Chapter I

International peace and security

The United Nations continued to strengthen its efforts to promote and maintain international peace and security. The Peacebuilding Commission, established in 2005 to improve the management of UN peace operations worldwide, was inaugurated in June 2006 and convened country-specific meetings on the situations in Sierra Leone and Burundi in October and December. The Secretary-General took steps to establish the Peacebuilding Support Office to assist and support the Commission, as well as the Peacebuilding Fund to support peacebuilding activities that directly contributed to the stabilization of countries emerging from conflict.

The General Assembly proclaimed 2009 the International Year of Reconciliation and invited Governments and international and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to support reconciliation processes among societies affected and/or divided by conflicts.

Acts of international terrorism continued unabated in 2006, including deadly attacks in Egypt, India and Iraq. In a series of statements, the Security Council condemned those attacks, underlined the need to bring the planners and perpetrators to justice, and urged States to fulfil their obligation to combat terrorism. In other action, the Council adopted further measures against Al-Qaeda, the Taliban and their associates, and the General Assembly called on Member States to support international efforts to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery. In April, the Secretary-General, acting in response to the 2005 World Summit Outcome, submitted recommendations for the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy to strengthen the capacity of the UN system to assist States in combating terrorism and enhance the coordination of UN counter-terrorism activities. The Assembly adopted the Strategy in September.

The United Nations continued to improve the management and operation of its peacekeeping missions. Following up on the recommendations contained in the 2005 report of the Secretary-General’s Adviser on Sexual Exploitation and Abuse by United Nations Peacekeepers, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (Dpko) developed a comprehensive strategy on sexual exploitation and abuse by UN peacekeeping personnel aimed at preventing misconduct, enforcing UN standards of conduct and taking remedial action. Dpko also created a multidisciplinary conduct and discipline team at Dpko headquarters, in addition to teams established in Burundi, Côte d’Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Haiti, Liberia, Sierra Leone, the Sudan and Timor-Leste, to develop policy, provide oversight of disciplinary issues and ensure the coherent application of UN standards of conduct. In May, the Secretary-General submitted to the Assembly President a draft policy statement and draft comprehensive strategy on assistance and support to victims of sexual exploitation and abuse by UN staff and related personnel. In December, the High-level Conference on Eliminating Sexual Exploitation and Abuse by UN and NGO Personnel issued the Statement of Commitment on Eliminating Sexual Exploitation, by which senior leaders of UN and non-UN entities reaffirmed their determination to prevent and respond to acts of sexual exploitation and abuse by their personnel.

The Organization maintained 12 political and peacebuilding missions and offices and 15 peacekeeping operations in 2006. At year’s end, a record 99,355 uniformed and civilian personnel were serving in the field, compared to 85,000 in 2005.

The financial position of UN peacekeeping operations improved in 2006; expenditures increased to $4,582.8 million, compared to $4,074.3 million in 2005, a 12.5 per cent increase, mainly attributable to the full-year impact of the United Nations Mission in the Sudan and the expansion of operations in Côte d’Ivoire, the DRC, and Haiti. Unpaid assessed contributions amounted to $1.3 billion, compared to $1.7 billion the previous year.

Promotion of international peace and security

Rule of law and maintenance of international peace and security

On 22 June [meeting 5474], the Security Council held a debate on the Council’s role in strengthening international law: rule of law and maintenance of international peace and security. Denmark, in a
The UN Legal Counsel, Nicolas Michel, addressing the Council on those issues, said that the promotion of the rule of law in conflict and post-conflict situations, including the promotion of human rights, could not be limited to those situations only. In recent years, the Council’s decisions had reflected its resolve to end impunity for perpetrators of international crimes, thereby keeping pace with one of the major evolutions of the culture of the international community and international law. Within that evolution, justice and peace had to be regarded as complementary requirements and there could be no lasting peace without justice; amnesty for international crimes was unacceptable in international practice and should be enshrined as a standard to be enforced; and the system of international penal jurisdiction was a primary responsibility of States and a complementary responsibility of the International Criminal Court, within the constraints of the 1998 Rome Statute establishing it [YUN 1998, p. 1209].

The Legal Counsel said that the Secretary-General had set out minimum standards required to ensure that the procedures for the listing and de-listing of individuals and entities on sanctions lists were fair and transparent. The Legal Counsel identified the four basic elements of those standards: a person against whom measures had been taken by the Council had the right to be informed of those measures and to know the case against him or her; to be heard, via written submissions, within a reasonable time by the relevant decision-making body and to be subject to review by an effective mechanism; and the Security Council should, possibly through its Committees, periodically review targeted individual sanctions, especially the freezing of assets, in order to mitigate the risk of violating the right to property and human rights. Those elements would apply mutatis mutandis in respect of entities.

The President of the International Court of Justice (ICJ), Judge Rosalyn Higgins, told the Council that strengthening international law meant widening and deepening its content and fortifying mechanisms for securing compliance or enforcement. The reach of international law had expanded to an extraordinary extent, and was generally complied with in everyday life. However, the challenges for the Council in fulfilling its functions under the Charter and international law, such as the problem of a lack of rule of law matched with the collapse of communal justice systems, and the place of law vis-à-vis non-State actors, were interrelated. The United Nations therefore had to have as its prime objective the prevention of those conflicts and post-conflict situations that raised key rule of law questions. The Court was always prepared to deal with legal issues within the wider context of political controversy, and could, in providing impartial pronouncement on underlying claims, stop high tensions from developing into military action. As a principal UN organ, it was at the center of the general system for the maintenance of international peace and security through its contribution to the peaceful settlement of disputes. However, the challenge was mobilizing that potential. The Council should develop a policy whereby, in all political disputes that threatened peace and security and where claims of legal entitlement were made, it could strongly indicate to the parties that they should have recourse to the Court, as provided for under Article 36 of the Charter. Unfortunately, the Council had failed to make use of the provision contained in that Article. That tool should be made a central Council policy. The Court stood ready to work alongside the Council in the fulfilment of the goals of the Charter.

SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION

On 22 June [meeting 5474], following consultations among Security Council members, the President made statement S/PRST/2006/28 on behalf of the Council:

The Security Council reaffirms its commitment to the Charter of the United Nations and international law, which are indispensable foundations of a more peaceful, prosperous and just world. The Council underscores its conviction that international law plays a critical role in fostering stability and order in international relations and in providing a framework for cooperation among States in addressing common challenges, thus contributing to the maintenance of international peace and security.

The Council is committed to and actively supports the peaceful settlement of disputes and reiterates its
call upon the Member States to settle their disputes by peaceful means as set forth in Chapter VI of the Charter, including by use of regional preventive mechanisms and the International Court of Justice. The Council emphasizes the important role of the Court, the principal judicial organ of the United Nations, in adjudicating disputes among States.

The Council attaches vital importance to promoting justice and the rule of law, including respect for human rights, as an indispensable element for lasting peace. The Council considers the enhancement of rule of law activities as crucial in peacebuilding strategies in post-conflict societies and emphasizes the role of the Peacebuilding Commission in this regard. The Council supports the idea of establishing a rule of law assistance unit within the Secretariat and looks forward to receiving the proposals of the Secretariat for implementation of the recommendations set out in paragraph 65 of the report of the Secretary-General on the rule of law and transitional justice in conflict and post-conflict societies. The Council urges Member States which are interested in doing so to contribute national expertise and materials to these developments within their means, and to improve their capacities in these areas.

The Council emphasizes the responsibility of States to comply with their obligations to end impunity and to prosecute those responsible for genocide, crimes against humanity and serious violations of international humanitarian law. The Council reaffirms that ending impunity is essential if a society in conflict or recovering from conflict is to come to terms with past abuses committed against civilians and to prevent future abuses. The Council intends to continue forcefully to fight impunity with appropriate means and draws attention to the full range of justice and reconciliation mechanisms to be considered, including national, international and “mixed” criminal courts and tribunals and truth and reconciliation commissions.

The Council considers sanctions an important tool in the maintenance and restoration of international peace and security. The Council resolves to ensure that sanctions are carefully targeted in support of clear objectives and are implemented in ways that balance effectiveness against possible adverse consequences. The Council is committed to ensuring that fair and clear procedures exist for placing individuals and entities on sanctions lists and for removing them, as well as for granting humanitarian exemptions. The Council reiterates its request to the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267(1999) to continue its work on the Committee’s guidelines, including on listing and de-listing procedures, and on the implementation of its exemption procedures contained in resolution 1452(2002) of 20 December 2002.

Enhancing UN support for the rule of law

Report of Secretary-General. In follow-up to his 2004 report on the rule of law and transitional justice in conflict and post-conflict situations [YUN 2004, p. 65], the General Assembly’s request in resolution 60/1 [YUN 2005, p. 48] on the 2005 World Summit Outcome for the establishment of a rule of law unit within the Secretariat, supported by the Security Council in presidential statement S/PRST/2006/28 (see above) and reiterated by the Assembly in resolution 61/39 of 4 December (see p. 1524), the Secretary-General submitted a December report [A/61/636-S/2006/980], which set out practical measures the UN system should take to enhance its arrangements for supporting the rule of law and transitional justice activities. It also identified priority areas in which the United Nations would provide advice and assistance to Member States, in partnership with other non-UN actors.

The Secretary-General said that rule of law and transitional justice issues were being integrated into the strategic and operational planning of new peace operations, and Member States almost universally had recognized the establishment of the rule of law as an important aspect of peace missions. The guidelines, manuals and tools developed by the Task Force for the Development of Comprehensive Rule of Law Strategies for Peace Operations of the Executive Committee on Peace and Security had been updated and several UN departments, agencies, funds and programmes continued to develop lessons-learned studies and guidance materials in the areas of police, prison systems, legal and judicial systems and transitional justice, while incorporating gender considerations. Despite those steps, much remained to be done with regard to the Organization’s capacity, coherence and coordination efforts. While supporting Member States in strengthening the rule of law was central to the work of the UN system, dedicated UN capacities for doing so were modest, both at Headquarters and in the field. The Organization needed to deepen and rationalize its rule of law work, strengthen its capacities, enhance its institutional memory and coordinate more effectively within the United Nations and with outside actors. Accordingly, in July, the Secretary-General asked the Working Group on Rule of Law and Justice to prepare options on how best to structure UN rule of law capacity at Headquarters and in the field, and make recommendations for strengthening that capacity. Following the Working Group’s recommendations, the Secretary-General decided that the primary objectives for the Secretariat and other key UN actors should be to significantly enhance coherence and coordination across the Organization and with non-UN actors, at the global and country levels, and to increase and deepen capacity in priority areas of the three main categories of rule of law activity: rule of law at the international level; in the context of conflict and post-conflict situa-
tions, including transitional justice and strengthening national justice systems and institutions; and in the context of long-term development. Lead entities would assume clearly defined responsibilities for specific areas of UN rule of law activity. At the global level, those entities would support Member States; collaborate with non-UN actors; assess capacity and ensure that required capacities and mechanisms existed; coordinate activities; develop policy; and provide training and substantive guidance. At the country level, they would act as the primary counterpart to national authorities; identify key partners; coordinate planning and strategy development; coordinate programme implementation; ensure relevant standards were made known; provide training; and mobilize resources. The aim of the proposed approach was to increase predictability, while preserving sufficient flexibility to take into account country-level circumstances.

The Secretary-General decided to create a Rule of Law Coordination and Resource Group consisting of key UN actors and chaired by the Deputy Secretary-General, which would act as Headquarters focal point for coordinating system-wide attention on the rule of law to ensure policy coherence and coordination. It would identify priority gaps in UN rule of law capacity and recommend where and when capacities should be established. Supported by a Secretariat unit, the Group would coordinate the preparation of an inventory of UN activities devoted to the promotion of the rule of law, as requested in resolution 61/39.

The Secretary-General reaffirmed the commitment of the United Nations to support Member States in ensuring that fair and effective national legal, judicial, prison and police institutions were in place so that societies could emerge from a violent past. He believed that his decision to ensure that the Organization had a core cadre of rule of law expertise, coupled with meaningful and robust coordination, could only benefit Member States in their recommitment to an international order based on the rule of law. The Secretary-General was also convinced that the investment by Member States in increasing UN capacity to support their efforts to uphold the rule of law would contribute significantly to peace and security and sustainable development.

**Conflict prevention**

**Prevention of armed conflict**

In response to General Assembly resolutions 55/281 [YUN 2001, p. 50] and 57/337 [YUN 2003, p. 50] and Security Council resolution 1366(2001) [YUN 2001, p. 50], the Secretary-General, in July [A/60/891], submitted his second progress report on the prevention of armed conflict; his first report on the subject was submitted in 2001 [YUN 2001, p. 48]. The report described ways to address the sources of tension within and between societies, States and regions that made them vulnerable to conflict; how norms and institutions that made conflicts less viable or likely could be strengthened; mechanisms for resolving inter-State disputes; the contribution of national and international actors in conflict prevention; and the role of the UN system.

The Secretary-General noted that a culture of prevention was beginning to take hold at the United Nations, with progress at the normative, political and institutional levels having been made since 2001, most notably in the adoption of the above-mentioned resolutions, as well as Council resolution 1625(2005) [YUN 2005, p. 86] on strengthening the effectiveness of the Council’s role in conflict prevention, particularly in Africa. In the 2005 World Summit Outcome, set out in Assembly resolution 60/1 [YUN 2005, p. 48], Member States renewed their commitment to promote a culture of prevention of armed conflicts as a means of addressing interconnected security and development challenges, and there was evidence that the overall trend in the number and severity of armed conflicts worldwide was decreasing, due largely to an upsurge in international activism in conflict prevention, peacekeeping and peacebuilding. The United Nations had developed important tools and mechanisms for working cooperatively in conflict prevention. However, an unacceptable gap remained between rhetoric and reality with regard to conflict prevention. Over the previous five years, $18 billion had been spent on UN peacekeeping, partly because of inadequate preventive measures. The dual challenge was to address or diminish the sources of tension in society and strengthen those institutions that enabled it to channel conflict non-violently and allow for dialogue. Going to war had to be made as unattractive an option as possible, while peaceful dispute resolution and dialogue mechanisms had to be made more appealing and accessible. Efforts to address the root causes of conflict therefore had to shift from reactive, external interventions to internally driven initiatives, which would foster home-grown, self-sustaining infrastructures for peace.

The Secretary-General, referring to the distinction he had made between structural and operational prevention in his 2001 report, introduced a third sphere of preventive action, systematic preven-
In discussing the UN contribution in advancing elements of the prevention agenda, the Secretary-General reported that, in response to resolution 57/337, he had conducted a detailed review of UN system conflict-prevention capacity, assessing the strengths and weaknesses of the Secretariat, agencies, funds and programmes. The review showed that the UN system had made significant progress in the prevention of armed conflict, but a number of gaps remained. Some targeted capacity-building would therefore be required, along with a number of structural adjustments, to further advance the implementation of the prevention agenda. The review also found that, while most UN system entities understood conflict prevention as a core activity of their work and had integrated it into their mandates and programme activities, system-wide strategic leadership in prevention was still weak. Moreover, existing coordination mechanisms for addressing specific sectors related to conflict prevention had fallen short of providing a coherent, overarching strategy in the field and at Headquarters. No significant progress had been made in strengthening UN early warning capacity, or information collection and analysis, as called for in resolution 57/337, and the Organization still lacked the capability to analyse and integrate data from different parts of the system into comprehensive early warning reports and strategies on conflict prevention. The Organization’s capacity to use its leverage to prevent armed conflict in conjunction with other actors was not being fully harnessed. Funding for prevention activities, in addition to being insufficient, was insecure, thus preventing long-term prevention activities and urgent ad hoc interventions.

