The United Nations Association in Australia Peace and Security Research Program

VERSION 2.0

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UNAA Queensland Peace and Security Research Program

Purpose

The United Nations Association of Australia (UNAA) recognises the role that the United Nations plays in the maintenance of international peace and security. In 2014, the UNAA launched its peace and security program which seeks to promote the work of the United Nations regarding the pursuit of peace. In 2019, the United Nations Association of Australia (Queensland) was selected to lead the Peace and Security Program which includes commitments to conduct research in areas of interest to Australia, disseminate research findings to stakeholders, policymakers and the community to support evidenced-based decision making on peace and security policy, encouraging citizen engagement on these issues.

This document provides the strategic context for our research activities for period October 2019– October 2021. Updates to the program will occur as our research requirements evolve in accordance with changing domestic and international events.

Strategic context for research

With the introduction of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in 2015; the continued importance of peace and security has been illustrated by SDG16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions with 11 targets measured along 22 corresponding indicators.[i] SDG 16 is one of the most important goals for the achievement of the United Nations Agenda 2030. SDG 16 has been identified at the 2019 Conference on SDG 16 as a goal that is both an outcome and an enabler of sustainable development. SDG 16 is closely interlinked with other SDGs. Without peace, justice and inclusion, achieving goals such as ending poverty, ensuring education promote economic growth can be difficult or impossible, which means that making progress towards achieving SDG 16 is likely to support the achievement of other goals.

Progress towards SDG 16 is a universal challenge, which requires action for implementation and follow up in both developing and developed countries, albeit in different ways The Australian government's contribution to secure Agenda 2030 in general and SDG16 in particular indicates a commitment to supporting activities locally as well as in societies where conflict and violence are a constant presence, that promote peace, justice and strong institutions in a way that encourages civic responsibility and relevant action. Given Australia's economic and social interests in the Indo Pacific region it is understandable that particular attention be paid to peace and security in that region.

To reflect the UNAA's remit, our research projects have been organised to span five thematic areas:

1. Australia's contribution to SDG16
2. Australia's role in gendering peace and security
3. Australia's role in peace keeping and conflict resolution
4. Peacebuilding in foreign policy
5. Building youth support for SDG16

Thematic Research Areas

Table 1:   Thematic Research Areas

2019–2020 Thematic Areas	Why the UNAAQ is doing this work/Research questions
Australia's contribution[ii] to SDG16	SDG 16 lies at the heart of Australian values and commitment to political, economic and religious freedoms; liberal democracy; the rule of law; and good governance. In 2018, the Australian government submitted its Voluntary Annual Review on the SDGs. The review included an overview of contributions to SDG16 both domestically and abroad. RQ: Examine how Australia is contributing to the achievement of SDG16 through its regional and global activities using the 22 SDG 16 indicators and make recommendations for future programming and implementation up to 2030 RQ: Leaving no one behind: Exploring Indigenous reconciliation in achieving SDG16 RQ: Review best practices in monitoring and evaluation of contributions to SDG16 based on case studies and make recommendations for future practice.
Australia's role in gendering peace and security	Security Council Resolution 1325(2000) on women, peace and security calls for the adoption of a gender perspective that included (i) the special needs of women and girls in conflict (ii) the role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts and in peace-building and (iii) measures that supported local women's peace initiatives and indigenous processes for conflict resolution. In response, the Australian Government produced the Australian National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security (2012-2018)[iii] which ends in 2019. An independent review of the Action Plan was completed in October 2018[iv] and the Office for Women is leading efforts to design the next National Action Plan. RQ: Review programmes and projects implemented under the 2012-2018 plan to identify and analyse to what extent and how they are contributing to SDG 16.
Australia's role in peace keeping and conflict resolution	United Nations Peacekeeping operations are a crucial mechanism to assist the delivery of the UN's core mandate to maintain international peace and security Australia recognises the important contribution made by the UN to maintaining international peace and security yet the country's contributions to peacekeeping efforts have declined over the years. RQ: Determine to what extent domestic factors (social/political/economic) and international factors (Christmas tree mandating, increasing complexity of conflict and peacekeeping concepts) influence contributions to peacekeeping operations.

