Leadership positions in UN peace operations, 1948-2013 (v.2)

Codebook

8 September 2023

This dataset comprises appointments in seven different leadership positions in UN peace operations since their beginning in 1948 until mid-2023 (in total 70 missions, as listed below). The missions included in the dataset correspond to the following definition of peace operations:

> the expeditionary use of uniformed personnel (police and/or military) with or without UN authorization, with a mandate or programme to (1) assist in the prevention of armed conflict by supporting a peace process; (2) serve as an instrument to assist in the implementation of ceasefire or peace agreements; or (3) enforce ceasefires, peace agreements or the will of the UN Security Council in order to build stable peace. (Bellamy & Williams, *Understanding Peacekeeping,* Polity 2nd ed., 2010: 18)

To satisfy this definition, a mission must have a military and/or police component. Missions that do not have either, such as many special political missions like the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) or the UN Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM), are excluded from the dataset.

One entry corresponds to one person per their appointments in one mission. The dataset records seven of the most authoritative appointments in UN peace operations, the geographical location of the mission and information on the national origin and gender of the appointee. The dataset comprises a total of 690 entries. It contains two missing values ("0"), which correspond to the start month when the respective individuals began their term in office.

Variable Layout

Mission: The official name of the mission.

1 UNTSO	18 ONUCA	35 UNMOT
2 UNMOGIP	19 UNIKOM	36 UNAVEM III
3 UNEF I	20 MINURSO	37 UNCRO
4 UNOGIL	21 UNAVEM II	38 UNPREDEP
5 ONUC	22 ONUSAL	39 UNMIBH
6 UNSF	23 UNAMIC	40 UNTAES
7 UNYOM	24 UNPROFOR	41 UNMOP
8 UNFICYP	25 UNTAC	42 UNSMIH
9 DOMREP	26 UNOSOM I	43 MINUGUA
10 UNIPOM	27 ONUMOZ	44 MONUA
11 UNEF II	28 UNOSOM II	45 UNTMIH
12 UNDOF	29 UNOMUR	46 MIPONUH
13 UNIFIL	30 UNOMIG	47 UNCPSG
14 UNGOMAP	31 UNOMIL	48 MINURCA
15 UNIIMOG	32 UNMIH	49 UNOMSIL
16 UNAVEM I	33 UNAMIR	50 UNMIK
17 UNTAG	34 UNASOG	51 UNAMSIL

52 UNTAET
53 MONUC
54 UNMEE
55 UNMISET
56 UNMIL
57 UNOCI
58 MINUSTAH
59 ONUB
60 UNMIS
61 UNMIT
62 UNAMID
63 MINURCAT
64 MONUSCO
65 UNISFA
66 UNMISS
67 UNSMIS
68 MINUSMA
69 MINUSCA
70 MINUJUSTH

Mission start month: The month in which the mission began.

Mission start year: The year in which the mission began.

Mission end month: The month in which the mission ended. In case the mission is ongoing as of 31 August 2023, the variable is coded as = 99.

Mission end year: The year in which the mission ended. In case the mission is ongoing as of 31 August 2023, the variable is coded as = 9999.

Country: The host country of the mission, coded according to the Correlates of War (COW) project's country code system [available at http://www.correlatesofwar.org/data-sets/cow-country-codes].

The Palestinian territories are not included in the COW code system and were added to the codification as:

StateAbb	CCode	StateNme
PS	991	Palestine

Region: The world region in which the host country is located, according to the United Nations' five Regional Groups [https://www.un.org/Depts/DGACM/RegionalGroups.shtml].

1 Africa
2 Asia-Pacific *(includes Turkey, Palestine and Kiribati)*
3 Eastern Europe
4 Latin America and the Caribbean
5 Western Europe and Others *(includes the United States and Israel)*

Appointment: The database codes the main seven appointments in UN peace operations:

1 Special Representative of the Secretary General (SRSG)
2 Head of Mission
3 Force Commander
4 Deputy Force Commander
5 Mission Chief of Staff
6 Police Commissioner
7 Chief Military Observer
8 Several

An appointment is coded only if there has been an official designation. This means, for instance, that Deputy Force Commanders who served as Acting Force Commanders appear in this

database as Deputy Force Commanders only. Likewise, Chiefs of Staff who were not formally designated but only internally appointed do not appear in the dataset.

Appointment_2: In case the person had more than one appointment at a time (and hence, the variable Appointment = 8), this new variable lists the different appointments assigned to a person in a UN peace operation.

Last Name: The last name(s) of the person holding the post.

Name: The first name(s) of the person holding the post.

Gender: The gender of the person in service (1 Male, 2 Female).[1]

Nationality: The country of origin of the person in service, coded according to the COW country code system [available at http://www.correlatesofwar.org/data-sets/cow-country-codes].

Region: The region of origin of the person in service, according to the United Nations' five Regional Groups [https://www.un.org/Depts/DGACM/RegionalGroups.shtml].

1 Africa
2 Asia-Pacific (*includes Turkey, Palestine and Kiribati)*
3 Eastern Europe
4 Latin America and the Caribbean
5 Western Europe and Others *(includes the United States and Israel)*

Mandate start month: The month in which a person began to serve in the given appointment.

Mandate start year: The year in which a person began to serve in the given appointment.

Mandate end month: The month in which a person finished to serve in the given appointment. In case the person held the appointment as of 31 August 2023, the variable was coded as = 99.

Mandate end year: The year in which a person finished to serve in the given appointment. In case the person held the appointment as of 31 August 2023, the variable was coded as = 9999.

Description of sources

The dataset draws on primary data which were mainly collected from official United Nations sources, including social media. Most sources are available online and several include search functions:

- United Nations Peacekeeping Data (https://peacekeeping.un.org/en/data), including the individual websites of current and past operations, many of which include a chronology of events, biannual records of the mission and other relevant sources.
- The Yearbook of the United Nations (https://unyearbook.un.org/).
- UN Digital Library, records and press releases (https://digitallibrary.un.org).
- United Nations Bibliographic Information System (http://unbisnet.un.org)
- United Nations Archives and Records Management Section, summaries of individual peace operations (https://search.archives.un.org).
- UN Meetings Coverage and Press Releases (https://www.un.org/press).

[1] For the purpose of this dataset, no person describing themselves as transgender or other was identified.

Other web-based sources:

- Security Council Reports, chronologies of events (https://www.securitycouncilreport.org).

Publications:

- Koops, Joachim A., Thierry Tardy, Norrie MacQueen & Paul D. Williams (eds) (2015) *The Oxford Handbook of United Nations Peacekeeping Operations.* New York: Oxford University Press.

Furthermore, information was obtained through personal communications with selected individuals and the following institutions:

- UN, Department of Public Information.
- UN, Dag Hammarskjöld Library.