The Secretary-General urged Member States to more comprehensively address the primary sources of tension for conflict-vulnerable regions and countries, including through increased regulation of trade in natural resources that often fuelled conflict; offering more support to private sector initiatives on conflict-sensitive business practices; reducing illicit flows of small arms and light weapons; finding common ground on preventing the use of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons; fighting the spread of HIV/AIDS; addressing environmental degradation; paying more attention to the nexus of prevention and migration; redoubling efforts for the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) [YUN 2000, p. 51]; and strengthening respect for human rights. He called on Member States to ratify and comply with international human rights, humanitarian and other legal instruments relevant to the prevention of armed conflict. Individual Governments should strengthen their national capacities for addressing structural risk factors, with UN support. A more robust and strategic approach to assistance in democracy-building, elections and constitutional capacity should be developed, and Member States should continue to support the United Nations Democracy Fund [YUN 2005, p. 655], as a tool for strengthening democratic institutions and practices.

The Secretary-General encouraged more creative and constructive use of sanctions as a conflict prevention tool, with due attention to fair and clear procedures. Parties to disputes should make active and early use of the means outlined in Article 33, paragraph 1, of the Charter, namely, to engage in negotiation, enquiry, mediation, and conciliation, and resort to regional agencies or arrangements, or other peaceful means that the parties might choose, to prevent the escalation of conflict. All actors, including civil society and individual Governments, regional organizations and the UN system, should accept and act on the principles of shared vulnerability and mutual responsibility so that effective preventive action could be taken at all the levels outlined in the report. Member States should consider innovative means to intensify dialogue with civil society, including by inviting their representatives to provide regular briefings to pertinent bodies. The Secretary-General reiterated his call for the speedy implementation of the UN System-wide Action Plan on women, peace and security [YUN 2005, p. 1255] for implementation of Security Council resolution 1325(2000) [YUN 2000, p. 1113], and urged Member States and the UN system to pay more attention to preventing gender-based violence.

The Secretary-General requested the Human Rights Council to recommend specific conflict-prevention measures to Member States, the UN system and other actors in the implementation of its mandate, and the Peacebuilding Commission to provide recommendations on the prevention of the recurrence of conflict. He asked Member States to support the strengthening of UN capacity to analyse conflicts, and the joint efforts of the wider UN system, especially those based on collaboration among its development, humanitarian, human rights and political arms, for the prevention of violent conflict. In particular, he called for greater support of Member States’ efforts in building their own capacities for the prevention of armed conflict and for mediating conflicts. The Secretary-General called upon Member States to consider the deployment of the United Nations Integrated Office in Sierra Leone and a
similar office requested by Burundi, following the winding down of peackeeping operations in those countries, and with relevant parts of the UN system, to launch a dialogue on conflict prevention, and to consider dedicating 2 percent of the annual peackeeping budget to the prevention of armed conflict.

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION**

On 7 September [meeting 98], the General Assembly adopted resolution 60/284 [draft: A/60/L.61] without vote [agenda item 12].

Prevention of armed conflict

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolution 57/337 of 3 July 2003,

*Bearing in mind* its responsibilities, functions and powers under the Charter of the United Nations, in particular with respect to matters related to the prevention of armed conflict,

*Taking note* of the statements made during the consideration of the agenda item entitled “Prevention of armed conflict” at its sixtieth session,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the prevention of armed conflict;

2. *Decides* to continue its consideration of the report of the Secretary-General and the recommendations contained therein at its sixty-first session.

The Assembly, by decision 61/552 of 22 December, decided that the agenda item on the prevention of armed conflict would remain for consideration during its resumed sixty-first (2007) session.

Conflict diamonds


The Group concluded that Ivorian rough diamonds were being exported in violation of the embargo, transiting Ghana and Mali, prior to entering international markets. It recommended that Ghana create a credible system of internal controls for rough diamonds; Mali take measures to prevent illegal smuggling of diamonds into its territory from Côte d’Ivoire; the issue of internal controls as a regional problem be made a key agenda item at the November meeting of the Kimberley Process (see below); and international trading centres introduce a better system for identifying suspicious shipments of rough diamonds. The Group investigated the production of Ivorian rough diamonds and recommended that the United Nations Operation in Côte d’Ivoire conduct regular inspections of Bobi dyke and its vicinity to verify if heavy machinery was employed to exploit the diamond mines.

(For more information on the situation in Côte d’Ivoire, see p. 176.)

**Kimberley Process.** At its 2006 regular session, the plenary meeting of the Kimberley Process (Gaborone, Botswana, 6–9 November) reviewed the implementation of the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme (kpcs), established in 2003 [YUN 2003, p. 55] to stop the use of conflict diamonds in fuelling armed conflict, protect the legitimate diamond industry and ensure implementation of resolutions on trade in conflict diamonds. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 60/182 [YUN 2005, p. 89], the report of the plenary meeting was transmitted to the Secretary-General in November [A/61/589] by Botswana, in its capacity as Chair of the Kimberley Process.

The plenary approved a plan to help Ghana, which faced a possible loss of Kimberley Process status, to strengthen its internal diamond controls. It addressed the findings of the Kimberley Process review visit to Ghana (30 October–1 November) and reports from the United Nations Group of Experts on Côte d’Ivoire (see above) that diamonds mined in the rebel-held territory were entering markets through Ghana. The plenary concluded that there might be credible indications that Ghana had not complied with its Kimberley Process obligations. It decided that Ghana had to take immediate steps to ensure that it exported only Ghanaian diamonds, and agreed to send a review mission to the country by February 2007 to verify compliance.

The plenary considered the report of the third-year review of kpcs, which focused on the impact of the Scheme on the international trade in rough diamonds and the extent to which kpcs had been effective in preventing the flow of conflict diamonds into the legitimate trade; the functioning of kpcs technical provisions; and the effectiveness and efficiency of kpcs operations. According to the report, available data suggested that the majority of the international trade in rough diamonds was carried on within kpcs, and all significant diamond producing and trading centres, with the exception of Liberia, which remained under UN diamond sanctions, were implementing the Scheme. However, conflict diamonds were still being mined by rebel groups in Côte d’Ivoire and were reportedly entering the legitimate trade. There were also reports of illicit dia-
mond extraction and trading by rebel factions and militias in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). Kpcs was operating well and the statistics and peer review monitoring systems were proving to be essential tools, but they could be improved. Participants and observers made recommendations in the areas of statistical requirements and the peer review monitoring system that were included in the review’s recommendations. The plenary endorsed the conclusions of the review, adopting 46 recommendations to strengthen the Kimberley Process.

The plenary agreed to publish the names of participants that habitually failed to submit statistics; highlight requirements related to illegal shipments; develop proposals related to interim measures, including possible suspension in cases of significant non-compliance; and to create the Working Group on Artisanal-Alluvial Production. It also agreed to give priority attention to: funding and resource requirements; improving statistical data gathering and analysis; effective and credible government oversight; and the treatment of illegal shipments. The plenary agreed on stronger internal controls standards for participants that produced, traded, cut and polished diamonds.

Noting the information by the Working Group on Statistics that participants were providing data regularly and the quality of the data and the analysis had improved, the plenary endorsed the concept of transparency in statistical reporting by approving the immediate release of Kpcs summary data on trade and production.

The European Community would assume the Chair of the Kimberly Process for one year, beginning on 1 January 2007; India was elected Vice-Chair for 2007.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 4 December [meeting 64], the General Assembly adopted resolution 61/28 [draft: A/61/L.27 & Add.1] without vote [agenda item 10].

The role of diamonds in fuelling conflict: breaking the link between the illicit transaction of rough diamonds and armed conflict as a contribution to prevention and settlement of conflicts

The General Assembly,
Recognizing that the trade in conflict diamonds continues to be a matter of serious international concern, which can be directly linked to the fuelling of armed conflict, the activities of rebel movements aimed at undermining or overthrowing legitimate Governments and the illicit traffic in and proliferation of armaments, especially small arms and light weapons,
Recognizing also the devastating impact of conflicts fuelled by the trade in conflict diamonds on the peace, safety and security of people in affected countries, and the systematic and gross human rights violations that have been perpetrated in such conflicts,
Noting the negative impact of such conflicts on regional stability and the obligations placed upon States by the Charter of the United Nations regarding the maintenance of international peace and security,
Recognizing, therefore, that continued action to curb the trade in conflict diamonds is imperative,
Recalling that the elimination of illicit diamonds from legitimate trade is the primary objective of the Kimberley Process,
Bearing in mind the positive benefits of the legitimate diamond trade to producing countries, and underlining the need for continued international action to prevent the problem of conflict diamonds from negatively affecting the trade in legitimate diamonds, which makes a critical contribution to the economies of many of the producing, exporting and importing States, especially developing States,
Noting that the vast majority of rough diamonds produced in the world are from legitimate sources,
Recalling the Charter and all the relevant resolutions of the Security Council related to conflict diamonds, and determined to contribute to and support the implementation of the measures provided for in those resolutions,
Recalling also Security Council resolution 1459(2003) of 28 January 2003, in which the Council strongly supported the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme as a valuable contribution against trafficking in conflict diamonds,
Welcoming the important contribution of the Kimberley Process, which was initiated by African diamond-producing countries,
Noting with satisfaction that the implementation of the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme continues to have a positive impact in reducing the opportunity for conflict diamonds to play a role in fuelling armed conflict and would help to protect legitimate trade and ensure the effective implementation of the relevant resolutions on trade in conflict diamonds,
Recalling its resolutions 55/56 of 1 December 2000, 56/263 of 13 March 2002, 57/302 of 15 April 2003, 58/290 of 14 April 2004, 59/144 of 15 December 2004 and 60/182 of 20 December 2005, in which it called for the development and implementation as well as a periodic review of proposals for a simple, effective and pragmatic international certification scheme for rough diamonds,
Welcoming, in this regard, the implementation of the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme in such a way as not to impede the legitimate trade in diamonds or impose an undue burden on Governments or industry, particularly smaller producers, nor hinder the development of the diamond industry,
Welcoming also the decision of forty-seven Kimberley Process participants, representing seventy-one countries, including the twenty-five members of the European Union represented by the European Commission, to address the problem of conflict diamonds by partici-
pating in the Process and implementing the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme,

Welcoming further the important contributions made and that continue to be made by the diamond industry, in particular the World Diamond Council, as well as civil society, to assist international efforts to stop the trade in conflict diamonds,

Welcoming the voluntary self-regulation initiatives for the diamond industry announced by the World Diamond Council, and recognizing that a system of such voluntary self-regulation will contribute, as described in the Interlaken Declaration of 5 November 2002 on the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme for Rough Diamonds, to ensuring the effectiveness of national systems of internal control for rough diamonds,

Appreciating in this regard the decision taken by the plenary meeting of the Kimberley Process, held in Gaborone from 6 to 9 November 2006, based on calls from participants, civil society and the World Diamond Council urging stronger internal control standards for participants, together with measures offering clearer guidance on implementing effective controls from mine to export, stronger government oversight of the diamond industry, and spot checks of industry compliance,

Noting with appreciation that the Kimberley Process has pursued its deliberations on an inclusive basis, involving concerned stakeholders, including producing, exporting and importing States, the diamond industry and civil society, as well as applicants,

Recognizing that State sovereignty should be fully respected and that the principles of equality, mutual benefits and consensus should be adhered to,

Recognizing also that the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme, which came into effect on 1 January 2003, will be credible only if all participants have requisite national legislation coupled with effective and credible internal systems of control designed to eliminate the presence of conflict diamonds in the chain of producing, exporting and importing rough diamonds within their own territories, while taking into account that differences in production methods and trading practices, as well as differences in institutional controls thereof, may require different approaches to meeting minimum standards,

1. Reaffirms its strong and continuing support for the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme and the Kimberley Process as a whole;

2. Recognizes that the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme can help to ensure the effective implementation of relevant resolutions of the Security Council containing sanctions on the trade in conflict diamonds and act as a mechanism for the prevention of future conflicts, and calls for the full implementation of existing Council measures targeting the illicit trade in rough diamonds, particularly conflict diamonds which play a role in fuelling conflict;

3. Also recognizes the important contributions that the international efforts to address the problem of conflict diamonds, including the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme, have made to the settlement of conflicts and the consolidation of peace in Angola, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Liberia and Sierra Leone;

4. Takes note of Security Council resolution 1643(2005) of 15 December 2005 which calls upon the States in the West Africa region that are not participants in the Kimberley Process to intensify their efforts to join the Process, stresses that the widest possible participation in the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme is essential, and encourages all Member States to contribute to the work of the Process by seeking membership, participating actively in the Certification Scheme and complying with its undertakings;

5. Takes note with appreciation of the report of the Chair of the Kimberley Process submitted pursuant to resolution 60/182, and congratulates the Governments, the regional economic integration organization, the diamond industry and civil society participating in the Process for contributing to the development, implementation and monitoring of the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme;

6. Notes the decision of the General Council of the World Trade Organization of 15 May 2003 granting a waiver with respect to the measures taken to implement the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme, effective from 1 January 2003 to 31 December 2006, and the decision of the General Council of 17 November 2006 granting an extension of the waiver until 31 December 2012;

7. Notes with satisfaction that in line with paragraph 7 of its resolution 60/182, the preliminary development of “footprints” that characterize diamond production from Côte d’Ivoire has been undertaken, and encourages expeditious commencement of further work to develop similar footprints for other diamond producers;

8. Notes with appreciation the contribution of the Kimberley Process in preparing a detailed assessment of the volume of rough diamonds produced in and exported from Côte d’Ivoire as requested by Security Council resolution 1643(2005) and, recognizing the cooperation between the Process and the United Nations Operation in Côte d’Ivoire, calls for the full implementation of the resolution on the subject of illicit diamond production in Côte d’Ivoire adopted by the plenary meeting of the Process held in Moscow from 15 to 17 November 2005, and encourages continued cooperation between the Process and the United Nations in tackling this issue;

9. Also notes with appreciation the action taken by the Kimberley Process to address concerns raised in the context of the report of the Group of Experts on Côte d’Ivoire submitted to the Security Council involving allegations that Ivorian diamonds were entering legitimate trade through third countries;

10. Welcomes the establishment of a new Working Group of the Kimberley Process on Artisanal Alluvial Production under the chairmanship of Angola, which will address issues of particular concern to artisanal alluvial producers and further contribute to the implementation of the existing declaration on improving internal controls over alluvial diamond production, and encourages potential donors to provide capacity-building assistance to further the effective implementation of the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme;
11. Notes with appreciation the contribution of the Kimberley Process and of its Chair to the work of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1521(2003) concerning Liberia, including the submission of a report on the results of the Kimberley Process expert mission to Liberia, as well as the progress made by Liberia towards putting in place the necessary internal controls and other requirements in order to satisfy the minimum requirements of the Process pursuant to Council resolution 1521(2003), welcomes the contributions of the United Nations Mission in Liberia, the United States of America and other donors to these efforts, and encourages all those in a position to assist Liberia, to do so;

12. Also notes with appreciation the conclusions of the three-year review of the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme and the recommendations adopted by the plenary meeting of the Kimberley Process held in Gaborone and notes that the timely implementation of these recommendations will strengthen and consolidate the Process, and therefore encourages the timely implementation of those recommendations;

13. Recognizes that the peer review mechanism and the collection and submission of statistical data are critical monitoring tools, essential for effective implementation of the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme, and in this respect:
   (a) Welcomes the important progress made in the implementation of the peer review mechanism in the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme, encourages all remaining participants to receive voluntary review visits, and notes with appreciation the intention of the Kimberley Process to commence a second round of review visits in 2007;
   (b) Also welcomes the progress made towards the collection and submission of statistical reports on the production of and trade in rough diamonds, encourages all of the Kimberley Process participants to enhance the quality of data, and to this end applauds the decision of the plenary meeting held in Gaborone to release Kimberley Process summary data on trade and production, by value and volume, and certificate counts for 2004 and 2005 data;

14. Notes with appreciation the assistance and capacity-building efforts extended by various donors, and encourages other donors to provide financial and technical expertise to Kimberley Process participants to help them to develop tighter monitoring and control measures;

15. Acknowledges with great appreciation the important contribution that Botswana, as Chair of the Kimberley Process in 2006, has made to the efforts to curb the trade in conflict diamonds, and welcomes the succession of the European Community as Chair and India as Vice-Chair of the Process for 2007;

16. Requests the Chair of the Kimberley Process to submit a report on the implementation of the Process to the General Assembly at its sixty-second session;

17. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-second session the item entitled “The role of diamonds in fuelling conflict”.

