

UN Peacekeeping and Conflict Resolution in Africa: A Mandate-Outcome Analysis

Abraham Ename Minko

Abstract:

This study critically examines the relationship between United Nations (UN) peacekeeping mandates and conflict resolution outcomes in Africa. Focusing on three major missions—UNMISS in South Sudan, MONUSCO in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and UNAMID in Darfur—it explores how the design, clarity, and scope of mandates affect the effectiveness and sustainability of peace efforts. Findings suggest that missions with clear, context-specific, and well-resourced mandates are more successful in achieving sustainable peace, while those with vague or overly ambitious goals often face operational challenges and questions of legitimacy. The study underscores the importance of local ownership, regional partnerships, and political will in turning mandates into meaningful results. Ultimately, the paper calls for a recalibration of UN peacekeeping mandates to align strategic goals with on-the-ground capacities, advocating for adaptive, context-sensitive peacekeeping models to address Africa's evolving conflict dynamics.

Keywords: Peacekeeping Mandates, Conflict Resolution, United Nations, Africa, Peace Operations Effectiveness