

3. Multilateral peace operations

Overview

This chapter describes general developments and trends in multilateral peace operations in 2022. There were 64 active peace operations in 2022—an increase of one compared to the previous year. Five started in 2022: the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) Collective Peacekeeping Forces to Kazakhstan; the African Union Transition Mission in Somalia; the Economic Community of West African States Stabilisation Support Mission in Guinea-Bissau (SSMGB); the East African Community Regional Force in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (EACRF-DRC); and the African Union Monitoring, Verification and Compliance Mission in Ethiopia (AU-MVCM). Four ended in 2022: the CSTO Collective Peacekeeping Forces to Kazakhstan; the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine (SMM); the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM); and the International Monitoring Team (IMT) in Mindanao.

The number of personnel deployed to multilateral peace operations globally increased in 2022. This breaks a trend of declining personnel numbers between 2016 and 2021. The rise in 2022 mostly reflected variations in personnel deployments to operations in sub-Saharan Africa, which continued to host the most peace operations and personnel. Four of the five new operations in 2022 were launched in the region and all of them by regional organizations, namely the African Union, the East African Community and the Economic Community of West African States. These newly established missions illustrate the increasing regionalization of peace operations and the emphasis on the deployment of uniformed rather than civilian personnel.

Moreover, relations between peace operations and host governments reached a new low in 2022, with the expulsion of United Nations personnel from Mali and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The erosion of these relations was intensified by demonstrations in which protestors demanded the closure of UN peacekeeping operations in both countries given their alleged ineffectiveness in dealing with the respective conflicts. In Mali and the Central African Republic, these difficult relationships were further complicated by the presence of the Wagner Group, a Russian private military company, which was accused of participating in human rights abuses and disinformation campaigns. Finally, Russia's invasion of Ukraine on 24 February 2022 exacerbated already mounting geopolitical rivalries, particularly between Western countries and Russia. This led to the closure of the OSCE SMM, as well as difficult political dynamics within the UN Security Council.

Table 3.2 in section IV provides further details on the different multilateral peace operations and the organizations and alliances deploying them.

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