

International Day of Peacekeeping: An assessment of the UN missions in Mali and South Sudan

Date and time: 29 May 2019, 09:30-12:00

On the occasion of the International Day of Peacekeeping, NUPI had the pleasure of hosting a seminar with a focus on the effectiveness of the UN missions in Mali and South Sudan.



UN peacekeepers from Bangladesh arrive at the Niger Battalion Base in Ansongo, in Eastern Mali. Photo: UNCG Bangladesh

Peacekeeping is one of the most prominent tools available to the United Nations for the maintenance of international peace and security. The former Secretary-General of the United Nations (UN), Ban Ki-moon, referred to peacekeeping as the flagship enterprise of the UN.

However, a mixed record of successes and failures, an unprecedented high number of fatalities, and new threats like violent extremism have raised questions as to whether UN peacekeeping is still fit for purpose. The UN and other international organizations conducting peace operations, including the African Union (AU) and the European Union (EU), are therefore under increasing pressure to justify the effectiveness and impact of their engagement.

At this seminar, we turned our attention to the effectiveness of the UN missions in Mali (MINUSMA) and South Sudan (UNMISS). Researchers from the [Effectiveness of Peace Operations \(EPON\) research network](#) presented findings from their research into these two operations. Each presentation was followed by a panel, consisting of a representative from the UN missions as well as a representative from a local civil society organisation from the country.

The programme of seminar:

09:30 Welcome and briefing on EPON, Cedric de Coning, NUPI

09:45 An Assessment of the UN mission in South Sudan (UNMISS), Adam Day, UN University

10:00 Panel on South Sudan

Brig.Gen. Wang Chuanjin, Commander, Sector West, UNMISS

Zacharia Diing Akol, The Sudd Institute

Adam Day, UN University EPON?

Kari Osland, NUPI (moderator)

10:45 Coffee/Tea break

11:00 An Assessment of the UN mission in Mali (MINUSMA), Jair van der Lijn, SIPRI

11:15 Panel on Mali

Bruno Mpondo-Epo, Director, Political Affairs Division, MINUSMA xx

Sharon Wiharta, Challenges Forum

Jair van der Lijn, SIPRI EPON

Kari Osland, NUPI (moderator)

The EPON report for the UN Mission in Mali will be published soon, but the report on South Sudan is available here:

- [Assessing the Effectiveness of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan \(UNMISS\)](#)

NUPI has received funding from the Norwegian Research Council and the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs to support EPON and its research, including via the [UN Peace Operations project \(UNPOP\)](#) and the [Training for Peace \(TfP\)](#) programme.

The seminar was streamed on NUPI's YouTube channel: <https://youtu.be/nyyWv2dmbcQ>