



Background Paper

Committee: The Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations

Topic A: Leveraging advanced technology for robust peacekeeping, transforming surveillance, communications, and logistics in modern conflict zones in UNTSO

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The use of technology over years has seen exponential growth around the world. The variety of ways technology can and has been employed seems to break standards every day. One of the leading ways in which technology can be used for the better is in the case of safety and security. Security has historically been a big issue throughout the whole world, but the Middle East is world-renowned for its conflicts and wars, making it one of the most insecure regions on the planet. Technology has been proven to be a game-changer in conflict zones, supplying innovative solutions to ongoing conflicts. The integration of technology into security will significantly improve surveillance and communication which consequently will allow for more rapid responses, and more precise targeting, especially in military operations. In dangerous regions like the Middle East leveraging technology and security is not only an advantage but a necessity. The use of innovative technology has a vast potential to both save and protect many innocent lives, while stabilizing dangerous areas, ultimately creating a safer world. Global collaboration and effort will not only accelerate this process to better security but also strengthen alliances and knowledge to handle conflicts in regions like the Middle East.

The United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO), operating as a part of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations, has been active since May 1948 and has since made many contributions to mediating ongoing wars and conflicts, primarily in the Middle East region. Over time UNTSO has involved different types of technologies to enhance peacekeeping operations. It is common to see several different types of technologies in war situations, notably in the types of weapons that are used to defend countries. Communication technologies have evolved significantly in the last decades. Many casualties in conflict zones have arisen due to

miscommunication and miscoordination. For instance, in the Israel-Palestine war, numerous innocent people tragically lost their lives as of October 16, 2024, prominently over 44,000 people. With the use of new groundbreaking technologies, the goal is to see this number drastically decrease. Different types of surveillance technologies were used during this conflict to determine when to attack and when to withdraw. The integration of these new technologies can also involve challenges. Many legal dilemmas have arisen, such as when, during the Israeli-Palestine war, the Israeli government utilized digital tools to get access to Gaza's sensitive data. Which consequently raised concerns and put the Israeli government at risk of violating the "International Humanitarian Law". As UNTSO continues to modernize its technology to improve peacekeeping methods, leveraging technology will be pivotal not only to mediating conflicts but also to reducing human costs in unstable regions.

The integration of new and advanced technologies has great potential to change the system in many conflict zones, particularly in volatile regions like the Middle East. As seen by UNTSO the adaptation of new tools, surveillance, and communication methods can drastically make peacekeeping operations much more effective. They promise more precise movements and responses, with the end goal of saving and protecting as many people from violent conflicts and wars as possible. With global cooperation and continued advancements, not only the Middle East region but the whole world can better manage conflicts.

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