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The topics to be discussed on behalf of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) are “The Critical Role of Young Adults in Peacebuilding Missions” and “Accountability of Peacekeepers Misconduct”. The PBC was established in 2005 and comprises 31 member states elected from the General Assembly, Security Council, and ECOSOC. It is an intergovernmental body of the United Nations designed to enact and sustain peace on a large scale between countries as well as within particular conflict-ridden countries. It works with partners like the World Bank to remedy long-term issues and takes a holistic approach to facilitate coherence within the UN system. Egypt was elected for the PBC by the General Assembly and is ranked the 7th largest contributor to the UN peacekeeping missions. Egypt plays a major role in maintaining peacekeeping demands.

I. The Critical Role of Young Adults in Peacebuilding Missions

The youth's involvement inspires optimism for progress. Young people from Latin America, Asia, and Africa have already shown a passion for collaborating with the UN to maintain peace. In 2015, the UN Security Council recognized the critical role that young adults play in supporting and contributing to peacebuilding efforts. The establishment of the Secretary-General's Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) and the Gender and Youth Promotion Initiative (GYPI) allowed for the implementation of this. The UN adopted a policy in 2018 that fully includes young men and women in peace negotiations and decision-making. However, young people's current contribution to peacebuilding is limited and hasn't yet reached its full potential.

Egypt plays a dominant role in sustaining global security, ranks 7th amongst contributors of peacekeeping personnel, and has been in operation since 1960. Egypt has delivered a total of over 30,000 peacekeepers to over 37 peacebuilding missions across several continents. It is currently an active member in six UN peacebuilding missions consisting of an army of 3,000 troops. In 2021, the Egyptian representative of the UN PBC (Peacebuilding Commission) reported that external partnerships with members outside the UN were enhanced through the inclusion of youth representatives. Additionally, Egypt recognizes and acknowledges the youth's critical role, which was evident in the increase in youth participation from 5.4% to 44.4% in 2021 and 2022, respectively. Young people can provide knowledge about their country and are valuable in paving the way for change. Moreover, Egyptian peacekeeping operations strive to sharpen their younger members' skill sets and equip them with sufficient training in order to increase their involvement in peacekeeping operations effectively. Moreover, being a part of the UN peacebuilding missions has assisted in developing the Egyptian military in terms of experience and skills.

Egypt's geopolitical and economic interests have been impacted by the rise of civil wars and domestic upheaval in the region, as well as conflicts in neighboring nations that are frequently conducted by proxies. The PBC in Egypt should implement more measures tasked with monitoring and dissuading possible conflict before it intensifies in order to avoid tensions from rising. Additionally, for the sake of maintaining peace, conflicts like the Arab-Israeli conflict demand ongoing involvement from outside parties like the multinational force and observers. Young adults ought to have the skills and vigor necessary to serve as mediators and humanitarian workers with the correct training chances. To safeguard Egypt's national interests, they might strengthen its relationships and coalitions. These include bilateral relations with Israel and the Arab Gulf countries and also the United States. Young adults are essential agents of change and provide support for the UN peacekeepers.

II. Accountability of Peacekeepers' Misconduct

The UN has a zero-tolerance policy for exploitation by peacekeeping personnel and takes strict measures in ensuring adherence to a high standard of conduct, this stance is also shared by Egypt. The UN established the Action for Peacekeeping (A4P) in order to improve the standard of conduct of all peacekeeping operations. Caution is exercised in ensuring this standard is recorded clearly and available to all units. Moreover, the UN has launched tools such as the Comprehensive Performance Assessment System (CPAS) and the Status of Forces Agreement Compliance (SOFA) to enable the UN to evaluate its peacekeepers and hold them accountable for any breaches in conduct. Additional measures currently implemented that assist accountability include providing training to peacekeeping personnel prior to deployment, hosting awareness-building campaigns, disciplinary measures against abusers, and offering support for potential victims. Peacekeepers are trained to be impartial, act with integrity, and observe respect for countries' local laws and customs.

Egypt acknowledges the importance of maintaining the 10 UN peacekeeping rules of conduct in order to deliver peace effectively as it recognizes the consequences of misconduct throw a negative light on the citizens of the country. In the past in 2016, Egypt abstained from a resolution that was passed by the UNSC that addressed the issue of sexual abuse by UN peacekeepers; the incomplete nature of the resolution was the reason for the same. In general, the peacekeeping rules include behavior such as respecting the laws of the land, respecting the people, acting responsibly, protecting the environment, and enforcing human rights. For this reason, the Cairo International Center for Conflict Resolution, Peacekeeping, and Peacebuilding (CCCCPA) was established to ensure peacekeepers do not abuse their authority. It operates in collaboration with the United Nations and provides mandatory training to all Egyptian Peacekeepers to prevent sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) during peacekeeping missions. This was particularly vital when dealing with women and children. Failure to abide by the standards of conduct or engagement in any violations warrants strict disciplinary action, such as financial penalties, prosecutions, criminal charges, or dismissal from the mission. Additionally, CCCPA advises its peacekeepers to attend all conduct training sessions, and attempt to engage in other forms of activity instead, such as sports, to manage their stress. Additionally, the training sessions discuss the physical and psychological impact of violence in order to deter peacekeepers from considering exploitation; hotlines were also established for individuals to report any cases of misconduct.

In spite of the training sessions and intensive efforts in place to hold peacekeepers accountable for misconduct, such cases of misconduct remain apparent. Therefore, stricter measures ought to be enforced such as revised training sessions. The inability to attend sessions would be met with strict consequences. Moreover, as peacekeepers are deployed from across the globe, particular peacekeepers may not be equipped to deal with public responses specific to a particular country. For instance, peacekeepers from the US may not be familiar with the traditions and social cues of the people in Egypt. For this reason, tailored training courses should be implemented to educate peacekeepers on the specific cultural and religious values of the country of deployment. Additionally, the public should be involved as locals often do not take kindly to the presence of peacekeepers, this can be improved by publically showcasing how steps are being taken towards holding peacekeepers accountable for their misconduct.

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