

Subject: Submission for the New Agenda for Peace
From: "Alexandre MacIsaac" <executivedirector@wfmcanada.org>
Sent: 2023-01-13 3:16:38 PM
To: "NewAgendaforPeace@un.org" <NewAgendaforPeace@un.org>;

Good afternoon! Please see below for the [World Federalist Movement - Canada](#)'s proposal:



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The World Federalist Movement - Canada is a not-for-profit research, education and advocacy organization. Our programs cover Peace and Security, Global Democratization, Responsibility to Protect and Global Governance Reforms.

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Submission for the UN Secretary-General's “*Agenda For Peace*”

From the World Federalist Movement – Canada

Jan 14, 2023

A United Nations Emergency Peace Service (UNEPS):

A ‘gamechanger,’ giving the UN the capacity to avert armed conflict, protect people, respond rapidly to crises, facilitate wider disarmament, and enhance its credibility.

We propose the development of a “**UN Emergency Peace Service,**” akin to a 911 first responder. Such dedicated UN service (UNEPS) would give the UN the capacity to:

- prevent armed conflict, genocide and crimes against humanity, *before* they start;
- protect civilians at risk;
- promptly start up any necessary peacekeeping operations, so conflicts don’t escalate and increase peacekeeping costs;
- address human needs in complex emergencies; and
- lead the world to serious disarmament.

Unlike a UN peacekeeping force put together after conflict has escalated and become deadly, the UNEPS service would be triggered and immediately deployed at the first signs of potential conflict in order to maintain peace and avoid conflict.

UNEPS would be a standing, permanent, first-responder for six months from the first signs of trouble. With an emphasis on early peace building and mediation services, policing and humanitarian relief, there should be far fewer large conflicts needing later deployments of large multi-national peacekeeping forces. Since a UNEPS unit would arrive early in situations, it would not likely need heavy formations, though it could call for help. It would contain civilian, police and military elements. Analogous to the household kitchen fire extinguisher, a UNEPS would help at the outset to prevent the whole house catching fire. It would be multi-functional, capable of providing responses to diverse crises: environmental, humanitarian, health and security.

It would recruit personnel based on skills and dedication, not national affiliations, and represent all regions. Gender-equitable staff would be trained, reliable and professional full-time UN employees. It would be located at a new UN base, with two mobile field command headquarters with a total of about 13,500 personnel.

Setup cost is estimated at US\$3.5 billion and annual ongoing expenses of US\$1.5 billion, trivial in comparison to current military expenditures in the trillions every year. UNEPS would reduce: the number of armed conflicts and war crimes, human suffering, the size duration and number of peacekeeping operations, pressure on member states to muster peacekeeping forces, and the huge costs of preparing for war.

The mere existence of UNEPS can be a deterrent, so it does not even have to be deployed to avert war. It can slow down the “culture of impunity.” With a credible world police force (UNEPS), disputing parties would find non-military ways to settle their differences and governments would have an incentive to reduce their military spending. A UNEPS would build global trust of neighbours and the UN.

As an international force it is unlikely to meet violent resistance from any national armed force so UNEPS does not need equipment for high intensity war fighting. But if it did, the UN could still back it up with larger formations. The unwarranted influence of the military-industrial complex would decline, freeing up resources for more human and environmental needs.

UNEPS’ best application is *before* conflict escalates and spreads. Introducing a UNEPS unit to an existing conflict could have some humanitarian benefit and might help to enforce an ultimate peace agreement, but would not replace the UN’s role in negotiating peace between warring parties.

UNEPS has to be prepared when situations get hot. It would use armed force just as any other UN peace operation: in defense of the mission and civilians. It would not bring in artillery. A useful, credible service with a robust capacity to look after itself can do a lot without offensive capability.

The 6 month term for UNEPS is the customary rotation period of a UN operation. By then, the conflict may be resolved or there may be a coordinated transition to the subsequent multinational peacekeeping force assembled for the operation. If a UNEPS was already on the ground it reduces risks, enabling nations to commit to a multi-national follow-on to build on the groundwork developed by UNEPS in the early days. Hopefully there would be some quick impact peace building projects already under way.

It is unclear whether the General Assembly or the Peace Building Commission could *establish* UNEPS, in light of its humanitarian and civilian capabilities. However UNEPS would only be *deployed* by the Security Council. It is unclear whether deployment of UNEPS would be seen as a ‘*pacific*’ action, in the meaning of UN Charter Chapter VI, where an involved country on the Security Council should not be allowed to veto a *pacific* action.

Creating a UN-led world police force, such as UNEPS, would add credibility to the UN, enabling it to actually better meet other global needs.

See the [Mondial \(Fall 2022\) article on UNEPS](#) by Peter Langille.

See also a recent article in [Hill Times](#) relating to the UN Secretary-General's "Agenda For Peace."

Thank you for your consideration,

Kind regards,

Alexandre MacIsaac

Executive Director | Directeur exécutif



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