



## 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

### Effectiveness of Peace Operations Network (EPON)

Despite COVID-19 the Effectiveness of Peacekeeping Operations Network (EPON) has managed to more or less continue its work according to plan. Some of the research studies have been interrupted by COVID-19 related travel restrictions, but these teams have now decided to carry on with remote interviews. Overall two new reports have been published, the network has organised and participated in several webinars and interest in the network continues to grow.

#### Research

In 2018 and 2019 EPON has undertaken four studies into the effectiveness of specific peace operations, namely the AU's mission in Somalia (AMISOM), and the UN peacekeeping missions in the Democratic Republic of Congo (MONUSCO), South Sudan (UNMISS) and Mali (MINUSMA). In 2020 two studies have been completed, namely the UN mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA) and the joint AU-UN mission in Darfur (UNAMID).

The completed studies have been published on the [EPON website](#). The executive summaries of the Mali, DRC and CAR reports have also been translated into French to broaden their impact, and all reports have been converted into e-reader versions.

Three studies are currently underway into the EU and OSCE missions in Ukraine, the UN mission in Colombia and the UN mission in Cyprus. The research teams have been forced to adapt to COVID-19-related travel restrictions, but the researchers have now decided to go-ahead with the three ongoing studies via remote interviews and focus groups.

At the Annual General Meeting the following research studies will be discussed for 2021 and 2022:

- UNIFIL
- UNAMA (Afghanistan) - exit after peace deal?
- AU, UN & EU in Somalia (effectiveness of whole-of-multilateral system...)
- AU, G5, UN & EU in Mali (effectiveness of whole-of-multilateral system...)
- AU, IGAD, UN & EU in South Sudan (effectiveness of whole-of-multilateral system...)
- MNJTF and Lake Chad Basin Regional Stabilisation initiative
- UN+ in Libya - implementing the new agreement?
- MINURSO and question of Western Sahara
- MONUSCO exit
- UN, NATO & EU in Kosovo (effectiveness of whole-of-multilateral system...)
- BINUH and other recent missions in Haiti



In 2019 and 2020 we have been able to take on approx. 3 to 4 new studies per year. In preparation for the annual meeting, please consider which of these studies you think we should prioritize, and please indicate which of these studies you may want to participate in.

#### EPON Related work:

The EPON Secretariat will publish related work on the effectiveness of peace operations at the EPON website. These are studies undertaken by partners that may partly makes use of the EPON methodology or that are otherwise relevant for our focus on the effectiveness of peace operations. If partner institutions have related ongoing work and would like it featured on the website, please forward the published work to the EPON Secretariat (jenny@nupi.no).

#### **Partners:**

The network currently has 66 partners (annex 1). 17 partners are included in the funding from the NORGLOBAL grant from the Norwegian Research Council (annex 1). The network is informal and flexible, and those interested in specific studies, or the work of the network more generally is welcome to participate.

#### **Dissemination:**

Since COVID-19 was declared a pandemic in March 2020, EPON's seminars have been changed into virtual seminars. The EPON network has adjusted well to these circumstances, as the partners are able to meet through Zoom, Teams and other platforms. The EPON webinars conducted so far have also reached a larger audience than our previous physical seminars. For example, the EPON webinar at the Virtual Stockholm Forum reached over 500 participants.

#### In 2020 EPON has co-hosted and participated in the following events:

- 4 February, ISA at the UN: [“Making UN Peace Operations more Inclusive and People-centered”](#)
- 26 April, Challenges Forum Webinar, in cooperation with Institute for Peace and Security Studies (IPSS) : [“The future of Peace Operations”](#)
- 15 May, Stockholm Peace Forum: [“Sustaining Peace in the Time of COVID-19”](#).
- 26 June, ACUNS: [“Are UN Peacekeeping Operations effective, and if so, at what exactly?”](#)
- 9 September, Oslo Webinar: [virtual seminar on the “relationship between humanitarian assistance and peace operations” in cooperation with the Norwegian Centre of Humanitarian Studies.](#)
- 5 November, Geneva Peace Week: “Adaptive Leadership in Support of Sustaining Peace in a Pandemic Environment”.

#### Social Media:

The number of people on the distribution list has doubled since 2019, and currently consist of 506 people.

The website has during 2020 reached over 9,900 pageviews and 3,590 independent readers. The EPON's presence on social media has had a substantial growth since 2019. The EPON

twitter page has doubled its followers and reached 1072 and has published over 1220 tweets. The EPON Facebook page was created in August 2019 and now has 241 followers.

**EPOT:**

The EPON Secretariat, in collaboration with the Center for Peace Operations in Berlin and SaferGlobe in Helsinki, has developed and tested a concept for an Effectiveness of Peace Operations Visualization Tool (EPOT). EPOT is an interactive web-based visualization to show complexity in peace operations based on the methodology of EPON. The Secretariat is now in the process of building EPOT for release in 2021. EPOT will enable people to engage with the EPON studies in an innovative way that involves searching for key concepts and topics and finding out how they are interlinked with each other.

