

China and UN PKOs: Participation and Contribution

ZHANG Guihong

Center for UN Studies, Fudan University
Shanghai UN Research Association

China and UN PKOs

- Participation and contribution
- Explanations & Observations
- Conclusions

- **China's participation in and contribution to UN PKOs: evolution with some key facts and figures**

China and UN: 1945-1971

- **1945:** China (ROC) is the founding member of UN and permanent member of UN SC (as contribution and sacrifice in WWII, the first country to sign the Charter)
- **1946-1949:** civil war between KMT and CCP.
- **1949:** New China (PRC) (CCP won the 3-year war)
- **1949-1971:** China's seat in UN occupied by ROC (CPVA and "UN Army" during Korean War) (22 years efforts and struggle, with the supports from new independent countries)
- **1971:** PRC resumed its legal seat in UN. (26th GA, Res.2758)

China and UN PKOs: 1971-1989

- China's "three no" from 1971 to 1978 (non participation, non vote, non share)
- China contributed 5 million USD in 1981 (and paid off all the debts in 1986)
- Vote for the first time in 1981 to support for UN mission in Cyprus (UNFICYP).
- China admitted into the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations in 1988. (able to take part in the review of PKOs)
- In 1989, China sent non-military experts to join the UNTAG to oversee the Namibia general election.

China and UN PKOs: 1990-2000

- In 1990, the Chinese PLA dispatched 5 military observers to UNTSO in Middle East, marking the beginning of the Chinese military's official participation in the UN peacekeeping operations.
- In 1992, the Chinese PLA sent an engineering team consisting of 400 officers and men to UNTAC, the first time China had sent an organic military unit on a peacekeeping mission.
- Active in early 1990s (with participation in 8 of total 27 operations, as an effort to prevent from isolation by western countries after 1989) but cautious in late 1990s (participation in 4 of total 25, non participation of 12 new operations, because of humanitarian intervention and NATO military action in Kosovo).

China and UNPKOs in the new century

- In December 2001, the establishment of **Peacekeeping Affairs Office** under MND (to coordinate and manage Chinese military involvement of PKOs).
- In November 2007, China dispatched **the first batch** of peacekeeping troops to Darfur of Sudan, becoming **the first contingent** of UN peacekeeping troops stationed **in the region**.
- In January 2015, China dispatched **the first infantry battalion** with 700-strong officers and soldiers (**composed of 13 female soldiers for the first time**) to South Sudan.

China and UNPKOs: summary

- China has taken part in 24 UN peacekeeping operations in the past 25 years.
- By now, China has dispatched 30,178 peacekeepers, with 15 of them died (for safeguarding world peace and security).
- Two Chinese officers once worked as major-general level commanders of peacekeeping troops in UN mission areas in Western Sahara and Cyprus.

China and UNPKOs: current situation

- At present, a total of **2,899** Chinese military is on duty in **ten** of the total 16 UN peacekeeping operations worldwide.
- To be specific, in **Western Sahara, Mali, Congo, Darfur, Cyprus, Lebanon, Liberia, South Sudan, Cote d'ivoire, and Middle East.**
- China provides with **6.64%** (500 million USD, ranking 6th) of contributions to UN PKOs in 2003-2005.

Ranking of Military and Police Contributions to UN Operations



Month of Report : **30-Apr-15**

	<i>Country</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>Totals</i>
1)	Bangladesh	9094	213	9,307
2)	Pakistan	8143	20	8,163
3)	India	7976	136	8,112
4)	Ethiopia	7364	500	7,864
5)	Rwanda	5338	237	5,575
6)	Nepal	5174	142	5,316
7)	Senegal	3521	49	3,570
8)	Ghana	2737	316	3,053
9)	Nigeria	2743	232	2,975
10)	Egypt	2936	1	2,937
11)	China	2834	65	2,899