2019–2020 Thematic Areas	Why the UNAAQ is doing this work/Research questions
	RQ: West Papua RQ: What role might the UN play in alleviating tensions in the West Papuan region and prevent future conflict between Indonesia and the West Papuan independence movement?
Peacebuilding in Australia's foreign policy	Threats to peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific region link to Australian national and international interests. These threats are interconnected threats associated with resource competition, climate change, rising inequality and poverty, social and political exclusion, rapid urbanisation, increased mobility, exceptionally youthful populations, the rise of violent extremism and disruptions to longstanding international policy and security postures. RQ: Explore Australia's role in peacebuilding efforts and the extent to which it is integrated in foreign policy.
Building youth support for SDG16	The World Youth Report on "Youth and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", prepared by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA), examines the mutually supportive roles of the new agenda and current youth development efforts. In 2017, the United Nations Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development's Working Group on Youth and the 2030 Agenda developed a set of guiding principles for development partners on youth engagement in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. RQ: Examine if and how education centres are integrating SDG16 into their curriculum and how successes may be measured. RQ: Identify best practices in youth led initiatives on SDG16.
Indigenous Cultures and their role in building Peace and Security	Indigenous cultures are often put in the margins of political decisions, negotiations and planning. However, due to this marginalization, many of these cultures are under threat of extinction without consideration of how indigenous perspectives may enhance our ability to create sustainable peace and security. RQ: What cases have demonstrated the benefits of indigenous perspective in building peace. RQ: How might indigenous perspectives be utilized in future cases of conflict and insecurity.

Research Collaborations and Partnerships: Outputs, Dissemination

The UNAA Queensland operates through a network of volunteers with access to technical support from experts through the UNAA academic network. While two thematic areas (Australia material support and Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems) have generated internal research interest, it is expected that the UNAA Queensland will engage academics, civil society, private sector and policy-makers with a view to supporting its research program through for example calls for papers, participation in conferences and public lectures (see table 2 for research outputs). This approach reflects the whole of

society approach which recognizes the important role of government as well as non-state actors who are involved in advancing and promoting SDG16.

Table 2: Research outputs by type and target audience

Research output	Types of Outputs	Target Audience
Article	Journal Article Letter (to newspaper editor) Discussion Paper	Academics Academics, public, policymakers Academics
Conference	Conference paper Conference Proceedings Panel presentations	Academics, public, policymakers, private sector, civil society
Internet publication	Website Blogs	Public, civil society
Other presentations	Public Lecture (series)	Academics, public, policymakers, private sector, civil society
Report	Technical report Discussion paper Working paper	Academics, policymakers, private sector, civil society

Style Guide

UNAA Peace and Security : Opinion Piece Style Guide

- Between 1,000 and 1,500 words
- APA style referencing. For a full guide provided by Taylor and Francis publishing, see https://www.tandf.co.uk/journals/authors/style/reference/tf_APA.pdf
- A 100-word biography is to be included at the end of the article, outlining background and areas of expertise. Ideally this would be accompanied by a small portrait photo, though this is not compulsory.
- Include a photo if possible.
- Between 3 and 5 keywords to describe your article to be included with submission. These will be used for search engine optimization
- Lead paragraph to be treated as an abstract, outlining key ideas to optimize search engine discoverability
- Single space, Times New Roman font
- British English
- Single quotation marks for quotes in subheadings, double quotation marks within text.
- Lengthy quotes are to be indented and in italics with no quotation marks.
- Lists can be created using dot points with no capitals required with a full stop only on the final point. This applies for numbered lists.
- Italicized genus names and foreign words
- Temperature in Celsius and measurements in metric.
- Currency to be indicated at the beginning of quoted amount, for example, AUD$7 million, or USD$7 million.
- Numbers of ten or below should be written, above ten can use numerals and large numbers written in numerals followed by denomination, for example, five, 5,000, 5 million
- Numbers with four digits or more require commas, for example 1,000, excepting postcodes, zip codes and years
- Capitalise when referring to Australian Indigenous people or another particular group of indigenous people.
- Time references should be as close to current as possible at the time of publication.

As this is forum exploring United Nations-related issues, it will be the general expectation that UN history or policy be somehow incorporated into your article, though not necessarily the primary focus.

i For details on the SDG 16 targets and indicators visit
https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdg16

ii Three different levels of contribution are identified here: Direct, Indirect and Participant initiated. This typology acknowledges that in many cases it is not possible to demonstrate a direct causal link between project activities and documented outcomes. For example, the project or programme does not act or intervene directly to prevent violence, promote justice or strengthen institutions but instead encourages project or programme participants to act or influence others who can take positive action or stop negative action. Indirect contributions refer to results of the project that do not directly prevent violence, increase justice or strengthen institutions, but that create the conditions for this to happen. Participant initiated contributions are results produced by project participants with support from the project, rather than directly by the project itself.

iii See https://www.pmc.gov.au/sites/default/files/publications/national-action-plan_on_women%20peace-security-%202012-18.pdf

iv See https://www.pmc.gov.au/resource-centre/office-women/final-independent-review-national-action-plan-women-peace-and-security-2012-2018