

United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL): Evolution of the mission in terms of human security

Does the evolution of the UNIFIL meet the paradigm of human security, or does it remain framed in the precepts of classical security?

Classical security



Human security

State as the referent of security

Values such as political independence or territorial integrity of the state are protected

Military aggressions from other states as the main threats

Military dissuasion as a guarantor of security

Individual as the referent of security

Protection of values related to human, civil and social rights

Wide range of threats: from violence resulting of the new international conflictivity to economic crises, natural disasters, epidemics...

Promotion of human development as a guarantor of security

The Original UNIFIL

Resolutions 425 (1978) and 426 (1978) of the United Nations Security Council

Security for whom?

Lebanese State as the subject to protect

The extended UNIFIL

Resolution 1701 (2006) of the United Nations Security Council

Security for which values?

Political independence and territorial integrity of the state as values to be protected

Lebanese State as the subject to protect

Lebanese civilians as a second subject to protect

From what threats?

Israel failing to end its military intervention in Lebanese territories, with all of the consequences that this might have

Political independence and territorial integrity of the state as values to be protected

Values such as the welfare of civilians and refugees in the area, are considered

By what means?

2.000 soldiers deployed in the field (observation and interposition functions)

Recommencement of the Hezbollah attacks on Israeli territory (non-state paramilitary group = New conflictivity)

The hypothetical actions that the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) might take in Lebanese land

increase to a maximum of 15,000 soldiers deployed in the field (extended functions: use of force is authorised to protect civilians from direct physical threats)

Conclusions

• The UNIFIL may be defined as a necessarily traditional mission each time more influenced by the doctrine of human security.

• The UNIFIL must continue to maintain its traditional mission through a classical interpretation of security, as its main duty is to fight an underlying conflict between two states.

• However, having to face challenges of classical security and modern conflictivity, the UNIFIL should not only use traditional military resources, but must also play an essential role in the reconstruction, development and political evolution of the country.