<i>Country</i>	<i>UN Mission</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>Totals</i>	
China	MINURSO	Experts on Mission	8	0		8
					MINURSO	8
	MINUSMA	Contingent Troop	389	13		402
					MINUSMA	402
	MONUSCO	Experts on Mission	13	0		13
		Contingent Troop	209	12		221
		MONUSCO	234			
	UNAMID	Contingent Troop	231	0		231
					UNAMID	231
	UNFICYP	Individual Police	2	0		2
					UNFICYP	2
	UNIFIL	Contingent Troop	208	10		218
					UNIFIL	218
	UNMIL	Individual Police	18	1		19
		Formed Police Units	135	5		140
		Experts on Mission	2	0		2
		Contingent Troop	555	11		566
	UNMIL					727
	UNMISS	Individual Police	15	0		15
		Experts on Mission	3	0		3
		Contingent Troop	1,036	13		1049
	UNMISS					1,067
UNOCI	Experts on Mission	6	0		6	
				UNOCI	6	
UNTSO	Experts on Mission	4	0		4	
				UNTSO	4	
				China	2,899	

Monthly Summary of Troop Contribution to UN Operations




Month of Report : 30-Apr-15

<i>Country</i>	<i>Description of Post</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>Totals</i>
24) China	Individual Police	35	1	36
	Formed Police Units	135	5	140
	Experts on Mission	36	0	36
	Contingent Troop	2628	59	2,687
	Subtotal for Country			2,899

(2) Fatalities by Nationality and Mission**up to 30 Apr 2015**

Nationality	Mission	
	UNMIS	1
Chile		
		5
	MINUGUA	1
	MINUSTAH	3
	ONUSAL	1
China		
		15
	MINUSTAH	4
	MONUC	1
	UNIKOM	1
	UNMIL	3
	UNMIS	1
	UNTAC	3
	UNTAG	1
	UNTSO	1

The top 10 providers of assessed contributions to United Nations Peacekeeping operations in 2013-2015 [[A/67/224/Add.1](#)]  are:

1. **United States (28.38%)**
2. **Japan (10.83%)**
3. **France (7.22%)**
4. Germany (7.14%)
5. United Kingdom (6.68%)
6. China (6.64%)
7. Italy (4.45%)
8. Russian Federation (3.15%)
9. Canada (2.98%)
10. Spain (2.97%)

Effective rates of assessment for peacekeeping, 1 January 2013 to 31 December 2015, based on the scale of assessments adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 67/238 and the composition of levels endorsed by the Assembly in its resolution 67/239

<i>Member State</i>	<i>Effective rate in 2012</i>	<i>Regular budget 2013-2015</i>	<i>Effective rates</i>	
			<i>2013</i>	<i>2014-2015</i>
Level A				
China	3.9343	5.148	6.6417	6.6368
France	7.5540	5.593	7.2159	7.2105
Russian Federation	1.9764	2.438	3.1454	3.1431
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	8.1474	5.179	6.6817	6.6768
United States of America	27.1415	22.000	28.3835	28.3626
Total A	48.7536	40.358	52.0682	52.0299

Chinese peacekeeping forces to exceed 3,000 personnel by the year end

- China will dispatch a helicopter detachment to the UN peacekeeping mission in Darfur of Sudan.
- By the end of 2015, the total number of Chinese peacekeepers will increase to 3,100 from the present 2,899, and China will rise to the 7th position in the 128 contributing countries of UN peacekeeping operations from the current 11th.

- **Some explanations and observations on China and UN PKOs**

1. China's big contribution in terms of both personnel and finance

- China has contributed **the largest number of** peacekeeping forces among P5, ranking 11th in all contributors.
- China also dispatches **the most numbers of** troops for engineering, transportation and medical support among all the 128 contributing countries.
- China undertakes 6.64% of the total assessed contributions to UN Peacekeeping operations , **6th among** the UN member states and **1st among** developing countries.

2. Chinese peacekeepers performing diverse tasks and missions

- The Chinese peacekeeping troops are mainly composed of infantries, engineers, guards, transportation troops, medical experts, military observers and staff officers.
- There are **2,687 officers and soldiers** performing tasks including security protection, project support, material transport and medical service, etc., and **212 military observers and polices** officers performing missions of patrol, observation, conflict settlement, truce observation, liaison and negotiation.

