



**Mission Viejo High School MUN**  
**34<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference**  
*Vox Populi*



**4th SPD: UN Peacekeeping Reform**

Hello, my name is Yasi Fahimi, and I am going to be your head-chair for 4th SPD at the MVHS MUN conference. I am currently a sophomore, and this will be my second year as a part of the Model United Nations program. Here at Mission, I take part in tennis and soccer, for which I also play club on the Pateadores. When I'm not playing sports, I am usually in my hammock or watching movies with my friends. I cannot wait to be the head-chair for this committee and look forward to having a terrific debate!

**I. Background**

As today's world constantly changes, United Nation operations must adapt with it, and its role in peacekeeping is no exception. Peacekeepers, also known as the "blue helmets", are part of an organized and effective U.N. operation. Their job is to provide security among areas of conflict and maintain tranquility throughout the world. The first U.N. peacekeeping operation was authorized in 1948 and since then over 63 missions have been conducted. Three simple principles guide peacekeeping action: consent of the parties, impartiality, and non-use of force except in self-defense and defense of the mandate. These guidelines were implemented to ensure the welfare of both those in need as well as peacekeepers themselves; however, in recent times it has become a pressing issue that their boundaries are being pushed. U.N. peacekeepers have been documented standing by in Rwanda while Hutu massacred nearly 800,000 Tutsi. Additionally, despite the U.N.'s declaration of safe areas for Muslims in Bosnia, they failed to secure them; allowing the Serbs to invade and brutally attack. These peacekeepers inability to perform vital tasks and establish safety has penalized hundreds of thousands innocent global citizens, calling for a reform in the entire system.

**II. UN Involvement**

The United Nations has put forth numerous efforts towards returning their peacekeeping force to the safe, reliable team they were created to be. After requests from the General Assembly and the Security Council, the United Nations Peacebuilding Fund (UNPBF) was created in 2006 in order to allocate funding towards specific peacekeeping missions on an immediate need basis. This fund provides materials necessary for over 200 operations worldwide and secures the financial basis of the organization. While any decisions regarding peacekeeping must be authorized by the Security Council, the General Assembly is also important as they make numerous recommendations of peacekeeping missions. An additional action of the U.N. was to create a panel comprised of 16 representatives in order to address and resolve the varying issues involving peacekeepers. They consider factors such as changing mandates, evolving nature of conflicts, and administrative controls, all which contribute to the failure of peacekeeping operations. Additionally, several propositions including the "Capstone Doctrine" (2008) and "Peace operations 2010" (2006) have been formed within the panel to outline key principles and implement changes. Furthermore the United Nation's involvement with peacekeeping in the past have taken positive steps towards reform, however there is much more to be done.



### **III. Possible Solutions**

The Security Council adopted Resolution 2151 on April 28th 2014. The document announces the strength of the Security Sector Reform (SSR). It highlights the “centrality of national ownership, the need for integrated and coherent support to national SSR efforts, including through senior leadership, importance of both sector-wide and component-level assistance, concept of SSR as both a technical and political process. centrality of national ownership, the need for integrated and coherent support to national SSR efforts, including through senior leadership, importance of both sector-wide and component-level assistance, and the concept of SSR as both a technical and political process.” Another goal of the UN is the ‘New Horizon’ process. It pushes things such as protection of citizens, peacebuilding between the citizens and the peacekeepers, development to fill the gaps between the two, and strong field support.

#### **IV. Country Bloc Positions**

African: The African bloc has a particular interest in the reform of peacekeepers and would like for an increase of standby troops in their nations. Currently operating through regional organizations, they urge for the partnerships with larger U.N. groups to increase funding and effectiveness.

Asian/Pacific: The Asian-Pacific bloc contributes 37% of peacekeeping troops and make up 60% of the world’s population. Larger nations, such as China, have allocated funding and time in order to put forth a permanent police squad for peacekeepers. A few other countries suggest an increase the number of troops in places such as Africa, while they prefer not to station troops in their own lands.

Western: Western nations, especially the United States, are major advocates of increased funds and troops for the peacekeeping force. They promote these efforts by providing money and training for military forces.

Latin: Despite the only peacekeeping mission being in Haiti, Latin nations deploy their troops to service all around the world. The president of Chile, along with several other leaders, have asserted their dedication to helping peacekeeping efforts through funding and training.

#### **V. Questions to Consider**

1. What is your country's view on peacekeeping? Do they support having a strong relationship between citizens and the peacekeepers?
2. How does your country handle the two groups? Do they give the citizens more power, or vice versa?



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3. How does peacekeeping affect your citizens? Is your government faced with riots frequently or just every so often?
4. What does your country hope to gain out of this process?

