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The Brazilian Peace Operations Joint Training Center and its Mobile Training Teams: an exquisite Brazilian tool for alignment with the United Nations in South-South Cooperation Activities

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ABSTRACT: The sustainable development of nations is a goal relentlessly pursued by the United Nations. Among the various measures adopted for a significant change in the power game, the decrease in the dependency relation of the developing nations on those developed ones can be highlighted. In this context, cooperation among Global South States, composed of developing countries, is increasingly diverse and frequent, and comprises cultural, social, economic, and defense exchanges, among others.

These activities were named South-South cooperation, and Brazil became one of the main cooperators, providing and receiving support from member States of the Global South and perfectly aligned with the United Nations. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, through the Brazilian Cooperation Agency (BCA), coordinates with other Ministries various actions of international technical cooperation. In the face of a range of possibilities for the Brazilian participation in the South-South Cooperation activities, an effective tool emerges from the Ministry of Defense: the Mobile Training Teams (MTT). These Mobile Training Teams have been deployed by the Brazilian Peace Operations Joint Training Center (CCOPAB, acronym in Portuguese) since 2014, under the guidance of the Ministry of Defense, sharing knowledge on Peace Operations and Humanitarian Demining with excellence.

KEYWORDS: Aligning, development, and exchange.

Introduction

The new world order follows the demands of globalization, and nations must understand that bilateral and multilateral relations are necessary for the survival of a sovereign state. Therefore, the formation of groups of countries with diverse objectives such as economic, social, cultural, among others, is made visible in order to cope with other groups or powerful countries.

Among the many ways for nations to come together, there is one in which mutual cooperation projects developing countries to high levels in the global context, giving them opportunities for competition, negotiation and integration with developed countries. This set of activities that unites the global south is called South-South Cooperation.

Brazil is an important country in the arrangement of this international technical cooperation, since it coordinates, through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs with other Ministries, the various exchanges, in which important issues are shared with various developing countries.

The UN sees the benefits of such cooperation as essential for the sustainable development of nations. Aware of this importance, Brazil has been looking forward to improving itself more and more as a knowledge supplier and receiver.

This work aims to partially analyze the potential of the Mobile Training Teams deployed by CCOPAB and guided by the Ministry of Defense in order to share knowledge regarding Peace Operations. The studies on South-South Cooperation, the performance evaluations and the outcome results obtained with the MTT in the different countries where they were carried out will be used, in order to demonstrate the positive impact on the image of Brazil abroad.

Next, a brief study will be carried out on the intention of the UN, on the Brazilian alignment with the United Nations, and on the contribution of CCOPAB to the activities included in South-South Cooperation.

The South-South Cooperation

The expression “South-South Cooperation” covers all exchange processes in various areas such as culture, technology, economics, science, among others, as well as political articulations among developing countries. These countries were known as Third World nations until the 1990s, and nowadays they are part of the so-called Global South.

Nonetheless, the word “South” is terminologically inaccurate when defining the Global South as the set of all developing countries. This is true since the term does not take Mexico into consideration as it is situated in the Northern hemisphere, in spite of being a Latin American country; Russia, another emerging country, is situated just north of the equatorial line; Australia and New Zealand are countries located in the southern hemisphere but they are considered Northern countries. These examples show how difficult it is to understand North and South by their actual meanings which, in this article, must assume their figurative senses, since they are synonyms of developed and developing countries, respectively (CAIXETA, 2014).

Basically, South-South cooperation includes countries from Africa, Asia and Latin America, as well as small countries from the Caribbean and Oceania.

According to different criteria, South-South cooperation may or may not include exchanges between the so-called emerging countries, such as the BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) and the IBSA (India, Brazil and South Africa). It can also happen globally (as in the UN, the Non-Aligned Movement and the Group of 77) or regionally (as in Mercosul and ECOWAS).