---

**Peacemaking and peacebuilding**

**Post-conflict peacebuilding**

**International Year of Reconciliation (2009)**

On 20 November [meeting 56], the General Assembly adopted resolution 61/17 [draft: A/61/L.22 & Add.1] without vote [agenda item 150].

**International Year of Reconciliation, 2009**

The General Assembly,

Bearing in mind the Charter of the United Nations, including the purposes and principles contained therein, and in particular those of saving succeeding generations from the scourge of war, bringing about by peaceful means, and in conformity with the principles of justice and international law, adjustment or settlement of international disputes or situations which might lead to a breach of the peace, and practising tolerance and living together in peace with one another as good neighbours, thus developing friendly relations among nations and promoting international cooperation to resolve international economic, social, cultural and humanitarian issues,

Recognizing that reconciliation processes are particularly necessary and urgent in countries and regions of the world which have suffered or are suffering situations of conflict that have affected and divided societies in their various internal, national and international facets,

Recognizing also that many of the activities of the United Nations system in general and the international community as a whole to support peacekeeping and peacebuilding, conflict prevention, disarmament, sustainable development, the promotion and protection of human rights and dignity, democracy, the rule of law and governance, inter alia, lead to the initiation and development of reconciliation processes,

Aware that dialogue among opponents from positions of respect and tolerance is an essential element of peace and reconciliation,

Aware also that truth and justice are indispensable elements for the attainment of reconciliation and lasting peace,

Bearing in mind the role of the media in reporting on reconciliation processes,

Convinced that the declaration of an international year of reconciliation at the end of the first decade of the new millennium will provide the international community with the opportunity to pursue, with the active involvement of all stakeholders, efforts to develop reconciliation processes, which are necessary to and a condition for the establishment of firm and lasting peace,

1. Expresses its steadfast determination to pursue reconciliation processes in those societies that are affected and/or divided by conflicts;
2. Decides to proclaim 2009 the International Year of Reconciliation;
3. Invites concerned Governments and international and non-governmental organizations to support
reconciliation processes among affected and/or divided societies and to plan and implement adequate cultural, educational and social programmes to promote the concept of reconciliation, including by holding conferences and seminars and disseminating information about the issue.

**Disarmament, demobilization and reintegration**

In response to General Assembly resolution 59/296 [YUN 2005, p. 133], the Secretary-General submitted a March report [A/60/705] on UN engagement in disarmament, demobilization and reintegration processes in complex peacekeeping and non-peacekeeping operations. The report discussed the increased engagement in such processes over the previous five years, including lessons learned and the development of a new integrated approach within the UN system. The report described the concept, definitions, and principles underpinning the integrated approach to disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, as well as its implementation.

Since the Secretary-General’s report on the role of UN peacekeeping in disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, issued in 2000 [YUN 2000, p. 78], six UN peacekeeping missions had included those elements as part of their mandates: the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC) (see p. 145); the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) (see p. 221); the United Nations Operation in Côte d’Ivoire (UNOCI) (see p. 207); the United Nations Operation in Burundi (ONUB) (see p. 158); the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) (see p. 353); and the United Nations Mission in the Sudan (UNMIS) (see p. 265). The Organization had become increasingly engaged in countries where peacekeeping operations had not been deployed. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and other UN agencies, departments, funds and programmes supported the development of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration strategies and implementation of a variety of activities, such as counselling and referral services to ex-combatants, ensuring the availability of reintegration options and meeting the specific needs of women. The Organization was particularly committed to demobilizing and removing children used by armed forces and groups in situations of ongoing conflict, in conformity with international norms and standards. While the scale, complexity and type of the UN work in disarmament, demobilization and reintegration had changed, the means of planning and implementing such operations had not. The operations were often conducted in a fractured way, resulting in poor coordination and sometimes competition between and among peacekeeping operations, agencies, funds and programmes. The narrow focus on short-term security goals often led to the exclusion of key target groups, including women combatants, supporters and dependents, leading to disjointed programmes and disillusioned ex-combatants returning to arms, as in Haiti and Sierra Leone.

To reverse that situation, the Organization had embarked on a new system-wide approach to improving performance through the establishment by the Executive Committee on Peace and Security of the Inter-Agency Working Group on Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration, comprising 15 departments, agencies, funds and programmes. The Working Group developed new policies and concepts for planning and implementing disarmament, demobilization and reintegration operations in a peacekeeping context, known as the integrated disarmament, demobilization and reintegration standards, and was working on a training and capacity-building strategy and the piloting of integrated programmes in Haiti and the Sudan. The new standards provided a comprehensive set of policies, guidelines and standard operating procedures on all aspects of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, emphasizing: a people-centred approach; a flexible, transparent and accountable approach; an integrated approach centred on the principles of integration, especially in planning and integration; and a national ownership-centred approach, encouraging Governments and citizens in post-conflict countries to take responsibility for disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programming. They identified five phases of internal UN planning, including pre-planning and preparatory assistance; initial technical assessments; development of a strategic and policy framework; a programme and operational framework; and a post-mission plan. The standards would be supported by an operational handbook, and a note for senior managers engaged in peace negotiations and in planning, implementing and managing peace operations with a disarmament, demobilization and reintegration component, complemented by a web-based resource centre. The standards constituted a common UN approach to disarmament, demobilization and reintegration in a peacekeeping environment and favoured the development of a streamlined means of supporting national needs, as opposed to proposing blueprint solutions. The comprehensive approach should be adopted as a means to underpin all future UN efforts; however, the Working Group would continue if possible and reflect on lessons learned from the new and increasingly complex
situations in which disarmament, demobilization and reintegration were taking place.

The Secretary-General concluded that the Inter-Agency Working Group would continue to strengthen and consolidate the partnership it had built up over the previous two years. He identified the need for an integrated, inter-agency UN disarmament, demobilization and reintegration capacity to provide ongoing policy development, strategic advice, support and training to country programmes. That body would engage with partners outside the United Nations; assist with training, resource mobilization and planning; and support disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes. The secretariat should be expanded and mandated to provide wider support to disarmament, demobilization and reintegration. A key priority would be to implement the integrated disarmament, demobilization and reintegration standards at the country level. The United Nations had begun to pilot the standards through the formation of integrated disarmament, demobilization and reintegration units in MINUSTAH and UNMIS and the joint training of their military, police and civilian personnel. The UN system would test the new approach in Haiti and the Sudan, implement it in other disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes, and ensure that new programmes were developed in line with the standards. Implementation of an integrated approach would require new coordination mechanisms, which could include integrated disarmament, demobilization and reintegration teams staffed jointly by personnel from UNDP, DPKO and other agencies, and/or a UN country team disarmament, demobilization and reintegration steering group to facilitate the exchange of information, joint planning and operations within the peacekeeping mission and with the country team. The report contained recommendations for addressing institutional constraints; developing policies and tools; maintaining and developing an online resource centre; training and developing capacity within the United Nations; and strengthening partnerships with international and national actors.

Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations consideration. The Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations, at its 2006 substantive session (New York, 27 February–17 March) [A/60/19] (see p. 85), called for long-term commitment by the donor community in support of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes and requested the Secretary-General to identify the additional resources needed. It recommended that the Secretary-General’s report on the subject (see above) be considered at the Committee’s next session and called on the Secretariat to use an inter-agency forum to bolster Headquarters support to disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes. The Special Committee stressed the importance of ensuring that all women and children associated with armed forces and groups were systematically included in every disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process, with a particular emphasis on reintegration and education.

ACABQ report. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ), in its July report [A/60/929], noted the Secretary-General’s intention to provide additional support to disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes in the field and to create an integrated, inter-agency UN capacity, building on the existing Secretariat. It also pointed to the necessity of defining the relationship between the Inter-Agency Working Group and the Peacebuilding Commission (see below).

Peacebuilding Commission

The Peacebuilding Commission, established concurrently in 2005 by Security Council resolution 1645(2005) [YUN 2005, p. 94] and General Assembly resolution 60/180 [ibid.] as an intergovernmental advisory body to provide an overall strategic approach and coherence for international peacebuilding efforts, serve as a dedicated institutional mechanism to address the special needs of countries emerging from conflict, and assist those countries in laying the foundations for sustainable peace and development, was inaugurated on 23 June 2006. The Commission’s standing Organizational Committee, comprising seven members each from the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council and the five top providers of assessed contributions and military personnel, was also established (see p. 56). Both the Commission and its Organizational Committee were supported by the Peacebuilding Support Office. The Commission held country-specific meetings on 12 and 13 October and 12 and 13 December. The Organizational Committee met on 23 June, 13 July, 9 October, and 7 and 12 December. On 20 December, the Commission Chairman submitted to the Security Council President a report [S/2006/1050] on the Commission’s country-specific meetings on Burundi and Sierra Leone. The Commission identified the critical challenges that needed to be addressed in those countries to lay the foundation for sustainable peace and create the enabling environment for development and reconstruction.
On 22 December, the Assembly decided that the agenda item on the report of the Peacebuilding Commission would remain for consideration during its resumed sixty-first (2007) session (decision 61/552).

Organizational Committee

Membership

On 17 January [S/2006/25], the Security Council President informed the Secretary-General of the selection of Denmark and the United Republic of Tanzania, following informal consultations, as members of the Council’s elected member category for the Peacebuilding Commission’s Organizational Committee for a term of one year, until the end of 2006. The Council also noted Argentina’s position, supported by Peru, that a member of the Latin American and Caribbean States Group be considered for selection when the terms of Denmark and the United Republic of Tanzania expired.

On 5 May [A/60/847], Jordan informed the Secretary-General that, in accordance with resolution 60/180, the 10 top providers of military personnel and civilian police to UN missions had selected Bangladesh, Ghana, India, Nigeria and Pakistan to serve on the Organizational Committee for the first two-year term.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 8 May [meeting 79], the General Assembly adopted resolution 60/261 [draft: A/60/L.52] without vote [agenda item 112 (f)].

Election of seven members of the Organizational Committee of the Peacebuilding Commission

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 60/180 and Security Council resolution 1645(2005), both of 20 December 2005, in which the Assembly and the Council concurrently operationalized the decision by the 2005 World Summit to establish the Peacebuilding Commission as an intergovernmental advisory body,

Recalling in particular paragraphs 4 (a) to (e) and 5 of the above-mentioned resolutions setting out the arrangements for the composition of the Organizational Committee of the Commission,

Bearing in mind that, in accordance with paragraph 4 (c) of the above-mentioned resolutions, seven additional members of the Organizational Committee shall be elected according to rules and procedures decided by the General Assembly,

Emphasizing that, in electing members of the Organizational Committee, the General Assembly should give due consideration to representation from all regional groups in the overall composition of the Committee and to representation from countries that have experienced post-conflict recovery,

Emphasizing also that Member States from all regional groups should have the possibility of presenting candidatures for election in the General Assembly, in accordance with paragraph 4 (e) of the above-mentioned resolutions,

1. Notes that the elections and/or selections that have taken place, in accordance with the provisions of paragraphs 4 (a) to (d) of General Assembly resolution 60/180 and Security Council resolution 1645(2005), have resulted in the following distribution of seats for this year among the five regional groups in the Organizational Committee of the Peacebuilding Commission:

(a) Five members from African States;
(b) Seven members from Asian States;
(c) Two members from Eastern European States;
(d) One member from Latin American and Caribbean States;
(e) Nine members from Western European and other States;

2. Decides that the seven seats for election by the General Assembly for membership in the Organizational Committee for this year shall be distributed among the five regional groups as follows:

(a) Two seats for African States;
(b) One seat for Asian States;
(c) One seat for Eastern European States;
(d) Three seats for Latin American and Caribbean States;
(e) No seats for Western European and other States;

3. Also decides that the rules of procedure and established practice of the General Assembly for the election of members of its subsidiary bodies shall apply to its election of members of the Organizational Committee;

4. Reiterates that the members of the Organizational Committee shall serve for renewable terms of two years, as applicable, beginning on the day of the first meeting of the Committee;

5. Calls upon Member States to give due consideration to representation from countries that have experienced post-conflict recovery when electing members of the Organizational Committee in the General Assembly;

6. Decides that the term of membership shall be staggered, and that two members from different regional groups, to be drawn by lots in the first election, shall serve for an initial period of one year;

7. Also decides that each of the five regional groups shall have no less than three seats in the overall composition of the Organizational Committee;

8. Further decides that the elections to be held by the General Assembly this year will set no precedent for future elections and that the distribution of seats as set out in paragraph 2 above will be reviewed annually, on the basis of changes in the membership in other categories established in paragraphs 4 (a) to (d) of the above-mentioned resolutions, in order to give due consideration to representation of all regional groups in the overall composition of the Organizational Committee.
On 8 May [A/60/839], Egypt reconfirmed, in the light of the adoption of resolution 60/261 (above), its candidature for one of the two seats on the Organizational Committee allocated to African States.

On the same date [A/60/848], the United States, as facilitator of the group of 10 leading contributors to the United Nations, conveyed to the Secretary-General the five top contributors—Germany, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands and Norway—to serve for the first term on the Organizational Committee. The 10 contributors agreed that Canada and Sweden would be provided the opportunity to serve in the second term.

**ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ACTION**

On 8 May [meeting 8], the Economic and Social Council adopted resolution 2006/3 [draft: E/2006/L.2/Rev.1] without vote [agenda item 2].

Membership of the Economic and Social Council on the Organizational Committee of the Peacebuilding Commission pursuant to paragraph 4 (b) of General Assembly resolution 60/180 and of Security Council resolution 1645(2005)

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 60/180 of 20 December 2005 and Security Council resolution 1645(2005) of 20 December 2005 concurrently establishing the Peacebuilding Commission,

Recalling also, in particular, paragraphs 12 (b), 13 and 17 of General Assembly resolution 60/180 and Security Council resolution 1645(2005), establishing the institutional relationship between the Economic and Social Council and the Peacebuilding Commission,

Recognizing the important role to be performed by the Peacebuilding Commission towards recovery, reintegration and reconstruction in countries emerging from conflict, particularly in Africa,

Recalling that due consideration is to be given to countries that have experienced post-conflict recovery in the composition of the Organizational Committee of the Peacebuilding Commission,

1. **Decides** that the distribution of the seven seats allocated to the Economic and Social Council on the Organizational Committee of the Peacebuilding Commission shall be as follows:

   (a) One seat for each of the five regional groups, namely, African States, Asian States, Eastern European States, Latin American and Caribbean States and Western European and other States;

   (b) For the purpose of the first election, the two remaining seats shall be allocated to the regional groups of African States and Asian States;

2. **Also decides** that members of the Council shall be elected to the Organizational Committee for a two-year term with the possibility, as applicable, of sharing the term within the concerned regional group for the seats allocated to it, subject to the concurrence of the Council;

3. **Further decides** that elections from among its members to the Organizational Committee shall be held every other year;

4. **Decides** that the rules of procedure and established practice of the Council for the election of members of its subsidiary bodies shall apply to the election of members of the Organizational Committee by the Council;

5. **Also decides** to hold the first election at a meeting of its organizational session for 2006.

Meetings

The Organizational Committee met on 23 June [PBC/OC/1/SR.1], 13 July [PBC/OC/1/SR.2], 9 October [PBC/OC/1/SR.3], 7 December [PBC/OC/1/SR.4], and 12 December [PBC/OC/1/SR.5], all in New York.

