

“Towards a new paradigm of international governance”

By Mads Fleckner

The United Nations and the Democratic Republic of Congo

Interregional cooperation and security:

Post-intervention reconstruction

Securing and reinforcing international institutions:

Defining the role of intergovernmental organizations

Human security and international governance

The distribution of power in international and interregional settings

Introduction

Recent events in The Democratic Republic of Congo, where The UN peace keeping mission MONUC (United Nations Mission to the Democratic Republic of Congo) has been undergoing attacks and received heavy critic from the civil society, shows how difficult a task it is to operate in an unstable and fragile environment according to Peace Observing, Peace keeping and the concept of the use of an international organisation in a leadership role.

The conflict

Placed in the heart of Africa, The Democratic Republic of Congo, a country the size of Western Europe, is hosting one of the most complex conflicts in the world today, a conflict that has led to a humanitarian catastrophe on a devastating large scale. The rate of death because of war and famine is astronomic and has been an almost overwhelmingly challenge for the international society for over a decade.

History

From The independence of the then Belgian Congo on 30 June, 1960 UN has played an important and significant role in Congo. During the independence and Congo crisis, the secretary-general Dag Hammarskjöld established The UN operation in Congo to prevent the cold war from spreading to Africa and prevent the secession of the province of Katanga.

Future

It is the plan to hold elections in June 2005. It is uncertain if the elections will aggravate the conflict, as much as it would be difficult to carry through fair elections in a country of continental dimensions, with almost no infrastructure and so rich of economic resources, that financial interests of foreign actors and mineral exploitation are a continuing threat to interregional security.

The power vacuum after a withdrawal of peace keeping personal will be Catastrophic if the international institutions such as UN but also EU, fails in the task of reconstruction after peace intervention and prevention and management of conflict.

It is therefore important to define which role the United Nations shall possess in the future according to human security and international governance.

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