South-South’s first landmark was the Afro-Asian Conference in Bandung, Indonesia, in 1955. In that occasion, the principles of the diplomatic ideology of non-alignment were defined, which soon gave rise to the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries. This movement brought together most of the countries of the world and represented the interests of underdeveloped nations in multilateral forums (such as the UN). At the same time, it promoted cooperation between the countries and it was the start point of the South-South cooperation.

UN and the South-South Cooperation

In 1978, UN created the South-South Cooperation Unit in order to promote South-South trade and collaboration within its agencies. However, the idea of South-South cooperation only began to truly influence the field of development in the late 1990s. South-South cooperation has successfully reduced the dependence on developed countries' aid programs and changed the international power game.

The end of the Cold War, between 1989 and 1991, brought a major challenge for South-South cooperation, which for decades had been split between the two superpowers.

Due to the collapse of the Soviet Union and the socialist bloc as well, the developing countries lost both the aid of the socialist cooperation and the US interest in promoting international assistance to keep them away from the influence of the Soviets. This situation happened to countries in Africa, which ceased to be a geopolitical concern for the United States and the USSR at the same time. In this vacuum of power and economic exchange, China is a nation that has been gradually occupying more space, and Brazil is also carrying out an excellent work on international technical cooperation.

Brazil and the South-South Cooperation

Since the 1950s, Brazilian foreign policy has been working with cooperative initiatives, but it was only by the end of the 1980s that the Brazilian Cooperation Agency, BCA, was created.

At that moment, the Ministry of Planning transferred the responsibility for the international technical cooperation portfolio to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Since then, the latter has been managing this agenda.

Initially, BCA's role was mainly focused on the coordination of the aid Brazil used to receive from other countries. Nevertheless, over the time, it became increasingly focused on international development, becoming an important tool of Brazilian foreign policy.

Although technical cooperation does not cover the whole SSC (South-South Cooperation) provided by Brazil, it represents the focus of the international debates on the cooperation carried out by this country. According to BCA, international technical cooperation is an important development tool, which helps a country to promote structural changes in its productive systems in order to overcome restrictions that hinder its natural growth. The programs implemented by BCA allow knowledge transfer, successful experiences and sophisticated equipment. Thus, they contribute to the training of human resources and strengthen the institutions of the recipient country, enabling it to a qualitative leap in quality of life.

The Brazilian technical cooperation operates in areas such as health, agriculture, professional education, water resources, public administration and energy, among others. As BCA receives requests from developing countries for cooperation with Brazil, it establishes a partnership with technical institutions that will be responsible for the management and execution of the cooperation program or project. Oswaldo Cruz Foundation (Fiocruz, acronym in Portuguese), Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation (Embrapa, acronym in Portuguese) and the National Industrial Training Service (SENAI, acronym in Portuguese) are some of the institutions that play important roles as executing agencies.

In addition to the technical cooperation, the granting of scholarships is an expressive modality in the Brazilian CSS. Among the various actors and institutions involved in this activity, the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MCTIC, acronym in Portuguese)

concentrates most of the resources destined for scholarships for foreigners, which are managed by the National Council for Scientific and Technological Development (CNPq, acronym in Portuguese); on the other hand, the Coordination and Improvement of Higher Level or Education Personnel (CAPES, acronym in Portuguese) comprises a large percentage of the resources from the Ministry of Education (MEC, acronym in Portuguese) destined for this activity.

This type of international cooperation focuses on Latin America and Africa, especially Argentina and the Portuguese-speaking African Countries (PALOP, acronym in Portuguese). There are also bilateral initiatives with Cuba, Uruguay and East Timor, as well as projects with country bloc, such as MERCOSUR.

Since this is a recent phenomenon, there are still few studies about the Brazilian performance in SSC. Although there are many challenges to be faced, the changes have occurred quickly, and the Brazilian institutions such as Fiocruz and Embrapa have shown great adaptability and flexibility in technical cooperation.

As shown above, it is observed that Brazil, through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, continues to align itself with the United Nations objectives in favor of the success of South-South Cooperation activities. Despite the several challenges to be overcome, the country has stood out in the international technical cooperation with the commitment of several national Ministries, Foundations and Companies.

