Principles of UN Peacekeeping

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

**Consent of the parties**
- Peacekeepers are deployed with the consent of the main parties of the conflict.
- In the absence of such consent, a peacekeeping operation risks becoming a party to the conflict, and being drawn towards enforcement action, and away from its fundamental role of keeping the peace.

**Impartiality**
- Peacekeepers are impartial in their dealings with the parties to the conflict. However, impartiality does not mean inaction or neutrality. Just as a good referee is impartial, but will penalize infractions, peacekeepers are expected to stop violations of a peace process, monitor and report human rights violations.
- Failure to do so may undermine the peacekeeping operation’s credibility and legitimacy.

**Non-use of force except in self-defence and defence of the mandate**
- UN peacekeeping is not an army to be used in a conflict. Use of force is seen as a last resort.

REFERENCE
PEACEKEEPING.UNITEDNATIONS.ORG/PRINCIPLES-OF-PEACEKEEPING