

Building a world community

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Published in Canada by the World Federalists, a non-profit organization that advocates more just and effective global governance through the application of the principles of democratic federalism to world affairs.

APRIL
2016

***Developing a United Nations Emergency Peace Service:
Meeting Our Responsibilities to Prevent and Protect***
**by H. Peter Langille,
Palgrave New York, 2015**

This book makes the case for a standing (i.e. permanent, individually recruited) United Nations Emergency Peace Service (UNEPS). With this one development - effectively a UN first responder for complex emergencies - the organization would finally have a rapid, reliable capacity to help fulfill its tougher assigned tasks.

The author addresses the primary roles, core principles, and requirements of a UNEPS, as well as the arguments for and against such a dedicated UN service. Further, it assesses lessons learned from recent peace operations reform exercises, discussing what has worked, what may work and, equally important, what won't.

To date, the UNEPS initiative has encountered an unreceptive political, fiscal, and security environment. Yet overlapping crises are now inevitable and the need for improvements to UN operations increasingly evident.

Consequently the proposed Peace Service is gaining new adherents among the policy and academic communities, where there is a growing recognition of the need to define a broader and more relevant mode of UN peace operations. Recent support for the proposal includes endorsements from Sir Brian Urquhart, Gareth Evans, Thomas Weiss, Mary Kaldor, Sadako Ogata, Gwynne Dyer and others.

The detailed and rigorous case for such a standing capacity provided by this book provides an essential complement to this growing body of support.