The Brazilian Peace Operations Joint Training Center and the Mobile Training Teams

Due to the fact that the member States need to organize themselves in order to establish training programs for military



personnel and civilians, regarding their employment in peace operations, there has been an increasing international mobilization of the member countries to create structures to enable the practice and dissemination of current procedures and norms in peacekeeping missions.

Bearing this in mind, the Brazilian Army created the Brazilian Peacekeeping Operations Training Center (CIOPaz, acronym in Portuguese), based on directive no. 090, issued by the Commander of the Army on 23 February 2005. The establishment of CIOPaz comes from the United Nations General Assembly issued Resolution 44/49 - ASNU from 08 of December 1989, focusing on “thorough review of the matters concerning peacekeeping operations in all their aspects” and from the meeting held by the Committee of ASNU IV on 04 October 2005 in New York.

On June 15 2010, directive no. 952-MD (Ministry of Defense) appointed the Brazilian Peacekeeping Operations Training Center (CI Op Paz), a unit of the Brazilian Army, in charge of preparing military and civilian personnel from Brazil and friendly nations to be deployed in peacekeeping missions. Some years later, it had its name changed to Brazilian Peacekeeping Operations Joint Center (CCOPAB, acronym in Portuguese).

CCOPAB's team work is composed of military personnel from the three Armed Forces, and this Center, whose mission is to support the preparation of Brazilian military, police and civilians and friendly nations for peacekeeping and humanitarian demining, also offers courses for Military Firefighters and Military Police Officers.

Throughout these years, CCOPAB proved to be an excellent teaching establishment, for the concrete results observed in the activities to which its courses are designed.

The Brazilian Peace Operations Joint Training Center offers several courses. Most of them are focused on peace operations and some are certified by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO). The United Nations Department for Peace Operations (DPKO) is responsible for planning, preparing, managing and handling United Nations peace operations.

5.1 Courses

5.1.1 Preparatory Course for Peacekeeping Missions

The Preparatory Course for Peacekeeping Missions (EPMP, acronym in Portuguese) is a course designed to prepare military personnel for the role of Military Observers Staff Officers and UN Police officers.

This Course aims to enable students to analyze the structure of the United Nations (UN) in Peacekeeping Missions and to practice their English language skills for the various tasks.

Another great feature is the adaptation to work in a multicultural environment, where students begin to understand the difficulties that come from the specificities of cultural diversity in Peacekeeping Operations.

5.1.2 Humanitarian Demining Course

This course aims to expand the professional training of Officers, Non-commissioned Officers and Sergeants of the Engineering Branch to be Monitors or International Supervisors in Humanitarian Demining missions under the auspices of international organizations; to advise the command or the Staff in the decision-making in matters related to Humanitarian Demining; to technically support, as appropriate, the many agencies of the United Nations, the institutions of the Organization of American States, host governmental institutions, and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) operating in the environment of Peacekeeping Operations and Humanitarian Demining.

5.1.3 UN Pre-Deployment Advanced Field Exercise

EAOP (acronym in Portuguese) is an exercise applied at the end of the preparation period in which the Battalion or Engineering Company receives an Area of Responsibility and are faced with several situations that simulate the reality in the operating environment of the Mission.

From numerous situations and events to which contingents are subjected during the instructions, the relationship with NGOs,

International Organizations, Civil-Military Operations (CIMIC), relationships with local leaders can be highlighted. These situations are imperative to train the various cells and operational systems of an Infantry Battalion or Peace Corps Engineering Company assigned to the missions.

5.1.4 Logistics and Reimbursement of Peacekeeping Operations Course

The Course on Logistics and Reimbursement of Peacekeeping Operations aims to prepare officers and NCOs of the Brazilian Armed Forces and friendly nations to work in functions related to the Administration and Logistics of Peacekeeping Operations.