3. China pays much attention to police sending and training

- In the past 15 years, China has sent 2138 polices to 9 mission areas, with 176 on duty at present.
- In August 2004, China established “China Peacekeeping Police Training Center” in Langfang near Beijing, the largest one in Asia, with the investment of 160 million CNY (or around 25 million USD) and the area of 13.56 hectares, being able to train 250 peacekeepers at the same time.

4. China has established a three-level peacekeeping training mechanism

- The United Nations peacekeeping operations are different from either the traditional domestic military operations or the pure oversea bilateral military actions. Rather, it poses special requirements for the troops' capabilities in performing operations.
- The Chinese military has established a three-level peacekeeping training mechanism, namely **the elementary, intermediate and advanced levels**
- China's Peacekeeping Center has trained **3,800** persons/times of intermediate and advanced levels
- The Chinese military has been training its peacekeeping troops in strict accordance with the UN's training guideline

5. Chinese “Blue Berets” are gaining high praises worldwide

- Chinese peacekeeping troops have built and renovated roads of 11,000-plus kilometers and 300-plus bridges, removed mines and unexploded explosive ordnance totaling 9,400, transported 1.1 million tons of materials and equipment with the transport mileage reaching 12 million kilometers.
- They have also treated more than 149,000 patients, completed 450 patrols and 230-plus guard and escort tasks.

- Chinese peacekeeping troops have created "**China speed**", "**China quality**" and "**China brand**" in various peacekeeping mission areas during the past 25 years.
- China always administers its peacekeeping troops by law and in a strict manner, and maintains **zero violation of rules** and **zero record of deportation** during its 25 years' participation in the UN peacekeeping missions
- Some Chinese peacekeepers and forces were awarded **UN Peace Medal**.

6. Principles

- Adhere to the principles of UN Charter and mandate of UNSC. (respect for the sovereignty of designed nations, the leading role of UN)
- Maintain three basic principles of PKOs (consent of the parties; impartiality; non-use of forces except in self-defense or defense of mandate)
- Improve the management of PKOs. (more resources from member states and more efficiency)
- Pay attention to the capacity building. (technology, equipment, personnel training)
- Strengthen the cooperation between UN and regional organization. (African Union in particular)
- Deeping reform, including formulation of a comprehensive strategy.

7. Explanation of China's participation: government perspectives

- To undertake **the responsibility** to maintain peace and security as permanent member of UNSC.
- To finish **diverse military task** from anti-terrorism and piracy to transnational crime and rescue.
- To promote **peace and development** in the conflict zones.

8. Explanation of China's participation: academic perspectives

- Economic and commercial interests (trade and energy, in Sudan)
- Domestic political process (political development and progress, opening-up)
- Expansion of military function (diverse and new type of threats and challenge, from national defense to oversea security operations)
- Construction of national identity (from challenger to participator, contributor, an stakeholder, from revolutionary socialist country to the largest developing country)
- Transformation of sovereignty concept (flexible, more liberalism, multilateralism, China and IOs, accept R2P in 2005)
- International reputation and legitimacy (China threat, responsible big country)

- **Conclusions**

- “Peacekeeping is the unchanged **commitment** of China and the **mission** that China keeps fighting for. China’s development leads to **further growth of the force for peace.**”

--- Speech by China’s FM WANG Yi at the High-level Meeting on UN Peacekeeping in New York on 26 September 2014

- “With the growth of national strength, China's armed forces will gradually intensify their participation in such operations as international peacekeeping and humanitarian assistance, and do their utmost to shoulder more **international responsibilities and obligations**, provide more **public security goods**, and contribute more to world peace and common development.”

--- National Defense White paper on *China's military strategy*, May 2015, Beijing

- Experience a process from opposition to support (reflect the change of Chinese foreign policy)
- Political action in nature
- International responsibility and obligation
- Contribution to global and regional security governance
- Public security goods

- Many Thanks !