



About Peacekeeping

Peacekeeping is a calling that demands both personal dedication and sacrifice. Service in the cause of peace offers real opportunities to help peoples and countries recover from conflict, rebuild their societies, and enjoy the benefits of peace.

United Nations peace operations offer opportunities to make a difference, both in the world and in your own life. Working and living conditions in the field vary. If you serve in a peacekeeping or political mission, or in a humanitarian field operation, the country or region that you work and live in is likely to be emerging from conflict or an emergency situation where the conditions are more arduous; the infrastructure is weak and electricity and clean water are often in short supply. In addition, most peacekeeping, political or humanitarian missions are categorized as "non-family" duty stations, and therefore family members are unable to join the staff member at the relevant location.



Political Affairs

Political Affairs forms a central component of most UN peacekeeping operations and all Special Political Missions. Political Affairs has a crucial role in the implementation of Security Council and other mandates and in supporting national or regional stakeholders in the design or implementation of peace processes. The work of Political Affairs in UN peace missions is supported by UN Headquarters in New York, in particular the Department of Political Affairs and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations.



Nature of our Work

Political Affairs Officers are assigned to cover geographic or thematic areas, with a particular focus on peace and security issues. They work directly for a Special Representative or Envoy, or report through a head of Political Office/Division. Political Affairs Officers in UN field missions are responsible for identifying, analyzing, advising and reporting on political developments, trends and emerging issues in the country or region assigned. A core part of this work requires extensive drafting of various analytical and other reports, including reports of the Secretary-General to the Security Council, General Assembly or other bodies.



Working in the Field

United Nations peacekeeping and political missions have evolved over time to respond to different conflicts and changing political landscapes. Civilian peacekeepers work as administrators and engineers, police officers and legal experts, economists and electoral observers, specialists in civil affairs and gender, as well as experts in information technology and public information among other specialized functions. International positions have two categories, Professional and Higher and Field Service, which are distinguished by levels of responsibility as well as education and work experience requirements.



Gender

The United Nations fosters gender equality and encourages applications from suitably qualified and experienced women across the full range of career opportunities particularly in the more "non-traditional" field careers such as Aviation, Logistics or Engineering.



Education

Political Affairs Officers typically have an advanced university degree (Master's degree or equivalent) in political science, international relations, social sciences, law, public administration, or a related area.

English and French are the working languages of the United Nations. All Political Affairs positions require fluency in oral and written English. Working knowledge of a second official United Nations language, particularly Arabic and French, is an advantage and, depending on the duty station, sometimes required.



Related Careers

There are various career opportunities related to Political Affairs, such as the following:

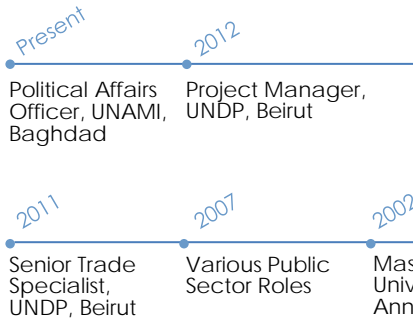
- Chief of Staff
- Civil Affairs
- Public Information



Helpful Links

- careers.un.org
- hr.un.org
- inspira.un.org
- point.un.org

Aiman MACKIE
Political Affairs Officer
Baghdad, Iraq




Global Workforce

Over time, the United Nations has increased its presence in locations all over the world. There are over 130 field offices, which include peacekeeping and political missions and humanitarian field operations, and they play an essential role in identifying, highlighting, and responding to emerging challenges. While the work may vary greatly, the one unifying factor is the opportunity to make a difference, both in the world and in your own life. Together with its partners, the UN is tasked with a variety of responsibilities, such as providing and coordinating humanitarian assistance; promoting and protecting human rights; promoting the wise stewardship of the global environment; assisting countries to combat the supply of illicit drugs, crime and corruption and; providing information on the Organization and its activities in the various locations in which it operates.

Missions Directed by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations*



UN Field Careers

Before you navigate through the existing job opportunities available online, we strongly advise that you read carefully the description of each current UN operation through the links to the mission website.

Please apply for the positions that best match your expertise, qualifications, experience and aspirations. The necessary education background/training, experience and skills to perform a specific job are explained in the qualification section of each vacancy announcement.

If you are interested in working for Peacekeeping Operations, please send your resume to Outreachforpeace@un.org and write "WRUD4P" in the subject line of your email.

* Source: Map No. 4259 Rev. 20(E), Cartographic Section, Department of Field Support, UNITED NATIONS, April 2014

** political mission

Disclaimer: due to the mobile and dynamic nature of field careers, profilees may not necessarily feature in their current positions.

What are you doing for peace?

Field Personnel Division,
United Nations
Department of Field Support

I am proud of my work in political affairs, which enables me to contribute strategically in the promotion of **conflict resolution** and **political reconciliation** objectives in the field.



Aiman MACKIE
Political Affairs Officer
Duty Station:
Baghdad, Iraq