CHAPTER 3

China and Peacekeeping

Introduction

Under the UN framework of collective security and in the exercise of its mandate to maintain international peace and security, the UN Security Council has from the very beginning taken the initiative to establish peacekeeping operations. Over the course of history, the nature and objectives of such peacekeeping operations have transformed from traditional peacekeeping to peacebuilding, peace support, and peace enforcement operations. The gradual process of capacity-building and professionalisation of UN peacekeepers as well as the needs on the ground have shaped such alterations accordingly.1

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Peacekeeping has become an indispensable tool on behalf of the UN (Security Council) to carry out its ambitions to assist nation states in resolving their international and internal disputes, both peacefully and towards a sustainable and long-term solution, one that is acceptable to all parties to the conflict – state and non-state alike. The resources put at the disposal of such UN peacekeeping missions have changed from exclusively military personnel to civilian police, administrators, to prosecutors, judges and engineers whose mandates have increasingly ensured a greater interaction across and collaboration between civil and military sectors, in particular in the areas of training and security sector reform.²

The diverse nature of the different kinds of expertise which are needed to set up, support and sustain UN peacekeeping operations within more and more complex conflict situations has further highlighted the need for sensibility and ability on behalf of civilian and military personnel sent by participating UN member states to confront such conflicts. Beyond the importance of training, guidelines as well as operational principles – also known as the Three Hammarskjöld Principles,³ namely consent of the host state, impartiality and non-use of force except for self-defence, the cooperation with regional actors
