government of Lebanon over all of Lebanese territory</u>; ...</p> <p>11. Decides to increase the strength of UNIFIL and decides that it shall:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. monitor the cessation of hostilities; b. accompany and support the Lebanese armed forces as Israel withdraws its armed forces; c. coordinate its activities with the Governments of Lebanon and Israel;

⁵ Additional resolutions have been passed in recent years extending the mission (e.g. [S/RES/2026 \(2011\)](#) & [S/RES/2114 \(2013\)](#)), but the substance of the mandate has remained consistent. As a result, these resolutions have not been expanded upon here.

⁶ Additional resolution [S/RES/1832 \(2008\)](#) merely reaffirmed earlier sentiments and has not been included here for elaboration.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> d. help ensure <u>humanitarian access</u> and the safe return of <u>displaced persons</u>; e. assist the Lebanese armed forces in maintaining the <u>ceasefire</u>, monitoring arms sales, and providing the UN with a map of all maps of remaining <u>landmines</u> in Lebanon; f. assist the Government of Lebanon with <u>securing its borders</u> and preventing the illegal movement of <u>arms and other goods</u>; <p>12. Authorizes UNIFIL to protect <u>UN personnel, facilities, installations, and equipment</u> and to <u>protect civilians</u> under imminent threat of physical violence.</p>
<p>UNISFA (UN Interim Security Force for Abyei)</p>	<p>S/RES/1990 (2011):</p> <p>2. Decides that UNISFA will have the following mandate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. <u>monitor and verify</u> the redeployment of any Sudan Armed Forces, Sudan People’s Liberation Army or its successor from the Abyei Area; b. participate in relevant Abyei Area bodies; c. provide <u>de-mining</u> assistance and technical advice; d. facilitate the delivery of <u>humanitarian aid</u>; e. strengthen the capacity of the <u>Abyei Police Service</u>, including by training personnel; f. provide security for oil infrastructure; <p>3. Authorizes UNISFA to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. protect UNISFA personnel, facilities, installations, and equipment; b. protect <u>UN personnel</u>, facilities, installations, and equipment; c. ensure security and freedom of movement of humanitarian and aid personnel; d. <u>protect civilians</u> in the Abyei Area; e. protect the Abyei Area from incursions by unauthorized elements; f. <u>ensure security</u> in the Abyei Area. <p>S/RES/2024 (2011):</p> <p>1. Decides that UNISFA’s mandate shall also include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. assist the parties in ensuring the observance within the Safe Demilitarized Border Zone of the agreed upon security commitments; b. support the activities of the <u>Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism</u> (JBVMM); ... e. facilitate <u>liaison</u> between the parties. <p>S/RES/2104 (2013):</p>

	<p>1. Determines that UNISFA's support of the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism includes support to the Ad Hoc Committees;</p> <p>...</p> <p>S/RES/2126 (2013): 10. Requests UNISFA observe, document, and report on the movement of <u>weapons</u> into and presence of weapons within Abyei.</p>
UNMOGIP (UN Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan)	<p>S/RES/47 (1948): 17. The Commission should establish observers fulfill any of the tasks in the preceding paragraphs.</p> <p>S/RES/91 (1951):⁷ 7. Decides that the military observer group shall contribute to supervise the <u>cease-fire</u>.</p>
UNTSO (UN Truce Supervision Organization)	<p>S/RES/50 (1948): 6. Instructs the UN Mediator in Palestine to supervise the observance of the above conditions, as supported by <u>military observers</u>.</p> <p>S/RES/73 (1949): 6. Requests the continued service of the Truce Supervision Organization in observing and maintaining the ceasefire.</p>

⁷ This was further affirmed in [S/RES/307 \(1971\)](#) following the end of India-Pakistan hostilities and the ceasefire that followed.

Security Council Mandates for Current UN Peacekeeping Operations: Transitional Administrations

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Mandate	Missions
Security	
Border security	UNMIK
Ceasefire monitoring/implementation	UNMIK
Demobilization, demilitarization, reintegration and/or withdrawal of forces	UNMIK
Mine action	UNMIK
Protection of mission personnel	UNMIK
State-building	
Elections support	UNMIK
Reconstruction	UNMIK
Transition to local ownership & leadership	UNMIK
Transitional authority ⁸	UNMIK
Rule of law	
Policing support/monitoring	UNMIK
Human Rights	
Protect and promote human rights	UNMIK
Humanitarian assistance	
Coordinate and support	UNMIK
Displaced persons and refugees ⁹	UNMIK
Reconciliation and peace processes	
Facilitation of dialogue	UNMIK
Other	

Mission name (location in bold)

UNMIK United Nations Interim Administration Mission in **Kosovo**

⁸ This category includes providing administrative, legal, and legislative services on a temporary basis.

⁹ Mandate generally entails the voluntary, safe, and sustainable return of displaced persons and refugees to their homes.

**Security Council Resolution (Extracts):
Transitional Administrations**

<p>UNMIK (UN Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo)</p>	<p>S/RES/1244 (1999):</p> <p>9. Decides that the responsibilities of the international security presence will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. deterring renewed hostilities, maintaining the <u>ceasefire</u>, and ensuring the withdrawal/preventing the return of Federal and Republic military, police, and paramilitary forces;b. <u>demilitarizing</u> the Kosovo Liberation Army and other armed groups;c. establishing a <u>secure</u> environment for the return of <u>refugees and displaced persons</u>, the operation of the international civil presence, the establishment of a <u>transitional administration</u>, and the delivery of <u>humanitarian aid</u>;d. ensuring <u>public safety</u> and order;e. supervising <u>demining</u>;f. supporting the work of the international civil presence;g. conducting <u>border monitoring</u>;h. ensuring the protection and freedom of movement of <u>itself</u>, the international civil presence, etc. ... <p>11. Decides that the responsibilities of the international civil presence will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. promoting the establishment of <u>self-government</u>;b. performing civilian administrative functions;c. organizing and overseeing the <u>development</u> of institutions for democratic self-government, including <u>elections</u>;d. transferring its administrative responsibilities while supporting local provisional institutions;e. facilitating a political process to determine the country's future;f. overseeing the transfer of authority from provisional institutions to institutions established by political settlement;g. supporting physical and <u>economic reconstruction</u>;h. supporting <u>humanitarian aid</u>;i. maintaining civil law and order, including by establishing local <u>police forces</u>;j. protecting and promoting <u>human rights</u>;k. ensuring the safe return of <u>refugees and displaced persons</u>.
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