The Committee discussed, among other matters, selection of participants in, and the process and schedule of, country-specific meetings; requests submitted to the Committee; membership of the Committee; and the Peacebuilding Commission’s reporting requirements to the Security Council and General Assembly. At its first meeting in June, the Committee considered a 21 June request of the Security Council [PBC/1/OC/2 & Corr.1] for the Commission’s advice on the situations in Burundi and Sierra Leone; at its July meeting, the Committee decided that the Commission’s first two country-specific meetings would address the situations in those countries.

At its June meeting, the Committee adopted the Commission’s provisional rules of procedure [PBC/1/OC/1] through a consultative process among Member States. At its 12 December meeting, it agreed to review those rules in 2007, and established an expert group for that purpose.

At its October meeting, the Committee established an ad hoc working group on pending issues to address those aspects that needed further elaboration in the provisional rules of procedure, especially the implementation of Assembly resolution 60/180 and Council resolution 1645(2005) [YUN 2005, p. 94] concerning the participation of the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and other international donors, as well as the modalities for civil society participation in Commission meetings.

Establishment of Peacebuilding Fund

In response to General Assembly resolution 60/180 and Security Council resolution 1645(2005) [YUN 2005, p. 94], the Secretary-General submitted an August report [A/60/984] on arrangements for establishing the Peacebuilding Fund, which was designed to support interventions considered critical to the peacebuilding process, and pave the way for the sustained support and engagement of other
key stakeholders. The Fund would support peacebuilding activities that directly contributed to the stabilization of countries emerging from conflict, facilitate the implementation of peace agreements, strengthen country capacities to promote peaceful resolution of conflicts and respond to threats that might lead to the recurrence of conflict.

The terms of reference for the Fund, which were annexed to the report, focused on allocation and disbursement modalities, including eligibility for funding and the role of the Peacebuilding Commission in advising the Secretary-General on the selection of countries eligible for consideration for funding. Funding would be informed by an analysis of critical gaps in peacebuilding, which would be conducted by national authorities and the United Nations. Management of the Fund would be assumed by UNDP. Both the Assembly and the Peacebuilding Commission would have a role in the Fund’s governance arrangements. An independent advisory group of eminent personalities with peacebuilding experience would be appointed to advise the Secretary-General on strengthening the functioning and use of the Fund. The initial funding target of the Fund was set at $250 million.

The Secretary-General concluded that resources from the Fund, combined with the efforts of the Peacebuilding Commission, would help ensure that post-conflict countries continued to benefit from the sustained attention and support of the international community. Member States were invited to support the Fund by providing regular voluntary contributions to ensure that it effectively addressed the critical peacebuilding activities of countries emerging from conflict.

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION**

On 8 September [meeting 99], the General Assembly adopted resolution 60/287 [draft: A/60/L.63 & Add.1] without vote [agenda items 46 & 120].

The **Peacebuilding Fund**

_Recalling the 2005 World Summit Outcome,_

_Recalling also its resolution 60/180 and Security Council resolution 1645(2005) of 20 December 2005 on the operationalization of the Peacebuilding Commission, in particular paragraphs 24 and 25 thereof,_

1. **Takes note** of the arrangements for establishing the Peacebuilding Fund as contained in the report of the Secretary-General and the terms of reference for the Fund contained in the annex thereto;
2. **Affirms** its role to provide overall policy guidance on the use of the Fund to maximize its impact and improve its functioning;
3. **Welcomes** the contributions and financial pledges already made to the Fund, and emphasizes the necessity of sustained contributions in order to enhance the capacity of the Fund to immediately release the resources needed to launch post-conflict peacebuilding activities;
4. **Urges** all Member States to consider making voluntary contributions to the Fund;
5. **Requests** the Secretary-General to submit an annual report to the General Assembly on the operation and activities of the Fund;
6. **Decides** to include in the draft agenda of its sixty-first session an item entitled “Report of the Secretary-General on the Peacebuilding Fund”.

The Fund was officially launched by the Secretary-General on 11 October.

On 22 December, the Assembly decided that the agenda item on the report of the Secretary-General on the Peacebuilding Fund would remain for consideration during the resumed sixty-first (2007) session (decision 61/552).

**Establishment of Peacebuilding Support Office**

The Peacebuilding Support Office, established in accordance with General Assembly resolutions 60/1 [YUN 2005, p. 48] and 60/180 [ibid., p. 94], was intended to assist the Peacebuilding Commission in addressing the fragmentation and lack of coherence in UN peacebuilding capacities; provide the Commission with analytical and technical support to help it undertake its advisory role and make informed decisions regarding the development and implementation of integrated peace strategies for countries emerging from conflict; and facilitate the development of strategies and options by the actors on the ground, especially transitional authorities and resident UN leadership. The assistance provided by the Support Office could include both facilitation and technical support. Neither the Commission, nor the Support Office would possess direct operational capacity in countries, but would count on and complement the capacities of existing actors, including Secretariat offices and departments, specialized agencies, and UN funds and programmes. The Office would support the Commission in financing for peacebuilding, planning, policy and analysis, and other support; oversee the management, coordination and decision-making aspects of the Peacebuilding Fund, as specified in the terms of reference of that facility (see above); and ensure that the Commission’s oversight and reporting needs were met. The Support Office would draw on the best expertise in the UN system and outside networks on country-specific and thematic peacebuilding issues in order to provide the Commission with sound analysis and information to enable it to make informed decisions and to perform its advisory role.
Financing

The Secretary-General, in revised estimates to the proposed 2006-2007 programme budget [A/60/537] submitted in 2005, had proposed an amount of $4,175,200, under section 3, Political affairs, and section 35, Staff assessment, later revised further to $7,002,400, to take account of additional requirements under section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management [A/C.5/60/22].

ACABQ, in December 2005 [A/60/7/Add.25], recommended that the Assembly decide that, in view of the requirement that the Support Office be staffed from existing resources, there should be no additional appropriation under section 3 of the proposed 2006-2007 programme budget. The Secretary-General should be requested to revisit the matter and submit a proposal consistent with the Assembly’s intent.

The Fifth (Administrative and Budgetary) Committee, having considered the Secretary-General’s statement and the related ACABQ report [A/60/598], informed the Assembly that the adoption of resolution 60/180 would not give rise to any additional requirements under the proposed 2006-2007 programme budget at that stage, nor any additional appropriation under section 3 of the proposed budget. The Assembly requested the Secretary-General to report back to it pursuant to the ACABQ report.

In response to the Committee’s decision, the Secretary-General submitted a February 2006 report [A/60/694] updating information on the status of the establishment of the Peacebuilding Support Office, including information on resource requirements and the proposed arrangements to meet them.

The total requirements of the Peacebuilding Support Office for the 2006-2007 biennium amounted to $5,595,400, of which $2,790,000, corresponding to eight posts, would be met through redeployment or secondment of staff from other UN system organizations. The remaining requirements would be accommodated within the overall resources approved for 2006-2007, through the utilization of the provision for special political missions appropriated under section 3, Political affairs, of the 2006-2007 programme budget.

The Assembly was requested to approve the 2006-2007 budget for the Peacebuilding Support Office, as well as a charge of $2,805,400 corresponding to the remaining requirements of the Office against the provision for special political missions already approved under section 3 of the 2006-2007 programme budget.

ACABQ, in a March report [A/60/7/Add.36], said that the Secretary-General’s proposal did not comply with the Assembly’s request that the cost associated with the establishment of the Office be accommodated from within existing resources in the sense that a balance of $52.6 million would remain available from within the appropriation of $356 million for special political missions, if current proposals before the Assembly were approved. It was of the opinion that the staffing needs of the Support Office, including grade levels, should be reviewed within one year after the Peacebuilding Commission started its work. The results of the review should be submitted as a separate analysis during the consideration of the proposed 2008-2009 programme budget. ACABQ recommended that the use of in-house capacity for the work of the Support Office be maximized and that requirements for consultants be requested and fully justified in the review.

ACABQ recommended that the Assembly note that 5 of the 15 posts requested for the Support Office would be accommodated through redeployment and that a further 3 posts would be provided through non-reimbursable secondment by other UN system organizations. It further recommended that the proposed charge against the provision for special political missions of $2,805,400 under section 3 of the programme budget for the 2006-2007 biennium be reduced by $1,234,100. The total charge against the provision for special political missions would thus amount to $1,571,300.

The Assembly took action with regard to the Secretary-General’s proposals and ACABQ recommendations in section II of resolution 60/255 of 8 May (see p. 1618).

Cooperation with regional organizations

In response to Security Council resolution 1631(2005) [YUN 2005, p. 97], the Secretary-General submitted a July report [A/61/204-S/2006/590] on a regional-global security partnership: challenges and opportunities. The report described the development of that partnership between 1994 and 2006, the challenges facing cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations in maintaining international peace and security, including the need to clarify roles and build capacity, and identified opportunities for cooperation.

The Secretary-General said that it had long been recognized that the United Nations could not handle every crisis on its own and that partnerships with other intergovernmental organizations should be developed. That had materialized over the years, especially through six high-level meetings convened between the United Nations and
regional and other intergovernmental organizations and thematic meetings of the Security Council. As a result of guidance given by those meetings, significant operational cooperation in peace and security had developed between the United Nations and partner organizations, especially in the areas of conflict prevention, peacemaking, peacekeeping, peacebuilding and special areas of disarmament and non-proliferation, the protection of civilians and natural disasters. In describing current operational cooperation in those areas, the Secretary-General said that respect for human rights, which was central to conflict prevention and building regional capacity for protection of human rights had become one of the strategic goals of UN partnership with subregional organizations. That partnership was sustained through the establishment of regional offices around the world and a subregional centre for human rights and democracy based in Yaoundé, Cameroon. The United Nations was willing to engage in dialogue with partner organizations on how to advance the process of building a global-regional mechanism in conflict prevention. UN system work in conflict prevention had evolved to include an integrated, multisectoral approach, and the Organization was exploring new ways to partner with the development sectors of regional and subregional organizations.

To strengthen cooperation in peacemaking, the UN Department of Political Affairs would launch a systematic, region-by-region analysis of mediation experiences in order to draw practical conclusions and develop useful tools, and a web-based peacemaking databank for international peacemaking professionals. Regional organizations had become important contributors to international efforts to assist States in the transition from armed conflict to sustainable peace, and there had been dramatic growth in partner engagement in peacekeeping, particularly in Africa and Europe. In the coming years, the United Nations should promote capacity in peacekeeping, target capacity-building efforts, and reinforce a collective approach to security. The United Nations would work closely with partner organizations in the protection of civilians, with the objective of establishing a consultative network with interested partner organizations to identify options for a common framework on protection of civilians in armed conflict, based on agreed core policies and legal elements.

With regard to natural disaster relief, the Secretary-General requested regional organizations to coordinate closely with the United Nations Emergency Relief Coordinator to ensure that collective efforts met internationally agreed guidelines and methodologies, benefited from lessons learned and best practices, avoided competition for resources or collision of mandates and built effective partnerships.

The report outlined progress in realizing the goals of Council resolution 1631(2005) [YUN 2005, p. 97], in which the Council expressed its determination to further develop cooperation between the United Nations and partner organizations in maintaining peace and security, including in the areas of standby arrangements, rapid deployment, small arms and light weapons, counter-terrorism and capacity-building assistance.

Challenges to be addressed with regard to the partnership between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations in the maintenance of international peace and security included clarification of the identity and role of each member of the partnership and the establishment of a programme of action for capacity-building to ensure more equal ability among the partners. With regard to opportunities for cooperation, the Secretary-General said that the global security mechanism of the future rested on a balanced distribution of capacity and resources across all regions. The Security Council had to retain primary responsibility for maintaining international peace and security, but it should seek a willing and capable subsidiary role for regional and other intergovernmental organizations.

To address the challenges described in the report, the Secretary-General recommended that the United Nations should strengthen its capacity to develop a global-regional conflict prevention mechanism with which comparable regional and subregional mechanisms could interact, and establish a databank on conflict prevention capacities of partner organizations and the UN system as a foundation for such a mechanism. The United Nations and partner organizations should host jointly a series of workshops on lessons learned in conflict prevention and in building the global-regional mechanism. A dedicated research capacity should be established, to be shared by partner organizations and the United Nations, to advance joint lessons-learned capacity in the field. Partner organizations should become active users of, and contributors to, the Department for Political Affairs peacemaking databank.

To improve the effectiveness and ensure greater impact of disarmament and non-proliferation activities at the regional and subregional levels, the United Nations should strengthen its cooperation with regional and other intergovernmental organizations to further implement the 2001 Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in
All Its Aspects [YUN 2001, p. 499], in particular to facilitate and promote programmes of technical assistance and international cooperation; strengthen its efforts to promote the universalization and full implementation of multilateral disarmament and non-proliferation treaties and other politically binding instruments through the establishment of regional integrated databases; and hold a series of workshops, in collaboration with regional and other intergovernmental organizations, with a view to raising awareness and facilitating the provision of assistance and cooperation to strengthen States’ capacity to implement their obligations under Security Council resolutions 1540(2004) [YUN 2004, p. 544] and 1673(2006) (see p. 635) on non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. Other recommendations dealt with peacekeeping, peacebuilding, clarification of the roles of the partners, and the formalization of the partnership.

Security Council consideration. On 20 September [meeting 5529], the Security Council met with representatives of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, the Collective Security Treaty Organization, the Commonwealth of Independent States, the Council of Europe, the European Union (EU), the League of Arab States, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), the Organization of American States (OAS), the Organization of the Islamic Conference, and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe to consider cooperation in maintaining international peace and security. The Council had before it the Secretary-General’s report on a regional-global partnership and a 6 September letter [S/2006/719] from Greece to the Secretary-General, transmitting a paper on the challenges of cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations to help guide discussion on the subject.

Greece, in its capacity as Council President, noted that, while Chapter VIII of the UN Charter referred to regional agencies and arrangements and set out their functional relationship with the Council, it was silent on their constitutional relationship. The time had come for greater clarity on issues that would facilitate the shaping of the vision of a global-regional mechanism for peace and security, including clarifying the criteria for distinguishing those agencies from other intergovernmental organizations, for the purposes of applying Chapter VIII, and thus give the Council greater reliance on constitutionally delegated executive functions to genuine regional agencies.

In his statement to the meeting, the Secretary-General said that the security partnership between the United Nations and regional organizations was stronger than in the previous decade; many of the regional and subregional partners were stronger; and the interaction was more intense, substantial and meaningful. In 2006, political and operational collaboration included: cooperation with the African Union (AU) peacekeeping operation in the Sudan; cooperation with the EU in support of the peace process in the DRC; and ongoing partnerships with the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), NATO in Afghanistan and the Kosovo province of Serbia, and OAS in support of Haiti’s electoral process. The political engagement of regional actors was improving the Organization’s knowledge of specific situations and the military and peacekeeping capacities of those actors had made it possible to respond more quickly at the outset of crisis. In the next decade, the demand for peacekeeping and related services would continue to grow, and the time had come to take the regional-global partnership to a new level of clarity, practicality and seriousness. The Secretary-General urged that efforts continue to find new ways to cooperate and create a global collective security mechanism that protected people and laid the groundwork for lasting peace.

SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION

On 20 September [meeting 5529], following consultations among Security Council members, the President made statement S/PRST/2006/39 on behalf of the Council:

The Security Council recalls its previous relevant resolutions and the statements by its President on cooperation with regional and subregional organizations and its three previous meetings on this subject, held on 11 April 2003 under the presidency of Mexico, and on 20 July 2004 and 17 October 2005 under the presidency of Romania.

Member States emphasized that the Council has primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security and that the establishment of a more effective partnership between the United Nations and regional and other intergovernmental organizations, consistent with Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations, would contribute to the maintenance of peace and security.

The Council notes the start of the practice of annual Secretary-General’s high-level meetings, their high-level attendance and their broadening substantive agenda. The Council notes that the seventh high-level meeting takes place immediately after its meeting of 20 September 2006, and the President of the Security Council has been invited to report the results of that meeting to the seventh high-level meeting.

