

Title

Effectiveness of UN Peace Operations in Africa: An Analysis of MONUSCO and UNISFA

Keywords

United Nations, Security Council, MONUSCO, UNISFA, peace operations, international peace and security, Africa

Abstract

With the evolving security environment globally combined with the enduring presence of threats to international peace and security, the presence of the UN peace operations remains crucial. However, these peace operations have not always been successful. In line with this, this thesis seeks to understand why some peace operations are more effective than others by examining the criteria for effectiveness and the factors that explain this. This thesis utilises the qualitative case study approach, meticulously examining the established criteria and factors against the cases of MONUSCO and UNISFA while capturing the contemporary multi-faceted nature of UN peace operations. The comprehensive and systematic analysis conducted, with five hypotheses being tested, offers nuanced insights that can aid policymaking and future peace operations. It reveals that MONUSCO and UNISFA were both ineffective in their operations in the DRC and Abyei respectively. Additionally, it reveals that conflict intensity and external military and political support to the belligerents have a direct correlation to the effectiveness of a UN peace operation, with both factors decreasing its effectiveness. On the other hand, consent and cooperation from local parties and commitment from the UN are partially correlated to effectiveness, which means that these factors play a partial role and could not fully account for the increased effectiveness of a UN peace operation on their own. Conversely, the execution of activities that address the causes of the conflict does not affect its effectiveness.