



**Complex:** Environments in which they operate are complex. In some cases there is no peace to keep; in other places it is not clear what is the orientation of the multiple parties to a conflict towards the peace keepers and in some cases it is not even clear who are the parties to a conflict. New innovations are being crafted for PKOs. The Force Intervention Brigade in Congo, the use of drones with increasingly larger perimeter visions. Multiple efforts are underway in the same area. In the two Sudans, ten envoys and mediators from five different institutions are working to support political processes alongside three UN peacekeeping operations. Known unknowns are many.

**Challenging:** Mandates are crafted without taking into account the needs of the Troops Contributing Countries; Mandates are renewed or expanded without consulting the troop contributors; mandates are not backed up with adequate understanding of the resources that their implementation will require and yet in case of anything going wrong the first finger is pointed at those who are trying to do their jobs in what are extremely difficult environments. So all peace keepers function in an environment where they have little say but are held to be most responsible of all actors involved in peace keeping.

**Capacity Building:** As you can see the nature of this beast is complicated, complex & challenging so all who participate in it will require to be adequately prepared for it. Africa today contributes the largest amount of personnel to Peace keeping. There are 38 African countries who provide 50% all UN peace keepers; 60 per cent of its international civilian peacekeepers and 80 percent of its national peacekeeping staff. This is an increase in contributions from 10,000 peacekeepers ten years ago. This is separate from non UN Peace Keeping participation by our African friends that accounts for several thousand more. Also 9 of the 16 PKOs are in Africa. So obviously we have much to share and much to learn with our African partners.

**Cooperation:** Peace keeping today is a shared responsibility with 123 countries providing Troops. The prognosis is that Peace Keeping as an activity is here to stay. Even as new Peace Keeping operations are added there are no sunset clauses for some of the old. As many as a third of the 16 PKOs were deployed before the end of the Cold War. Also, on an average the longevity of new Peace Keeping Operations is lengthening to an average of over a decade. So we all need to learn to cooperate as despite its shortcomings it is a tool that serves useful purposes. President Obama's Summit last year was a far sighted effort in capacity expansion and enhancing cooperation by getting more countries involved and asking those who are already involved to look at what more we can do. This course is a small effort that stems from India's commitment to that path. To paraphrase the American poet Robert Frost we have miles to go on the path all of us have chosen.