The Council welcomes the progress made in realizing the goals of resolution 1631(2005), as elaborated by the Secretary-General in his report, and commends...
the efforts of the Secretary-General in strengthening partnerships with regional, subregional and other intergovernmental organizations on peace and security, thereby contributing to the realization of the recommendations of the 2005 World Summit Outcome for a stronger relationship between such organizations and the United Nations. The Council calls upon the next Secretary-General to continue and strengthen these efforts.

The Council notes that a working-level meeting was organized by the United Nations Secretariat with regional and other intergovernmental organizations in early July 2006 to review the progress in implementing resolution 1631(2005) and calls for this practice to continue in 2007.

The Council stresses the benefits of closer cooperation with regional and subregional organizations in the maintenance of international peace and security, including the brokering of peace agreements in conflict situations. In this regard, the Council agreed, in the recently adopted note by the President of the Security Council on the work of the Informal Working Group on Documentation and Other Procedural Questions, to expand consultation and cooperation with regional and subregional organizations by:

— Inviting relevant regional and subregional organizations to participate in the public and private meetings of the Council, when appropriate;
— Continuing to consult informally with regional and subregional organizations when drafting, inter alia, resolutions, presidential statements and press statements, as appropriate;
— Drawing the attention of representatives of regional and subregional organizations, where appropriate, to relevant resolutions, presidential statements and press statements.

The Council encourages regional and subregional organizations to convey their perspectives and analysis to the Council prior to its examination of regionally relevant agenda items.

The Council invites all regional and subregional organizations that have a capacity for peacekeeping or rapid response in crisis situations to enhance their working relations with the Secretariat and cooperate with the Secretariat to determine the conditions in which this capacity could contribute to the fulfillment of United Nations mandates and goals.

The Council invites the Secretariat and regional and subregional organizations to explore further information-sharing on respective capabilities and lessons learned in peacekeeping by expanding the scope of the website of the Peacekeeping Best Practices Section of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations of the Secretariat to cover the deployment experiences of all regional and subregional organizations and all experiences of cooperation in peacekeeping between the United Nations and these organizations.

The Council takes note of the progress report of the Secretary-General on the prevention of armed conflict, including the recognition therein of the role played by regional and subregional organizations. The Council urges the Secretariat and United Nations agencies, as well as all States and other relevant international organizations to continue their efforts to contribute to the capacity-building of regional and subregional organizations, in particular of the African Union and African subregional organizations, which play a useful role in brokering peace agreements, conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict stabilization.

The Council welcomes the intent of many regional and subregional organizations to be closely associated with the work of the Peacebuilding Commission and commits to facilitating their participation, as relevant, in the country-specific activities of the Commission.

The Council equally welcomes efforts under way to enhance cooperation between the Secretariat and regional and subregional organizations in mediation and peacemaking, and invites the Secretariat to expand without delay its Peacemaking database to regional and subregional organizations so as to facilitate mutual information and exchanges of experience.

The Council notes with appreciation the efforts of an increasing number of regional and subregional organizations, working with the subsidiary bodies of the Council, to address the threats to international peace and security posed by acts of terrorism, and calls upon them to intensify their activity to develop the counter-terrorism capacity of their member States.

The Council urges regional and subregional organizations to assist States, as appropriate, in implementing existing agreements and enhance efforts to eradi cate the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons, including via more effective regional mechanisms. The Council also urges regional and subregional organizations to encourage their member States to strengthen their legislations in this field.

The Council recalls the relevant paragraphs of the 2005 World Summit Outcome and notes with gratitude the many steps that the Secretary-General has undertaken to strengthen the relationship between the United Nations and regional and subregional and other intergovernmental organizations. In this context, the Council intends to consider further steps to promote closer and more operational cooperation between the United Nations and regional, subregional and other intergovernmental organizations participating in the high-level meetings convened by the Secretary-General, in particular in the field of conflict prevention, peacebuilding and peacekeeping.

On 16 November [A/61/630], the Secretary-General and the Chairperson of the AU Commission signed in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, a declaration entitled “Enhancing UN-AU Cooperation: Framework for the Ten-Year Capacity-Building Programme for the African Union” (see p. 340), which was considered at the seventh high-level meeting between the United Nations and regional organizations on 22 September.
Special political missions and offices

OIOS audit of management of special political missions

In response to section I of General Assembly resolution 60/255 of 8 May (see p. 1618), the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) submitted a September report [A/61/357] on its audit of the management of special political missions by the UN Department of Political Affairs (DPA). The audit assessed DPA’s ability to guide and manage special political missions; reviewed the appropriateness of related policies and procedures; and determined the sufficiency of internal controls.

According to the audit, while DPA’s ability to backstop the missions appeared to be satisfactory, and the timely recruitment of qualified mission personnel was improving, as evidenced by the drop in vacancy rates from 43 to 35 per cent between June 2005 and May 2006, its ability to provide political and substantive policy guidance to the missions and to equip its desk officers with management tools needed significant improvement. In addition, budget controls were inadequate, since they were not formalized or comprehensively reviewed at the departmental level. The number of complaints raised by special political missions about the effectiveness of DPA support was the only indicator for measuring managerial performance in the Department’s results-based budget framework, which OIOS considered to be insufficient. DPA’s mandate, as the UN focal point for post-conflict peacebuilding, had not been sufficiently implemented.

OIOS recommended that DPA’s mandate, as the UN focal point for post-conflict peacebuilding, be updated to reflect the establishment of the Peacebuilding Commission and the Peacebuilding Support Office, and clarify its responsibilities for managing and directing special political missions, as well as to reflect DPKO’s responsibilities for directing the substantive operations of the special political missions, in addition to peacekeeping operations. The Secretary-General should develop and disseminate clear criteria for assigning the lead responsibility for managing field missions to ensure transparency; include reference to the lead-department policy in the official mandates of DPA and DPKO to enhance its visibility and transparency and ensure that his strategy of forming interdepartmental task forces, as provided for in the lead-department policy, was being implemented effectively.

The Department of Management should revise the current budget presentation by categorizing the entities funded under section 3B in order to clearly indicate the lead-department responsibility for each operation. DPA should establish a monitoring and oversight mechanism in the form of an operational agreement with DPKO to address accountability for the budget resources of field missions; establish a formal working group for budget review; request resources in the context of the 2008-2009 programme budget to appoint a staff member with budget expertise as the Department’s overall focal point for overseeing and monitoring the budgets of the special political missions; and enhance budgetary controls by issuing performance reports of expenditures for the special political missions annually rather than biennially.

DPA should develop standard operating procedures that would provide desk officers with better management tools and increase the quality and consistency of the Department’s support for special political missions, and strengthen its performance evaluation of the management of those missions. It should develop and propose to the Assembly and the Security Council exit strategies for all special political missions, and a working-level methodology for establishing interdepartmental task forces, with relevant terms of reference. DPA should de-
velop, with the Peacebuilding Support Office, terms of reference specifying their respective roles and responsibilities in peacebuilding activities, and formulate a coordination strategy to prevent possible duplication and overlap.

**Roster of special political missions and offices in 2006**

During 2006, 12 UN political missions and offices were in operation: 6 in Africa, 4 in Asia and the Pacific, and 2 in the Middle East.

With regard to Africa, the mandates of the United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office in the Central African Republic and the United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office in Guinea-Bissau were extended until 31 December 2007; the United Nations Integrated Office in Sierra Leone until 31 December 2007; and that of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region for a final period of three months, until 31 March 2007.

In Asia and the Pacific, the Council extended the mandate of the United Nations Office in Timor-Leste until 25 August 2006, when the mission was terminated. On the same date, the Council established, as a follow-on mission, the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste, for an initial period of six months. The activities of the United Nations Tajikistan Office of Peacebuilding were extended until 1 June 2007. The Council extended the mandate of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan until 23 March 2007, and that of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq until 10 August 2007. In the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, the United Nations Command continued to implement the maintenance of the 1953 Armistice Agreement [YUN 1953, p. 136].

**UNPOS**

United Nations Political Office for Somalia


*Mandate:* To monitor the situation in Somalia and keep the Security Council informed, particularly about developments affecting the humanitarian and security situation, repatriation of refugees and impacts on neighbouring countries.

*Special Representative of the Secretary-General:* Français Lonseny Fall (Guinea).

*Strength:* 17 international civilian staff, 9 local civilian staff.

**Great Lakes Region**

Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region


*Mandate:* To monitor developments in the region and their implications for peace and security and to contribute to regional efforts in the prevention or peaceful settlement of conflicts.

*Special Representative of the Secretary-General:* Ibrahima Fall (Senegal).

*Strength:* 9 international civilian staff, 7 local civilian staff.

**UNOGGIS**

United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office in Guinea-Bissau


*Mandate:* To support efforts to consolidate constitutional rule, enhance political dialogue and promote national reconciliation, respect for the rule of law and human rights; assist in strengthening the capacity of national institutions; and to support security sector reform.

*Representative of the Secretary-General:* Shola Omorogie (Nigeria).

*Strength:* 9 international civilian staff, 2 military advisers, 1 police adviser, 10 local civilian staff, 1 UN volunteer.

**UNSCO**

Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process

*Established:* 1 October 1999.

*Mandate:* To act as the focal point for the United Nations contribution to the implementation of the peace agreements and to enhance UN assistance.

*Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process and Personal Representative of the Secretary-General to the Palestine Liberation Organization and the Palestinian Authority:* Alvaro de Soto (Peru).

*Strength:* 27 international civilian staff, 23 local civilian staff.

**BONUCA**

United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office in the Central African Republic


*Mandate:* To support efforts to consolidate peace and promote national reconstruction and economic recovery.

*Representative of the Secretary-General:* General Lamine Cissé (Senegal).

*Strength:* 26 international civilian staff, 5 military advisers, 6 police, 51 local civilian staff, 3 UN volunteers.
UNTOP
United Nations Tajikistan Office of Peacebuilding
Established: 1 June 2000.
Mandate: To provide a political framework and leadership for post-conflict peacebuilding.
Representative of the Secretary-General: Vladimir Sotirov (Bulgaria).
Strength: 8 international civilian staff, 1 police adviser, 20 local civilian staff.

Lebanon
Office of the Personal Representative of the Secretary-General for Lebanon
Established: 4 August 2000.
Mandate: To help coordinate UN activities with regard to southern Lebanon.
Personal Representative of the Secretary-General for southern Lebanon: Geir O. Pedersen (Norway).
Strength: 6 international civilian staff, 6 local civilian staff.

UNOWA
Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for West Africa
Established: March 2002.
Mandate: To ensure the strengthening of harmonization and coordination of UN system activities in an integrated regional perspective and the development of a partnership with the Economic Community of West African States, other subregional organizations and international and national actors, including civil society.
Special Representative of the Secretary-General: Ahmedou Ould-Abdallah (Mauritania).
Strength: 7 international civilian staff, 9 local civilian staff.

UNAMA
United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan
Mandate: To fulfil the tasks and responsibilities entrusted to the United Nations in the Bonn Agreement; promote national reconciliation and rapprochement; manage all UN humanitarian relief, recovery and reconstruction activities; and assist in the promotion of the political process.
Special Representative of the Secretary-General: Tom Koenigs (Germany).
Strength: 206 international civilian staff, 848 local civilian staff, 11 military observers, 3 civilian police, 34 UN volunteers.

UNAMI
United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq
Mandate: To support the Secretary-General in the fulfilment of his mandate under Security Council resolution 1483(2003).
Special Representative of the Secretary-General: Ashraf Jehangir Qazi (Pakistan).
Strength: 228 international civilian staff, 352 local civilian staff, 223 troops, 11 military observers.

UNOTIL
United Nations Office in Timor-Leste
Mandate: To support the development of critical State institutions, support the further development of the police and provide training in the observance of democratic governance and human rights.
Special Representative of the Secretary-General: Sukehiro Hasegawa (Japan).

UNOSIL
United Nations Integrated Office in Sierra Leone
Established: 1 January 2006.
Mandate: To assist in building the capacity of State institutions; developing a national action plan for human rights; enhancing good governance, transparency and accountability; strengthening the rule of law and the security sector; and promoting a culture of peace, dialogue and participation.
Executive Representative for UNOSIL: Victor da Silva Angelo (Portugal).
Strength: 71 international civilian staff, 176 local civilian staff, 9 military observers, 17 police, 29 UN volunteers.

Threats to international peace and security

International terrorism

Global counter-terrorism strategy
In response to the General Assembly’s request, contained in resolution 60/1 on the 2005 World Summit Outcome [YUN 2005, p. 48], that he submit proposals for strengthening UN system capacity to assist States in combating terrorism and enhancing the coordination of UN activities in that regard, the Secretary-General submitted an April report [A/60/825] on uniting against terrorism: recommen-
Recommendations for a global counter-terrorism strategy. The Secretary-General was assisted in formulating the recommendations by the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force, which he had created in 2005 to bring together key UN system actors and their partners dealing with counter-terrorism issues. The recommendations for the counter-terrorism strategy laid out in the report were based on the five pillar elements identified by the Secretary-General in 2005 (YUN 2005, p. 101): dissuading groups from resorting to terrorism or supporting it; denying terrorist the means to carry out an attack; deterring States from supporting terrorist groups; developing State capacity to prevent terrorism; and defending human rights in the context of terrorism and counter-terrorism.

The Secretary-General said that universal agreement on a counter-terrorism strategy would demonstrate the resolve of the international community to deal definitively with the scourge of terrorism and create the basis for a truly global response. Member States would need to ensure that it was regularly updated to respond to evolving challenges and, more importantly, was fully implemented; and agree to review it regularly and ensure accountability through follow-up. UN system institutions would play an important role in that follow-up, and the Secretary-General would ask the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force to support and facilitate coordination in that regard.

The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy was adopted by the Assembly in September (see below).

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION**

On 8 September [meeting 99], the General Assembly adopted resolution 60/288 [draft: A/60/L.62] without vote [agenda items 46 & 120].

**The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy**

The General Assembly, Guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, and reaffirming its role under the Charter, including on questions related to international peace and security,

Reiterating its strong condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, committed by whomever, wherever and for whatever purposes, as it constitutes one of the most serious threats to international peace and security,

Reaffirming the Declaration on Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism, contained in the annex to General Assembly resolution 49/60 of 9 December 1994, the Declaration to Supplement the 1994 Declaration on Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism, contained in the annex to General Assembly resolution 51/210 of 17 December 1996, and the 2005 World Summit Outcome, in particular its section on terrorism,

Recalling all General Assembly resolutions on measures to eliminate international terrorism, including resolution 46/51 of 9 December 1991, and Security Council resolutions on threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts, as well as relevant resolutions of the General Assembly on the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism,

Recalling also that, in the 2005 World Summit Outcome, world leaders rededicated themselves to support all efforts to uphold the sovereign equality of all States, respect their territorial integrity and political independence, to refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force in any manner inconsistent with the purposes and principles of the United Nations, to uphold the resolution of disputes by peaceful means and in conformity with the principles of justice and international law, the right to self-determination of peoples which remain under colonial domination or foreign occupation, non-interference in the internal affairs of States, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, respect for the equal rights of all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion, international cooperation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural or humanitarian character, and the fulfilment in good faith of the obligations assumed in accordance with the Charter,

Recalling further the mandate contained in the 2005 World Summit Outcome that the General Assembly should develop without delay the elements identified by the Secretary-General for a counter-terrorism strategy, with a view to adopting and implementing a strategy to promote comprehensive, coordinated and consistent responses, at the national, regional and international levels, to counter terrorism, which also takes into account the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism,

Reaffirming that acts, methods and practices of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations are activities aimed at the destruction of human rights, fundamental freedoms and democracy, threatening territorial integrity, security of States and destabilizing legitimately constituted Governments, and that the international community should take the necessary steps to enhance cooperation to prevent and combat terrorism,

Reaffirming also that terrorism cannot and should not be associated with any religion, nationality, civilization or ethnic group,

Reaffirming further Member States determination to make every effort to reach an agreement on and conclude a comprehensive convention on international terrorism, including by resolving the outstanding issues related to the legal definition and scope of the acts covered by the convention, so that it can serve as an effective instrument to counter terrorism,

Continuing to acknowledge that the question of convening a high-level conference under the auspices of the United Nations to formulate an international response
to terrorism in all its forms and manifestations could be considered,

Recognizing that development, peace and security, and human rights are interlinked and mutually reinforcing,

Bearing in mind the need to address the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism,

Affirming Member States’ determination to continue to do all they can to resolve conflict, end foreign occupation, confront oppression, eradicate poverty, promote sustained economic growth, sustainable development, global prosperity, good governance, human rights for all and rule of law, improve intercultural understanding and ensure respect for all religions, religious values, beliefs or cultures,

1. Expresses its appreciation for the report entitled “Uniting against terrorism: recommendations for a global counter-terrorism strategy” submitted by the Secretary-General to the General Assembly;

2. Adopts the present resolution and its annex as the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (“the Strategy”);

3. Decides, without prejudice to the continuation of the discussion in its relevant committees of all their agenda items related to terrorism and counter-terrorism, to undertake the following steps for the effective follow-up of the Strategy:

(a) To launch the Strategy at a high-level segment of its sixty-first session;

(b) To examine in two years progress made in the implementation of the Strategy, and to consider updating it to respond to changes, recognizing that many of the measures contained in the Strategy can be achieved immediately, some will require sustained work through the coming few years and some should be treated as long-term objectives;

(c) To invite the Secretary-General to contribute to the future deliberations of the General Assembly on the review of the implementation and updating of the Strategy;

(d) To encourage Member States, the United Nations and other appropriate international, regional and subregional organizations to support the implementation of the Strategy, including through mobilizing resources and expertise;

(e) To further encourage non-governmental organizations and civil society to engage, as appropriate, on how to enhance efforts to implement the Strategy;

4. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-second session an item entitled “The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy”.