**Funding and expenses:**

The network is based on a self-funding model where each partner covers the cost of their participation in the network's activities, including especially the research studies. NUPI has received a network support grant from the Norwegian Research Council for four years from 1 November 2018. This grant is not for research, but to support the network by funding dissemination events (seminars in Africa/AU, Europe/EU, Norway and the USA/UN) and tools (website, dataset, newsletter).

The Norwegian Institute of International Affairs (NUPI) has contributed with funding through the Training for Peace programme (TfP), which is funded by the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. This project is about supporting the African Union's peace and security work, and the EPON research supported by TfP have been either African-led peace operations, on UN peace operations in Africa that typically have significant African TCC contributions, special African brigades like the FIB or close working relationships with African peace initiatives.

Several partners have contributed to the research studies by offering their time as an in-kind contribution, or they have generated their own funding to cover their research expenses. The partners are encouraged to apply for funding to cover their participation in the network, including especially the research studies.



Dr. Cedric de Coning  
Research Professor, NUPI  
EPON Coordinator  
Oslo, 10 November 2020

## **Annex 1: Institutions participating in the EPON network**

- 1. Norwegian Institute of International Affairs (NUPI) – PI\***
- 2. African Center for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes (ACCORD), South Africa**
3. Army War College, Abuja, Nigeria
4. Army War College, USA
5. Austrian Study Centre for Peace and Conflict Resolution (ASPR), Vienna
6. Australian Strategic Policy Institute
7. Aoyama Gakuin University, Japan
8. Balsille School, University of Waterloo
9. Bangladesh Institute of Peace Support Operation (BIPSOT), Dhaka, Bangladesh
10. Beijing Foreign Studies University (BFSU), Beijing, China
- 11. Cairo International Centre for Conflict Resolution, Peacekeeping & Peacebuilding (CCCPA), Egypt**
12. Center for Civilians in Conflict (CIVIC), Washington D.C. USA
- 13. Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS-Jakarta), Indonesia**
14. Centre Thucydide of the University of Paris-Panthéon-Assas
15. Center on International Cooperation (CIC), New York, USA
16. China Peacekeeping Police Training Center/Police University, Langfang, China
17. Crisis Management Center (CMC-Finland), Helsinki, Finland
18. Danish Institute for International Studies (DIIS), Copenhagen, Denmark
19. Geneva Centre for Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF), Geneva, Switzerland
- 20. German Peace Operations Centre (ZIF), Germany**
21. European Institute for Peace
22. European Union Institute for Security Studies (EUISS), Paris
23. Finnish Defence Forces International Centre (FINCENT), Helsinki, Finland
- 24. Folke Bernadotte Academy (FBA), Sweden**
25. Center for UN Studies, Fudan University, Shanghai, China
26. Geneva Centre for Security Policy (GCSP), Geneva, Switzerland
27. German Police University
28. George Washington University
29. Georgetown University
30. Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect (GCR2P), New York, USA
31. Global Governance Institute (GGI), Brussels, Belgium
32. Global Public Policy Institute (GPPI), Berlin, Germany
33. Helmut Schmidt University, Hamburg
34. Igarapé Institute, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
- 35. International Peace Institute (IPI), USA**
- 36. Institute for Peace and Security Studies (IPSS), Ethiopia**
37. Institute for Security Studies (ISS), Pretoria, South Africa
38. Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre (KAIPTC), Accra, Ghana
39. Krock Institute, Colombia
- 40. Laurea University of Applied Sciences, Finland**
41. Maastricht University
42. National Institute for Defense Studies (NIDS), Tokyo, Japan
- 43. Norwegian Defence International Centre (NODEFIC), Norway**
- 44. Norwegian Defence University College (NDUC/FHS), Norway**
- 45. Norwegian Police University College (PHS), Norway**
46. NUST, Center for International Peace and Stability (CIPS), Pakistan
47. NUST Institute of Peace and Conflict Studies (NIPCONS), Islamabad, Pakistan

- 48. Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO), Norway**
- 49. Royal Danish Defence College/Stellenbosch University
- 50. RMIT University, Melbourne, Australia
- 51. SaferGlobe, Finland**
- 52. The Security Institute for Governance and Leadership in Africa (SICGLA), Stellenbosch, South Africa
- 53. Social Terrain, London, UK
- 54. Social Science Research Council, New York, USA
- 55. Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), Sweden**
- 56. Swedish Armed Forces International Centre (SWEDINT)
- 57. The Stimson Center, Washington D.C. USA
- 58. Training for Peace Secretariat, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
- 59. United Nations University Centre for Policy Research, New York, USA
- 60. University of Kiel
- 61. University of Konstanz
- 62. University of Montreal
- 63. University of Trento
- 64. UiT The Arctic University of Norway, Norway**
- 65. United Services Institute – India (USI-India), India**
- 66. United States Institute for Peace (USIP), Washington D.C. USA

\*Partners in bold are part of the NRC NORGLOBAL grant.