

**Ștefan-Iaroslav DANIEL, *Managementul cooperării și securității internaționale, Studiu de caz: ONU – Haiti (Ayti)*,
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presented by Dan ROMAN*

The United Nations (UN) carries out a broad spectrum of activities which includes, according to its statute, the protection of human rights, the support of International Law, the provision of humanitarian aid, one of the most consistent, and, perhaps the most difficult, peacekeeping. In recent decades, these missions in various hotspots around the world have become the UN's flagship, in line with the role it has assumed on the international stage. Although commonly known to the general public, the missions carried out by the "blue helmets" – the representative color for peace and stability, designating the participating military – have not received substantial attention from the academic world, at least not in Romania, and certainly not for any mission dealing with an exotic country. Such a situation can no longer be sustained following the recent publication, in 2024, at Presa Universitară Clujeană, of two complementary books, both authored by Ștefan-Iaroslav Daniel: *Haiti și ONU: Repere istorice, culturale și de civilizație*, 224 p. and *Managementul cooperării și securității internaționale, Studiu de caz: ONU – Haiti*, 247 p.

These are the result of Ștefan-Iaroslav Daniel's preoccupations, initially conducted by the author as part of an academic research for a doctoral thesis in the field of International Relations defended at "Babeș-Bolyai" University of Cluj-Napoca, in September 2022, under the supervision of Professor Adrian IVAN. From the very beginning, it is worth noting the considerable size of this thesis – 988 pages – which reveals the laborious research process. But there is much more than that.

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What distinguishes the author's research from other works of the genre is his direct involvement in the situations he exposes. This consisted of his presence in Haiti, between 2015 and 2017, as a UN monitor within MINUSTAH (United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti), contributing to the formation of a national police force in the Caribbean state.

The first book, *Haiti și ONU: Repere istorice, culturale și de civilizație (Haiti and the UN: Historical, Cultural and Civilizational Landmarks)*, deals extensively with elements of general interest on Haiti, useful for achieving an appropriate understanding of the realities of this country. These are covered in the first two chapters of the book, while the third (and last) chapter outlines a picture of international cooperation in crisis, using Haiti as a case study. Separate aspects are presented on the following: the costs and contributions of states to the missions in Haiti, cooperation between Haiti and the Dominican Republic (the latter being its only neighbor on the island), the EU-Haiti relationship, international involvement in crisis management generated in Haiti by Hurricane Matthew (October 4, 2016).

Last, but not least, a welcomed direction in the author's research is the cooperation between Romania and Haiti. As presented, he has reconstructed the history of the diplomatic relations between the two countries, with the support of the Consulate General of Romania in Haiti. Also, under the same diplomatic representation, he was involved in the creation of an educational structure in Port-au-Prince, under the name of College Universitaire de Roumanie (COURUM).

The second paper, *Managementul cooperării și securității internaționale. Studiu de caz: ONU – Haiti (The Management of International Cooperation and Security. Case study: UN – Haiti)*, is a detailed overview of the UN's activities in the Caribbean state. The book begins with a brief overview of UN missions in the Central American region. In this context, the author also notes several guiding ideas and general principles of its involvement in the region. Among these, he points out that "the Security Council resolutions emphasize agreements between neighbouring states, in particular to counter any attempt at destabilization and to avoid the use of national territory for actions of any kind" (p. 47).

The most substantial part of the book deals with the UN missions in Haiti, presented in over 100 pages – almost half of the book's content. The author chose a chronological and evolutionary presentation of these missions, which encompasses a broad spectrum of activities. These go from ONUVEH (United Nations Observer Group for the Verification of the Elections in Haiti, October 1990 to February 1991), to MIPONUH (United Nations Civilian Police Mission in Haiti, December 1997 to March 2000), and to BINUH (United Nations Integrated Office in Haiti, in operation since October 2019), to mention only a few of them. Each is accompanied by a brief description, together with the main developments and results they have achieved during their implementation.

A separate chapter examines the Haitian National Police, established under the aegis of the United Nations (based on the Strategic Development Plan, 2017-2021), a process in which the author took part directly, as a representative of the above-mentioned international organization. Although the data is rather succinct, less than 30 pages, the chapter provides a well-documented and revealing insight into the new Haitian institution. The author's participation in the process of building and consolidating it adds value to the work, thus enriching it with aspects filtered through his personal experience. The author presents his vision of the UN's international intervention in the last chapter of the work. This is formed, as he notes, "in the spirit of the Confucian idea, according to which a bowl of rice can help a person, providing him with food for a day, but the technique of teaching him to grow rice, i.e. food, is the salvation of his entire life" (p. 191).

Starting from these considerations that attest to the concern for providing sustainable solutions, supplemented by his experience as a UN monitor, the author proposes a new model of action: UN Protected Economic Zones (UNEPZs). He assigns a binary valence to these UNEPZs, and notes that it involves a mixed intervention structure, with two major actors, "two sides of the same mission: on the one hand the UN, as a security provider, and on the other hand the economic environment" (p. 195). In other words, supporting economic development as a factor of stability, first and foremost.

With these two works on the UN missions in Haiti, the author, Ștefan-Iaroslav DANIEL, opens a research direction previously unexplored

in Romanian specialized literature. The academic approach is doubled by the perspective and the advantage of direct knowledge of the realities, given by the author's participation as a UN monitor in the state that is the subject of his research.

Among the things that give consistency to his research, we can mention in particular:

- the use of a substantial bibliography, comprising a rich range of studies and specialized works, as well as primary sources consisting of several United Nations documents;
- the diversification of the research methods used, including the author's use of his on-the-spot presence to enhance his knowledge of the subject;
- exhaustive presentation and comprehensive analysis, both carried out in a logical, coherent and systematic sequence of the elements that make up the body of the work.

It is also worth highlighting that several elements would have better contributed to:

- 1) systematizing the content and
- 2) emphasizing the main conceptual notions of the research.

These include especially:

- a stricter delineation between the author's considerations/ observations (otherwise both valuable and welcome in the content of the two works) and the issues analyzed from the perspective of the UN documents and the literature to which he referred;
- a greater capitalization of the various local human resources with whom the author interacted directly (including presenting representative interviews that he conducted), as well as the extension of these resources through channeled discussions with UN staff.

A translation of the two works (possibly in compressed form) into English is desirable, proving their usefulness, especially for practitioners, and will find their rightful place in the United Nations Library.