5.1.5 Unit Commanders and Joint Staff Course

Considered a landmark of the beginning of the technical preparation, which is necessary for the development of activities related to the employment of a troop contingent in a mission of the United Nations, the Unit Commanders and Joint Staff Course (EPCOEM, acronym in Portuguese) takes 01 (one) week. The course aims to prepare military personnel of the Command and Staff of the Military Peace Forces. In order to achieve this objective, the course is composed of instructions that include both matters related to UN operations as well as specific subjects for the mission where the contingent will be employed.

5.1.6 Civil-Military Coordination Course

The course aims to prepare military personnel who will carry out activities related to the Civil-Military Coordination of the Brazilian contingent in the United Nations Mission for the Stabilization of



Haiti (MINUSTAH, acronym in French). Also, officers from friendly nations who will take part in peacekeeping missions and members of civil partner institutions.

5.1.7 Media Advisor And Journalist In Conflict Areas Course

The course aims to prepare media professionals to perform their duties in harsh environments where their journalistic coverage lacks personnel and material safety procedures. They also learn the importance of a correct relationship with the Armed Forces and with the several organizations operating in a conflict zone.

5.1.8 Military Translators and Interpreters Course

This course is designed to evaluate volunteer military personnel who will perform the duties of a translator and an interpreter in a peacekeeping mission.

The course is divided into two phases: online and face-to-face; and its objectives are to improve linguistic ability in the language and to train the military to act as translators and military interpreters in peacekeeping operations within a multicultural environment.

5.2 Mobile Training Teams

The DPKO, in its global training analysis reports, makes it clear that there is a general shortcoming in the preparation of a number of countries under its management, notably regarding the UN basic knowledge package, Core Pre-deployment Training Materials (CPTM). Member States with experience in peacekeeping missions and whose capabilities are confirmed are encouraged by the DPKO to support contributing countries and those with potential and interest in becoming contributors.

Brazil has fair credibility and legitimacy, and can be recognized as an active promoter of the doctrine of UN peacekeeping operations, due to its international projection. Mobile Training Teams (EMT, acronym in Portuguese) are effective ways to disseminate a competent and positive image of the country and a key element for a number of friendly nations in training and preparation for peacekeeping missions headed by the DPKO.

The Mobile Training Teams which have been deployed by the Brazilian Peace Operations Joint Training Center since 2014 on, have presented excellent results that prove what was shown above.

The positive feedback of this activity is based on the conception of each MTT, which is formed according to the characteristics of the recipient Nations, the courses to be administered and the target public. MTTs are composed of instructors and high-level monitors with experience in peacekeeping operations.

Since the period mentioned above, CCOPAB has already sent Mobile Training Teams to many places. Once to Angola, twice to Colombia, once to Mozambique, and once to Namibia. These teams brought knowledge in peacekeeping operations by giving the following courses: Unit Commanders and Staff Officers (EPCOEM); Preparatory

Course for Peacekeeping Missions (EPMP); Humanitarian Demining Course; and Subunit Commanders and Platoon Leaders Course (EPCOSUPEL).

The Mobile Training Teams' successful background is certified by technical assessments where the Team's performance in sharing knowledge, the training achieved by the instructors, the satisfaction of the recipient Nation and the cost-benefit of international technical cooperation, among other aspects, are verified.

Conclusion

For the United Nations, it is necessary to take new opportunities to boost cooperation among developing countries. These activities are so important that the UN celebrates the international day of South-South Cooperation.

Brazil is an important country taking part of the Global South, playing a significant role and is very respected among the international community. Thus, it is one of the main actors in the promotion of activities aimed to achieve the objectives of the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development. An agenda that is focused on making billions of people's lives better in the Global South, bringing more dignity to developing countries.

In order to achieve this goal, SSC is essential and the countries involved are increasingly seeking ways, methods and actions to better collaborate with common goals. Thereby, Brazil by means of its Ministry of Foreign Affairs coordinates, along with other Ministries, the several international technical cooperation.

In light of the above, the aforementioned intentions of the UN and Brazil, focused on the actions of South-South Cooperation, show