ANNEX
Plan of action

We, the States Members of the United Nations, resolve:

1. To consistently, unequivocally and strongly condemn terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, committed by whomever, wherever and for whatever purposes, as it constitutes one of the most serious threats to international peace and security;

2. To take urgent action to prevent and combat terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and, in particular:

(a) To consider becoming parties without delay to the existing international conventions and protocols against terrorism, and implementing them, and to make every effort to reach an agreement on and conclude a comprehensive convention on international terrorism;

(b) To implement all General Assembly resolutions on measures to eliminate international terrorism and relevant General Assembly resolutions on the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism;

(c) To implement all Security Council resolutions related to international terrorism and to cooperate fully with the counter-terrorism subsidiary bodies of the Security Council in the fulfillment of their tasks, recognizing that many States continue to require assistance in implementing these resolutions;

3. To recognize that international cooperation and any measures that we undertake to prevent and combat terrorism must comply with our obligations under international law, including the Charter of the United Nations and relevant international conventions and protocols, in particular human rights law, refugee law and international humanitarian law.

I. Measures to address the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism

We resolve to undertake the following measures aimed at addressing the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism, including but not limited to prolonged unresolved conflicts, dehumanization of victims of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, lack of the rule of law and violations of human rights, ethnic, national and religious discrimination, political exclusion, socio-economic marginalization and lack of good governance, while recognizing that none of these conditions can excuse or justify acts of terrorism:

1. To continue to strengthen and make best possible use of the capacities of the United Nations in areas such as conflict prevention, negotiation, mediation, conciliation, judicial settlement, rule of law, peacekeeping and peacebuilding, in order to contribute to the successful prevention and peaceful resolution of prolonged unresolved conflicts. We recognize that the peaceful resolution of such conflicts would contribute to strengthening the global fight against terrorism;

2. To continue to arrange under the auspices of the United Nations initiatives and programmes to promote dialogue, tolerance and understanding among civilizations, cultures, peoples and religions, and to promote mutual respect for and prevent the defamation of religions, religious values, beliefs and cultures. In this regard, we welcome the launching by the Secretary-General of the initiative on the Alliance of Civilizations. We also welcome similar initiatives that have been taken in other parts of the world;

3. To promote a culture of peace, justice and human development, ethnic, national and religious tolerance
II. Measures to prevent and combat terrorism

We resolve to undertake the following measures to prevent and combat terrorism, in particular by denying terrorists access to the means to carry out their attacks, to their targets and to the desired impact of their attacks:

1. To refrain from organizing, instigating, facilitating, participating in, financing, encouraging or tolerating terrorist activities and to take appropriate practical measures to ensure that our respective territories are not used for terrorist installations or training camps, or for the preparation or organization of terrorist acts intended to be committed against other States or their citizens;

2. To cooperate fully in the fight against terrorism, in accordance with our obligations under international law, in order to find, deny safe haven and bring to justice, on the basis of the principle of extradite or prosecute, any person who supports, facilitates, participates or attempts to participate in the financing, planning, preparation or perpetration of terrorist acts or provides safe havens;

3. To ensure the apprehension and prosecution or extradition of perpetrators of terrorist acts, in accordance with the relevant provisions of national and international law, in particular human rights law, refugee law and international humanitarian law. We will endeavour to conclude and implement to that effect mutual judicial assistance and extradition agreements and to strengthen cooperation between law enforcement agencies;

4. To intensify cooperation, as appropriate, in exchanging timely and accurate information concerning the prevention and combating of terrorism;

5. To strengthen coordination and cooperation among States in combating crimes that might be connected with terrorism, including drug trafficking in all its aspects, illicit arms trade, in particular of small arms and light weapons, including man-portable air defence systems, money-laundering and smuggling of nuclear, chemical, biological, radiological and other potentially deadly materials;

6. To consider becoming parties without delay to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and to the three protocols supplementing it, and implementing them;

7. To take appropriate measures, before granting asylum, for the purpose of ensuring that the asylum-seeker has not engaged in terrorist activities and, after granting asylum, for the purpose of ensuring that the refugee status is not used in a manner contrary to the provisions set out in section II, paragraph 1, above;

8. To encourage relevant regional and subregional organizations to create or strengthen counter-terrorism mechanisms or centres. Should they require cooperation and assistance to this end, we encourage the Counter-Terrorism Committee and its Executive Directorate and, where consistent with their existing mandates, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the International Criminal Police Organization, to facilitate its provision;

9. To acknowledge that the question of creating an international centre to fight terrorism could be considered, as part of international efforts to enhance the fight against terrorism;

10. To encourage States to implement the comprehensive international standards embodied in the Forty Recommendations on Money-Laundering and Nine Special Recommendations on Terrorist Financing of the Financial Action Task Force, recognizing that States may require assistance in implementing them;

11. To invite the United Nations system to develop, together with Member States, a single comprehensive database on biological incidents, ensuring that it is complementary to the biocrimes database contemplated by the International Criminal Police Organization. We also encourage the Secretary-General to update the roster of experts and laboratories, as well as the technical guide-
lines and procedures, available to him for the timely and efficient investigation of alleged use. In addition, we note the importance of the proposal of the Secretary-General to bring together, within the framework of the United Nations, the major biotechnology stakeholders, including industry, the scientific community, civil society and Governments, into a common programme aimed at ensuring that biotechnology advances are not used for terrorist or other criminal purposes but for the public good, with due respect for the basic international norms on intellectual property rights;

12. To work with the United Nations with due regard to confidentiality, respecting human rights and in compliance with other obligations under international law, to explore ways and means to:
   (a) Coordinate efforts at the international and regional levels to counter terrorism in all its forms and manifestations on the Internet;
   (b) Use the Internet as a tool for countering the spread of terrorism, while recognizing that States may require assistance in this regard;

13. To step up national efforts and bilateral, subregional, regional and international cooperation, as appropriate, to improve border and customs controls in order to prevent and detect the movement of terrorists and prevent and detect the illicit traffic in, inter alia, small arms and light weapons, conventional ammunition and explosives, and nuclear, chemical, biological or radiological weapons and materials, while recognizing that States may require assistance to that effect;

14. To encourage the Counter-Terrorism Committee and its Executive Directorate to continue to work with States, at their request, to facilitate the adoption of legislation and administrative measures to implement the terrorist travel-related obligations and to identify best practices in this area, drawing whenever possible on those developed by technical international organizations, such as the International Civil Aviation Organization, the World Customs Organization and the International Criminal Police Organization;

15. To encourage the Committee established pursuant to Security Council resolution 1267(1999) to continue to work to strengthen the effectiveness of the travel ban under the United Nations sanctions regime against Al-Qaida and the Taliban and associated individuals and entities, as well as to ensure, as a matter of priority, that fair and transparent procedures exist for placing individuals and entities on its lists, for removing them and for granting humanitarian exceptions. In this regard, we encourage States to share information, including by widely distributing the International Criminal Police Organization/United Nations special notices concerning people subject to this sanctions regime;

16. To step up efforts and cooperation at every level, as appropriate, to improve the security of manufacturing and issuing identity and travel documents and to prevent and detect their alteration or fraudulent use, while recognizing that States may require assistance in doing so. In this regard, we invite the International Criminal Police Organization to enhance its database on stolen and lost travel documents, and we will endeavour to make full use of this tool, as appropriate, in particular by sharing relevant information;

17. To invite the United Nations to improve coordination in planning a response to a terrorist attack using nuclear, chemical, biological or radiological weapons or materials, in particular by reviewing and improving the effectiveness of the existing inter-agency coordination mechanisms for assistance delivery, relief operations and victim support, so that all States can receive adequate assistance. In this regard, we invite the General Assembly and the Security Council to develop guidelines for the necessary cooperation and assistance in the event of a terrorist attack using weapons of mass destruction;

18. To step up all efforts to improve the security and protection of particularly vulnerable targets, such as infrastructure and public places, as well as the response to terrorist attacks and other disasters, in particular in the area of civil protection, while recognizing that States may require assistance to this effect.

III. Measures to build States’ capacity to prevent and combat terrorism and to strengthen the role of the United Nations system in this regard

We recognize that capacity-building in all States is a core element of the global counter-terrorism effort, and resolve to undertake the following measures to develop State capacity to prevent and combat terrorism and enhance coordination and coherence within the United Nations system in promoting international cooperation in countering terrorism:

1. To encourage Member States to consider making voluntary contributions to United Nations counter-terrorism cooperation and technical assistance projects, and to explore additional sources of funding in this regard. We also encourage the United Nations to consider reaching out to the private sector for contributions to capacity-building programmes, in particular in the areas of port, maritime and civil aviation security;

2. To take advantage of the framework provided by relevant international, regional and subregional organizations to share best practices in counter-terrorism capacity-building, and to facilitate their contributions to the international community’s efforts in this area;

3. To consider establishing appropriate mechanisms to rationalize States’ reporting requirements in the field of counter-terrorism and eliminate duplication of reporting requests, taking into account and respecting the different mandates of the General Assembly, the Security Council and its subsidiary bodies that deal with counter-terrorism;

4. To encourage measures, including regular informal meetings, to enhance, as appropriate, more frequent exchanges of information on cooperation and technical assistance among Member States, United Nations bodies dealing with counter-terrorism, relevant specialized agencies, relevant international, regional and subregional organizations and the donor community, to develop States’ capacities to implement relevant United Nations resolutions;
5. To welcome the intention of the Secretary-General to institutionalize, within existing resources, the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force within the Secretariat in order to ensure overall coordination and coherence in the counter-terrorism efforts of the United Nations system;

6. To encourage the Counter-Terrorism Committee and its Executive Directorate to continue to improve the coherence and efficiency of technical assistance delivery in the field of counter-terrorism, in particular by strengthening its dialogue with States and relevant international, regional and subregional organizations and working closely, including by sharing information, with all bilateral and multilateral technical assistance providers;

7. To encourage the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, including its Terrorism Prevention Branch, to enhance, in close consultation with the Counter-Terrorism Committee and its Executive Directorate, its provision of technical assistance to States, upon request, to facilitate the implementation of the international conventions and protocols related to the prevention and suppression of terrorism and relevant United Nations resolutions;

8. To encourage the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the International Criminal Police Organization to enhance cooperation with States to help them to comply fully with international norms and obligations to combat money-laundering and the financing of terrorism;

9. To encourage the International Atomic Energy Agency and the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons to continue their efforts, within their respective mandates, in helping States to build capacity to prevent terrorists from accessing nuclear, chemical or radiological materials, to ensure security at related facilities and to respond effectively in the event of an attack using such materials;

10. To encourage the World Health Organization to step up its technical assistance to help States to improve their public health systems to prevent and prepare for biological attacks by terrorists;

11. To continue to work within the United Nations system to support the reform and modernization of border management systems, facilities and institutions at the national, regional and international levels;

12. To encourage the International Maritime Organization, the World Customs Organization and the International Civil Aviation Organization to strengthen their cooperation, work with States to identify any national shortfalls in areas of transport security and provide assistance, upon request, to address them;

13. To encourage the United Nations to work with Member States and relevant international, regional and subregional organizations to identify and share best practices to prevent terrorist attacks on particularly vulnerable targets. We invite the International Criminal Police Organization to work with the Secretary-General so that he can submit proposals to this effect. We also recognize the importance of developing public-private partnerships in this area.

IV. Measures to ensure respect for human rights for all and the rule of law as the fundamental basis of the fight against terrorism

We resolve to undertake the following measures, reaffirming that the promotion and protection of human rights for all and the rule of law is essential to all components of the Strategy, recognizing that effective counter-terrorism measures and the protection of human rights are not conflicting goals, but complementary and mutually reinforcing, and stressing the need to promote and protect the rights of victims of terrorism:

1. To reaffirm that General Assembly resolution 60/158 of 16 December 2005 provides the fundamental framework for the “Protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism”;

2. To reaffirm that States must ensure that any measures taken to combat terrorism comply with their obligations under international law, in particular human rights law, refugee law and international humanitarian law;

3. To consider becoming parties without delay to the core international instruments on human rights law, refugee law and international humanitarian law, and implementing them, as well as to consider accepting the competence of international and relevant regional human rights monitoring bodies;

4. To make every effort to develop and maintain an effective and rule of law-based national criminal justice system that can ensure, in accordance with our obligations under international law, that any person who participates in the financing, planning, preparation or perpetration of terrorist acts or in support of terrorist acts is brought to justice, on the basis of the principle to extradite or prosecute, with due respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, and that such terrorist acts are established as serious criminal offences in domestic laws and regulations. We recognize that States may require assistance in developing and maintaining such effective and rule of law-based criminal justice systems, and we encourage them to resort to the technical assistance delivered, inter alia, by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime;

5. To reaffirm the important role of the United Nations system in strengthening the international legal architecture by promoting the rule of law, respect for human rights and effective criminal justice systems, which constitute the fundamental basis of our common fight against terrorism;

6. To support the Human Rights Council and to contribute, as it takes shape, to its work on the question of the promotion and protection of human rights for all in the fight against terrorism;

7. To support the strengthening of the operational capacity of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, with a particular emphasis on increasing field operations and presences. The Office should continue to play a lead role in examining the question of protecting human rights while countering terrorism, by making general recommendations on the human rights obligations of States and providing them with assistance and advice, in particular in the area of
raising awareness of international human rights law among national law-enforcement agencies, at the request of States;

8. To support the role of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism. The Special Rapporteur should continue to support the efforts of States and offer concrete advice by corresponding with Governments, making country visits, liaising with the United Nations and regional organizations and reporting on these issues.

**Terrorist attacks in 2006**

**Egypt**

On 24 April, a series of bombs exploded in the Egyptian resort town of Dahab, located on the Gulf of Aqaba coast of the Sinai Peninsula. At least 23 people, mostly Egyptians, were killed, along with German, Hungarian, Lebanese, Russian and Swiss nationals. Around 80 people were wounded, including tourists from Australia, Denmark, France, Germany, Israel, South Korea, Lebanon, the Palestinian Territories, the United Kingdom and the United States.

**SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION**

On 25 April [meeting 5424], following consultations among Security Council members, the President made statement S/PRST/2006/18 on behalf of the Council:

The Security Council condemns in the strongest terms the terrorist bombings that took place in Dahab, Egypt, on 24 April 2006.

The Council expresses its deepest sympathy and condolences to the victims of these attacks and their families, and to the people and the Government of Egypt, as well as to all other countries whose citizens have been killed or injured in these bombings.

The Council underlines the need to bring the perpetrators, organizers, financiers and sponsors of these intolerable acts to justice, and urges all States, in accordance with their obligations under international law and resolutions 1373(2001) and 1624(2005), to cooperate with and provide support and assistance, as appropriate, to the Government of Egypt in this regard.

The Council reaffirms that terrorism in all its forms and manifestations constitutes one of the most serious threats to international peace and security, and that any acts of terrorism are criminal and unjustifiable, regardless of their motivation, wherever, whenever and by whomsoever committed.

The Council further reaffirms the need to combat by all means, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts.

The Council reiterates its determination to combat all forms of terrorism, in accordance with its responsibilities under the Charter.

**Iraq**

On 3 June, militants in Baghdad, Iraq, ambushed an automobile carrying five diplomatic staff of the embassy of the Russian Federation, killing one official and abducting the other four. On 19 June, the Mujahedeen Shura Council, a group affiliated with the Al-Qaida terrorist organization, claimed responsibility for the attack and issued an ultimatum to the Russian Federation to withdraw from Chechnya and release all Muslim prisoners within 48 hours. On 25 June, the group issued a statement saying that it had beheaded three of the hostages and shot to death the fourth; the statement was accompanied by a video showing the bodies of two of the deceased and the killings of the other two.

The Secretary-General, in a 26 June press statement [SG/SM/10540], condemned, in the strongest possible terms, the abduction and killings which, he said, no cause could justify. He urged the Iraqi authorities to do everything possible to bring those responsible to justice, and reiterated his call for the immediate and unconditional release of all hostages in Iraq.

**SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION**

On 29 June [meeting 5477], following consultations among Security Council members, the President made statement S/PRST/2006/29 on behalf of the Council:

The Security Council is appalled by the horrific death of members of the Russian diplomatic mission in Iraq who had been kidnapped by a terrorist group and later ruthlessly and in cold blood executed by their captors.

The Council condemns in the strongest possible terms this crime committed by the terrorists and conveys its deepest sympathy and condolences to the families of the deceased, and the people and the Government of the Russian Federation.

The Council confirms that no cause can justify such acts of terror as this crime and previous attacks on foreign diplomats committed by the terrorists, and reaffirms its utmost determination to combat terrorism, in accordance with its responsibilities under the Charter of the United Nations.

The Council urges all States, in accordance with their obligation under resolution 1373(2001), to cooperate actively in efforts to find and bring to justice the perpetrators, organizers and sponsors of these barbaric acts.

The Council also calls upon the international community to support the Government of Iraq in exercising its responsibility to provide protection to the...
diplomatic community in Iraq, United Nations staff and other foreign civilian personnel working in Iraq.

The Council also underlines the importance of continuing the efforts of the Government of Iraq and the multinational force in combating terrorism and improving security in Iraq in line with resolutions 1546(2004) and 1637(2005). The Council reiterates the importance of efforts to promote national reconciliation, dialogue and inclusion in ensuring peace, security and stability in Iraq, and in that context commends the Government of Iraq for initiating the Reconciliation and National Dialogue Plan.

The Council reaffirms the independence, sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of Iraq.

An 11 July letter from the Russian Federation to the Secretary-General [S/2006/512] contained the decision and statement of the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation in connection with the killings of the Russian citizens in Iraq. The State Duma insisted that there should be an urgent, comprehensive examination of the circumstances of the tragedy and an analysis of measures to ensure security for staff of the Russian Federation, especially in areas where there was a continued danger of terrorist acts and where military activity was conducted. The deputies demanded that the Iraqi authorities and occupying powers investigate thoroughly the killings of the Russian citizens in Iraq and insisted that all possible steps should be taken to apprehend and punish the criminals. (For more information on the situation in Iraq, see p. 389.)

Sri Lanka

On 15 June, a mine attack on a bus in Sri Lanka killed at least 64 people, including many children, and wounded 80. The Government blamed the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam for the attack, which took place in the Sinhalese town of Kabithigollewa, located about 200 kilometres north of Colombo.

In a 16 June statement [S/2006/452], the European Union condemned the most recent incidents of violence in Sri Lanka, particularly the bus bombing, and called upon all parties to put an end to the violence and return to the negotiating table.

India

On 11 July, seven bombs exploded over an 11-minute period on the Suburban Railway in Mumbai, India, killing 209 people and injuring over 700. The bombings came hours after a series of grenade attacks in the city of Srinagar, in the Indian state of Jammu and Kashmir; however, the Indian Home Secretary said there was no link between the attacks. On 14 July, the terrorist group Lashkar-e-Qahhar claimed responsibility for the Mumbai bombings.

The Secretary-General, on 11 July [SG/SM/10562], said that he was appalled by the attacks in Mumbai and Srinagar. He believed that such acts only served to reaffirm that terrorism constituted one of the most serious threats to international peace and security, and to increase the urgency of coordinated action by all countries to defeat it in all forms and manifestations.

SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION

On 12 July [meeting 5484], following consultations among Security Council members, the President made statement S/PRST/2006/30 on behalf of the Council:

The Security Council condemns in the strongest terms the series of bomb attacks that occurred in different parts of India, including Mumbai, on 11 July 2006, causing numerous deaths and injuries, and expresses its deepest sympathy and condolences to the victims of these heinous acts of terrorism and their families, and to the people and the Government of India.

The Council underlines the need to bring the perpetrators, organizers, financiers and sponsors of these reprehensible acts of terrorism to justice, and urges all States, in accordance with their obligations under international law and resolutions 1373(2001) and 1624(2005), to cooperate actively with the Indian authorities in this regard.

The Council reiterates that terrorism in all its forms and manifestations constitutes one of the most serious threats to international peace and security, and that any acts of terrorism are criminal and unjustifiable, regardless of their motivation, wherever, whenever and by whomsoever committed.

The Council further reiterates the need to combat by all means, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts. The Council reminds States that they must ensure that any measures taken to combat terrorism comply with all their obligations under international law, in particular international human rights, refugee and humanitarian law.

The Council reiterates its determination to combat all forms of terrorism, in accordance with its responsibilities under the Charter.

Measures to eliminate international terrorism

During 2006, the United Nations pursued actions on several fronts to combat and eliminate terrorism. The Security Council, by resolution 1735(2006) (see p. 384) adopted further measures against Al-Qaida, the Taliban and their associates.

The General Assembly, having considered the Secretary-General’s report on measures to elimi-
nate terrorism [A/61/210], in resolution 61/40 of 4 December (see p. 1516), called on all States to cooperate to prevent and suppress terrorist acts and asked the Terrorism Prevention Branch of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue its efforts to enhance UN capabilities in the prevention of terrorism. In resolution 61/86 of 6 December (see p. 637), the Assembly called on Member States to support international efforts to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery.

Communications. In a 31 May statement [S/2006/371], the Council of the European Union decided to include the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam in the EU list for the application of specific measures to combat terrorism.

On 24 April [A/60/820-S/2006/265], Panama transmitted to the Secretary-General the Panama Declaration on International Cooperation against Terrorism and Transnational Organized Crime, adopted at the Ministerial Conference on the subject (Panama City, Panama, 4-7 April).

On 1 August [A/60/965-S/2006/600], Iran protested against France’s 16 June decision to lift restrictions on a number of the leading members of the Mujahedeen Khalq Organization (MKO), which Iran called a well-known terrorist group, and cautioned France about the possible negative consequences of its decision. On 3 August [S/2006/617], Iran, noting that MKO, on 11 February, had marched in a military parade in Iraq, with air cover provided by United States helicopters, protested against United States support for Iraq-based terrorist groups hostile to Iran and condemned the double standard approach of the United States in dealing with terrorists in Iraq. On 11 August [S/2006/649], it also protested the invitation extended by the European Parliament to MKO head Maryam Rajavi, the presence of MKO elements in the EU Parliament on 5 July, and the use of Parliament facilities to hold a press conference, underlining that such actions ran counter to the will of the international community to fight terrorism, and contravened Security Council resolution 1373(2001) [YUN 2001, p. 61] and the decisions of the European Community. On 22 October [A/61/570-S/2006/883], Iran condemned the invitation extended to Mrs. Rajavi to address the Belgian Senate on 24 October, and called upon Belgium to prevent her from entering the country and to cancel all the programmes planned for her.

On 30 November [A/61/606-S/2006/936], the Russian Federation transmitted to the Secretary-General the Strategy for Partnerships between States and Businesses to Counter Terrorism, adopted at the Global Forum for such partnerships (Moscow, 28-30 November).

Follow-up to 2005
Security Council summit-level meeting

CTC report on implementation of resolution 1624(2005). In September [S/2006/737], the Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC) (see below) submitted to the Security Council its report on the implementation of Council resolution 1624(2005) [YUN 2005, p. 102], which called on all States to take steps to combat terrorism, including prohibiting by law and preventing incitement to commit terrorist acts. As at 7 September, only 69 States had reported to CTC on their implementation of resolution 1624(2005), thus limiting the scope of CTC’s implementation report. The report contained information provided by States on their efforts to: prohibit and prevent incitement; deny safe haven to persons suspected of incitement; strengthen the security of international borders; enhance dialogue and understanding among civilizations; counter incitement motivated by extremism and intolerance; and comply with their obligations under international law.

Of the 69 reporting States, 21 informed CTC that they had expressly prohibited incitement in their criminal laws, and 13 were considering doing so. Other States provided CTC with information on other kinds of measures they had taken or were considering taking. Concerning denial of safe haven, information was provided on areas such as the processing of claims for refugee status and the handling of extradition requests. States described various forms of international cooperation on strengthening the security of international borders and provided information on new procedures and technologies that had been adopted in order to prevent document fraud and enhance the effectiveness of passenger screening. Steps taken at national and international levels to enhance dialogue and broaden understanding among civilizations were also reported, including countering incitement motivated by extremism and intolerance. States also described their international law obligations and the specific ways those obligations were upheld in their counter-terrorism programmes.

Counter-Terrorism Committee

In 2006, the Chairperson of the Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC), established by Security Council resolution 1373(2001) [YUN 2001, p. 61], submitted CTC work programmes for the periods from 1 January to 31 March [S/2006/107], 1 April to 30 June [S/2006/276] and 1 July to 31 De-
The Council considered those work programmes at meetings held on 21 February, 30 May and 28 September.

Security Council consideration (February). The CTC Chairperson, reporting to the Council on 21 February [meeting 5375] on the Committee’s work, said that, with CTC’s Executive Directorate (CTED) fully staffed as from September 2005 [YUN 2005, p. 111], the backlog of reports from States on the implementation of resolution 1373(2001) had been cleared. CTC agreed on policy guidelines for fulfilling its mandate to facilitate technical assistance to States that lacked the capacity to implement fully the provisions of resolution 1373(2001), and discussed a CTED proposal on how to put those guidelines into action. Since the Chairperson’s previous report to the Council in 2005 [ibid.], CTED staff had visited Algeria and the United Republic of Tanzania, and were preparing to visit the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM). CTC would make a special effort to ensure appropriate follow-up to enhance the results of its 2005 visit to Morocco [ibid., p. 109], and to other States, with their consent.

CTC, in revising its reporting procedures, focused on analysing States’ individual accomplishments in implementing resolution 1373(2001); that analysis, prepared by CTED, would guide the Committee in determining how to engage better with the States concerned in furthering their implementation efforts. The Chairperson hoped that streamlining the reporting procedures would encourage States to cooperate more fully with the Committee, and that requests for further reporting would be based on very thorough considerations, taking into account the resources required to prepare those reports. States that had fallen behind on reporting were invited to re-engage with the Committee. CTC hoped that the revised approach would allow it to engage more substantially with States that sought assistance, and allow those States that had already put in place the basic tools to implement resolution 1373(2001) to keep the Committee informed of developments in strengthening their systems.

CTC would focus especially on States that had requested capacity-building assistance, to help them identify priority needs, and to disseminate that information to organizations that might be in a position to meet them. It was updating its list of best practices to assist States in implementing resolution 1373(2001), and was reviewing its cooperation with international, regional and subregional organizations, with the aim of developing closer working relationships. CTC would remain committed to previously established cooperative arrangements with regional organizations, while reaching out to other regional groupings that were developing their own counter-terrorism agenda.

Report of CTC Chairperson (May). Reporting to the Security Council in May [meeting 5446], the CTC Chairperson said that, based on the recommendations from the Council’s comprehensive review of CTED, the Committee decided to focus on revising the reporting regime, enhancing dialogue with Member States in need of technical assistance, and deepening CTC relations with international, regional and subregional organizations. With regard to reporting, the Chairperson pointed out that, while she understood the concerns of many States regarding the issue of “reporting fatigue”, many of the reports that CTC received had created a solid foundation for the Committee to advise and assist States in implementing resolution 1373(2001). As part of its efforts to revise the reporting regime, the Committee developed and was testing the preliminary implementation assessment, an analytical tool for monitoring the extent to which States had implemented the obligations and provisions of resolution 1373(2001). The introduction of the tool was expected to ease the reporting burden on States. CTC would seek further ways of easing that burden and allow more resources to go towards enhancing implementation. It had again contacted all States that were behind in reporting, in the hope that they would re-establish dialogue with the Committee, in the light of its updated working methods. She also urged States that might need assistance in preparing the report to inform the Committee of that need.

Since the Chairperson’s February report (see above), CTED had visited FYROM, and CTC had approved more country visits. The Committee would continue to discuss how the visits could be more results-oriented, including through the design of a thorough follow-up process, and further measures to strengthen cooperation with donors. It agreed on guidance for CTED on how to ensure that any measure taken by States to combat terrorism complied with all their obligations under international law, in particular human rights law, refugee law and humanitarian law.

Report of CTC Chairperson (September). In her September report to the Security Council [meeting 5538], the CTC Chairperson discussed the conclusions of CTC’s report on the implementation of Council resolution 1624(2005) (see p. 173) and said that CTC and CTED would continue to engage actively and constructively with Member States. The Committee continued to focus on enhancing its tools, including by revising the reporting regime; enhancing the facilitation of technical assistance for States
in need; and deepening relations with the international, regional and subregional organizations. Ctc had updated its website to include best practices, which the Chairperson encouraged States to use to implement the provisions of resolution 1373(2001). Ctc had visited 10 States to date, and was working to ensure that the necessary follow-up to those visits took place, and led to as many concrete, measurable results as possible. It continued the coordination of its activities with the Committees established pursuant to Council resolutions 1267(1999) [YUN 1999, p. 265] concerning Al-Qaida, the Taliban and associated individuals and entities, and 1540(2004) [YUN 2004, p. 544] concerning the implementation of measures to combat the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery.

The Chairperson said that the implementation of resolution 1373(2001) remained as crucial as ever in the international community’s fight against terrorism, and CTC’s main task remained vital and urgent.

Comprehensive review of CTC Executive Directorate

Communication. On 15 December [S/2006/1002], the Secretary-General drew the attention of the Security Council President to his intention, expressed in a December 2005 letter to the Council [S/2005/817], to review CTED reporting lines. Since the Council was about to complete its comprehensive review of CTED by 31 December 2006 (see below), he wanted to address the process for submitting CTED semi-annual reports and programmes of work to CTC. As CTED activities had to reflect the policy guidance provided by CTC, the Council might wish to consider allowing CTED to submit those documents directly to CTC.

