## 1. Meaning of peacekeeping :

Peacekeeping comprises activities, especially <u>military</u> ones, intended to create conditions that favor lasting peace. Research generally finds that peacekeeping reduces civilian and battlefield deaths, as well as reduces the risk of renewed warfare.

Peacemaking involves measures to deal with existing conflicts. It usually involves diplomatic action aimed at bringing hostile parties to a negotiated peace agreement. The UN may assist in negotiating a peace agreement. It may also help regional negotiators, providing neutral facilities or chairing negotiations.

## 2. Some examples of peacemaking initiatives :

-In 1948, the UN appointed the Swedish diplomat Count Folke Bernadotte as the UN Mediator in Palestine to use "his good offices to promote a peaceful adjustment of the future situation in Palestine" (General Assembly Resolution 186 of 14 May 1948).

- In 2006, the UN Secretary-General appointed Joaquim Chissano – former President of Mozambique - as Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the areas in Uganda.

- In 2008, the Secretary-General of the UN and the Chairperson of the African Union (AU) appointed Djibril Yipènè Bassolé - who had been Foreign Minister of Burkina Faso – as the Joint UN-AU Chief Mediator for Darfur.

## 3. Principles of peacekeeping :

There are three basic principles that continue to set UN peacekeeping operations apart as a tool for maintaining international peace and security.

These three principles are inter-related and mutually reinforcing:

a.Consent of the parties ;

b.Impartiality;

c.Non-use of force except in self-defence and defence of the mandate.

## 4. United Nations peacekeeping missions:

UN Peacekeeping has been one of the most important tools for mitigating conflict and promoting peace and security around the globe.

Helping countries navigate the difficult path from conflict to peace, peacekeeping has unique strengths, including legitimacy, burden sharing, and an ability to deploy and sustain troops and police from around the globe, integrating them with civilian peacekeepers.

Today's peacekeepers are called upon not only to maintain peace and security, but also to facilitate the political process, protect civilians, assist in the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of former combatants. They also play a key role in supporting democratic efforts such as organizing elections, protecting and promoting human rights, and assisting in the creation and restoration of rule of law.