

# GERMAN REVIEW ON THE UNITED NATIONS | Abstracts

VOLUME 62 | 2014 | No. 1

Alischa Kugel

pp. 3–8

## The United Nations and Preventive Diplomacy. Challenges and Opportunities

The United Nations has a wider range of preventive diplomacy instruments at its disposal than ever before. These include Special Envoys and Mediators, field missions, dedicated entities at the UN Secretariat, such as the Mediation Support Unit and the Standby Team of Mediation Experts, regional and sub-regional organizations and development actors, such as Resident Coordinators and Peace and Development Advisors. Recent experiences illustrate that despite certain limits, preventive diplomacy can achieve positive results. However, challenges in the form of financial, operational, and political obstacles have to be overcome. The United Nations can use the newfound interest of member states in conflict prevention—driven in part by financial pressures—to its advantage to strengthen preventive diplomacy measures.

Gisela Hirschmann · Monika Heupel

pp. 9–14

## Practice What You Preach.

### The United Nations and Human Rights Protection in Peacekeeping Operations and Sanctions Policies

The protection of human rights is one of the United Nations' utmost priorities. Numerous institutions and treaties can be traced back to United Nations initiatives. However, as the authority of the organization has remarkably grown during the last two decades, some UN policies can also have negative consequences for human rights. Human rights violations have occurred in the context of United Nations peace operations, for example through the sexual exploitation of women and children by peacekeepers, or as a result of UN sanctions policies, which violated the rights of individuals or a whole population. As a consequence, the United Nations is increasingly facing demands to promote the respect of human rights not only among its member states but also in its own activities. In this contribution, the authors show how the United Nations has reacted to these new demands by analysing the development of human rights protection provisions in peace operations and sanctions policies.

Oliver Meier

p. 15

## Comment: Mission Unaccomplished.

### Syria and the Chemical Weapons Disarmament

The process of chemical weapons disarmament in Syria remains incomplete. Successes include the thorough investigation of the circumstances of past poison gas attacks and the destruction of key elements of Syria's chemical weapons program. But the most dangerous weapons are not yet removed from Syria and the perpetrators of the attacks must be tried by the International Criminal Court.

## “We Should at All Costs Prevent the ICC from Being Politicized”

pp. 16–21

Interview with Fatou Besouda, Chief Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court, on the impact of the Court, criticism from African states, a new investigation strategy, the importance and difficulties of witness protection, cooperation with non-states parties and the UN Secretariat, and on the Court's function as a deterrent.

Hendrik Cremer

pp. 22–27

## The New Complaints Mechanism for Children.

### The Third Optional Protocol to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

On 14 April 2014, the third Optional Protocol to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child will enter into force. The Protocol contains regulations for an individual communication procedure in front of and an inquiry procedure to be conducted by the Committee on the Rights of the Child. The Protocol's entry into force means an important step forward for the international system for the protection of human rights. The Protocol stands for the acknowledgment of children's rights as individual justiciable rights. On the basis of the Protocol, the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and its two substantive Optional Protocols can now be viewed to be on equal footing with other international human rights treaties—not only in theoretical terms but also in terms of procedures for the protection of children's rights.