CTC report on CTED comprehensive review. On 18 December [S/2006/989], the Ctc Chairperson submitted the Committee's report for consideration by the Security Council, as part of its comprehensive review of CTED. The report was prepared in response to the Council’s request in presidential statement S/PRST/2005/64 that Ctc prepare another review before 31 December 2006, as it was only able to draw limited conclusions in the first review [ibid.]. The report examined clear directions for CTED future work; efforts to promote and monitor implementation of resolution 1373(2001) [YUN 2001, p. 61] through dialogue; strengthening technical assistance and contacts and coordination with other UN bodies; enhancing cooperation and coordination among international, regional and subregional organizations; improving the collection of information for monitoring purposes and facilitating technical assistance; improving Ctc capacity to make recommendations to the Council related to implementation of resolution 1373(2001); expediting work and streamlining procedures; implementing resolution 1624(2005); adopting a proactive communication strategy; and developing and maintaining expertise.

Based on the priorities set in the 2005 comprehensive review, CTC had discussed and provided guidance to CTED on a number of issues, including an implementation plan on technical assistance; human rights policy; the use of statistics; the development of best practices; cooperation with international, regional and subregional organizations; the contribution of CTC and CTED to the implementation of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Strategy, adopted by the General Assembly in resolution 60/288 (see p. 66); country visits; and communications. CTC encouraged CTED to strengthen its focus on concrete outcomes and its core mandates and to prioritize its activities. It stressed that an action-oriented approach, overall consistency and transparency were essential for the efficiency of CTED work. The Committee recommended that the Council consider positively the amendments to CTED reporting lines suggested by the Secretary-General (see above) and allow it to present its draft work programmes and semi-annual reports directly to the Committee. Appended to the CTC report were semi-annual reports on CTED work for the periods 1 January–30 June and 1 July–31 December.

CTED work programmes for the April-June and July-December periods indicated that CTED would complete 100 new preliminary implementation assessments and preliminary implementation for 130 Member States. It had provided CTC with 42 preliminary implementation assessments, and 46 had been prepared but not yet presented. CTC stressed the importance of enhancing efforts to monitor and promote implementation of resolution 1373(2001) and looked forward to receiving a comprehensive analysis of the status of implementation of the resolution based on the preliminary assessment of all States’ implementation in time for the Committee’s next briefing to the Council.

CTC encouraged CTED to continue its work on the implementation of Council resolution 1624(2005) [YUN 2005, p. 102] on the prohibition and prevention of incitement to commit terrorist acts. It looked forward to more concrete results against agreed targets with regard to visits, technical assistance and increased work with international, regional and subregional organizations, and encouraged CTED to maintain and deepen its dialogue with States on their implementation of resolution 1373(2001).
The Committee continued to regard as key its work on the facilitation of technical assistance related to States’ implementation of their obligations under resolution 1373(2001), and encouraged CTED to strengthen its role in that regard, in accordance with the policy guidance and the related implementation plan, with a view to ensuring that more States received the required assistance. CTED should focus on identifying and meeting priority needs and proposals on how to get more States and organizations to become assistance providers.

SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION

On 20 December [meeting 5600], following consultations among Security Council members, the President made statement S/PRST/2006/56 on behalf of the Council:

The Security Council reaffirms that terrorism constitutes one of the most serious threats to international peace and security, and that any acts of terrorism are criminal and unjustifiable, regardless of their motivation, wherever, whenever and by whomever committed.

The Council reiterates its determination to combat all forms of terrorism, in accordance with its responsibilities under the Charter of the United Nations.

The Council reaffirms the importance of resolution 1373(2001) as well as its other resolutions concerning threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts, and calls upon States to implement their obligations under those resolutions as a matter of priority.

The Council reiterates its call upon States to become parties to all relevant international conventions and protocols relating to terrorism, and to make full use of the sources of assistance and guidance which are available.

The Council further reaffirms the need to combat by all means, in accordance with the Charter, threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts.

The Council reminds States that they must ensure that any measures taken to combat terrorism comply with all their obligations under international law, in particular international human rights, refugee and humanitarian law.

The Council recognizes the importance of cross-United Nations cooperation on counter-terrorism issues, and confirms that it stands ready to play its part in the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

The Council calls upon the relevant United Nations departments, programmes and specialized agencies, as appropriate, to consider, within their existing mandates, how to pursue counter-terrorism objectives.

The Council welcomes the renewed focus of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373(2001) concerning counter-terrorism (the Counter-Terrorism Committee) on enhancing the implementation of resolution 1373(2001) through a proactive fulfilment of its mandate to promote and monitor implementation by States.

The Council recalls its resolution 1624(2005) and encourages the Counter-Terrorism Committee to continue its work on the implementation of that resolution.

The Council calls upon the Counter-Terrorism Committee to report on the status of the implementation of resolution 1373(2001). In particular, the Council encourages the Counter-Terrorism Committee to report to the Council on any outstanding issues, when necessary and on a regular basis, in order to receive strategic guidance from the Council.

The Council recalls its resolution 1535(2004), by which it decided to establish the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (hereinafter CTED) as a special political mission under the policy guidance of the Counter-Terrorism Committee, to enhance the ability of the Committee to monitor the implementation of resolution 1373(2001) and effectively continue the capacity-building work in which it is engaged. The Council stresses that the mandate of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate flows from that of the Counter-Terrorism Committee.

The Council further recalls the statement by its President of 21 December 2005, which included the conclusions of the comprehensive review of CTED by the Council in 2005, and in which the Council decided to carry out another comprehensive review of CTED by 31 December 2006, prepared by the Counter-Terrorism Committee. During today’s consultations, the Council endorsed the report prepared by the Committee and forwarded to the Council, and agreed with the recommendations and conclusions contained therein.

The Council welcomes the letter dated 15 December 2006 from the Secretary-General to the President of the Council regarding CTED reporting lines. The Council has considered this matter and endorses the recommendation of the Counter-Terrorism Committee with regard to CTED reporting lines so that CTED would henceforth present its draft work programmes and its semi-annual reports directly to the Committee.

The Council notes with appreciation the enhanced cooperation among its three Committees (the 1267 Committee, the Counter-Terrorism Committee and the 1540 Committee) that deal with counter-terrorism and their expert teams. It encourages the three Committees to ensure that, in their dialogue with States, they present a consolidated message from the Council on its efforts to fight terrorism. Also, it encourages the three Committees and their expert teams to avoid duplication, including in their requests for information from Member States about their implementation. In this regard, it encourages the three Committees and their expert teams to continue to strengthen the sharing of information among themselves, specifically information reported by States regarding implementation. The Council will continue
to evaluate how its counter-terrorism efforts can be organized most efficiently.

On the same date [S/2006/932], Cuba submitted a statement its Permanent Representative had planned to deliver before the Council but was unable to do so due to a change in the Council’s procedure.


IAEA action

The General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency (iaea), at its fiftieth session (Vienna, Austria, 18-22 September), adopted resolution GC(50)/RES/11 on measures to protect against nuclear terrorism, in which it called upon its member States to provide political, financial and technical support, including in-kind contributions, to improve nuclear and radiological security and prevent nuclear and radiological terrorism. It also called upon all States not to provide any form of support to non-State actors that committed or intended to commit acts of nuclear or radiological terrorism, and to take all steps required by Security Council resolution 1540(2004) [YUN 2004, p. 544] to, among other things, prevent illicit trafficking of nuclear and other radioactive materials.

Peacekeeping operations

In 2006, the General Assembly and the Security Council continued to oversee the management and operation of UN peacekeeping missions. The Council addressed key issues pertaining to the overall conduct of those operations, including the problem of sexual exploitation and abuse by UN peacekeeping personnel in the field. It also reviewed the mandates of several ongoing operations and created new ones to deal with new security concerns. The Assembly took action on a number financial and administrative matters.

The Department of Peacekeeping Operations (dpko) continued to implement the recommendations of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations, whose mandate was to review the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects, as well as those of the Assembly.

General aspects of UN peacekeeping

Sexual exploitation and abuse in UN peacekeeping operations

On 23 February [meeting 5379], the Security Council considered the issue of sexual exploitation and abuse by UN peacekeeping personnel. In his briefing to the Council, the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Jean-Marie Guéhenno, said that concrete and meaningful progress had been made to implement the comprehensive strategy developed by dpko to address the issue based on the recommendations contained in the 2005 report of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations [YUN 2005, p. 120] and endorsed by the General Assembly in resolution 59/300 [ibid., p. 122]. All UN civilian staff, military personnel, contingents, UN volunteers and contractors were bound by the strict standards outlined in the Secretary-General’s bulletin [ST/SGB/2003/13] on sexual exploitation and abuse [YUN 2004, p. 107]. Between 79 and 90 per cent of civilian police and military personnel had received mandatory training, for which tools and training materials had been developed. Missions addressed the welfare of their staff as a high priority, creating recreation outlets, and establishing multipurpose sporting, socializing and dining facilities. Managers and commanders were made aware that they would be held accountable for those under their chain of command, and dpko had received the cooperation of two Member States in repatriating entire units for misconduct, which was in part related to sexual exploitation and abuse.

As recommended in the 2005 report of the Secretary-General’s Adviser on Sexual Exploitation and Abuse by United Nations Peacekeeping Personnel [YUN 2005, p. 119] and endorsed by the Assembly in resolution 59/300, dpko had designed,
recruited and staffed a multidisciplinary conduct and discipline team at Headquarters, in addition to eight teams established in peacekeeping operations in Burundi, Côte d’Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Haiti, Liberia, Sierra Leone, the Sudan and Timor-Leste. The teams developed policy, provided oversight of disciplinary issues and ensured the coherent application of UN standards of conduct. They also provided policy advice to mission heads, received allegations from complainants, collaborated with the Integrated Mission Training Centres, and helped mission leadership oversee all related conduct and discipline issues. The teams were making communities aware of the various methods through which complaints could be made. A public information strategy and implementing procedure were developed to guide missions in responding transparently to local media and host populations on sexual exploitation and abuse issues.

The Under-Secretary-General said that the measures described in his briefing were the beginning of a programme of systematic and sustained change, but there was a great deal left to be done. Despite negative publicity and attention, not all troop contingents or staff on the ground fully supported aspects of the zero-tolerance policy with regard to sexual exploitation and abuse, particularly as it pertained to prostitution. The capacity of peacekeeping operations and of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (oios) to investigate violations, while respecting due process, needed to be strengthened markedly.

The Secretary-General’s Special Adviser on Sexual Exploitation and Abuse by United Nations Peacekeeping Personnel, Prince Zeid Ra’ad Zeid Al-Hussein (Jordan), told the Council that the Secretariat and Member States had largely completed the changes called for by the Special Committee, following its review of his 2005 report on the subject [ibid.]. What remained was to finalize the revisions to the 1997 model memorandum of understanding [YUN 1997, p. 55] between the United Nations and troop-contributing countries (see p. 181); reach an agreement between Member States on the national investigations officer concept, which was being refined by oios; and receive the report of the group of legal experts relating to the de facto impunity enjoyed by some civilian staff members, and the UN policy statement and comprehensive strategy on assistance and support to victims (see p. 180). The Special Committee, in revisiting the issue of troop-contributing countries conducting their courts martial in the mission area, should, through the Assembly, invite all countries possessing that capacity to do so and to establish modalities for that purpose.

The Special Adviser said that the number of allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse by UN peacekeeping personnel in some locations was still a cause of concern, and Member States, together with all personnel serving in the field, had to exert even greater efforts to reduce that number. More resources needed to be provided to oios so that it could carry out its preliminary investigations efficiently, in conjunction with troop contributors.

**Special Committee consideration (February/March).** The Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations (New York, 27 February–17 March) [A/60/19], while commending the Secretary-General’s efforts to address conduct and discipline issues in the light of the report of his Special Adviser and its own recommendations, remained concerned by the large number of allegations of sexual misconduct by UN peacekeeping personnel. It emphasized that due process and national legal requirements had to be observed during investigations and requested the United Nations to take steps to restore the image and credibility of any UN peacekeeping mission, troop-contributing country or UN peacekeeping personnel, when allegations of misconduct were ultimately found to be legally unproven. The Special Committee reiterated that the responsibility for creating and maintaining an environment that prevented sexual exploitation and abuse should be part of the performance objectives of managers and commanders involved in UN peacekeeping operations, and that those who failed to meet such objectives should be held accountable.

The Special Committee recommended that DPKO improve living conditions and welfare and recreation facilities for all categories of personnel. It reiterated its recommendation that the Secretary-General carry out a comprehensive review, including a cost-benefit analysis, of the welfare and recreation needs for all categories of UN peacekeeping personnel, and make proposals on the issue to the Assembly. The Special Committee endorsed the development of a Secretariat database to track allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse and the follow-up given to those allegations. It stressed that the database had to be employed to ensure that persons against whom an allegation of misconduct had been proved after due process were not rehired.

The Special Committee was concerned with the number of outstanding allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse awaiting investigation and encouraged further cooperation between the United Nations and troop-contributing countries in the investigations, without prejudice to the exclusive ju-
risdiction of those countries over their contingents. It remained committed to implementing fundamental, systemic changes as a matter of urgency, drawing on the recommendations in the Committee’s 2005 report, and decided to consider, during the Assembly’s resumed sixtieth (2006) session, the Secretary-General’s strategy for victim assistance and the revised draft model memorandum of understanding (see p. 181), which should be made available to Member States no later than the end of April 2006. The Special Committee established an open-ended ad hoc working group of experts to consider those documents and other questions, whose findings would be considered by a reconvened session of the Special Committee, which would make recommendations on a way forward.

The Special Committee encouraged troop-contributing countries to utilize in-mission courts martial and other disciplinary and judicial procedures where national legislation permitted, and requested the United Nations and host countries to facilitate procedures for doing so. It recommended that the Secretariat ensure that the group of legal experts, appointed in 2005 [ibid., p. 121] to examine issues related to impunity of UN staff and experts on mission, report before the end of the Assembly’s resumed sixtieth (2006) session. The Special Committee looked forward to incorporating the group’s findings in its future deliberations and urged the Secretariat to appoint a further group of legal experts to take up the remaining elements identified by the Special Committee in its 2005 report.

**Reports of Secretary-General.** In May [A/60/862], the Secretary-General submitted a comprehensive report, prepared pursuant to Assembly resolution 59/296 [YUN 2005, p. 133], on sexual exploitation and abuse, including policy development, implementation and full justification of proposed capacity on personnel conduct issues. DPKO developed a comprehensive strategy on sexual exploitation and abuse by UN peacekeeping personnel, based primarily on the reforms endorsed by the Assembly in resolution 59/300 [ibid., p. 122]. The strategy’s three-pronged approach comprised measures for preventing misconduct, enforcing UN standards of conduct and taking remedial action. DPKO also developed generic training materials on UN standards of conduct relating to sexual exploitation and abuse, called Module 1: Prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse, which was mandatory for all peacekeeping personnel as of July 2005; a number of missions reported high coverage of trained personnel. In February 2006, DPKO conducted capacity-building workshops on policy issues for eight newly established conduct and discipline teams from field missions. In May, it launched a Community of Practice network, which facilitated information exchange and the development and dissemination of guidance and best practices to all participants.

In accordance with Assembly resolution 59/287 [ibid., p. 1474], DPKO transferred sexual exploitation and abuse investigations to oios, for which joint interim cooperation procedures were developed on the handling of allegations and investigations of misconduct allegations.

Standard operating procedures and guidelines on public information activities relating to sexual exploitation and abuse were finalized, providing guidance in terms of explaining the Secretary-General’s zero-tolerance policy on sexual exploitation and abuse to the media, UN personnel and host populations; reporting complaints; and providing information to victims on the status of misconduct allegations. Pending the finalization of an organizational policy statement and strategy on victim assistance, DPKO instructed its missions to refer any person alleging to have been sexually exploited or abused by UN peacekeeping personnel to medical and psychosocial services available in the host country, with costs to be covered from existing mission budgets.

DPKO was developing a mission directive on sexual exploitation and abuse for senior mission leadership. Following discussions with Member States, the Secretary-General prepared further revisions to the draft 1997 model memorandum of understanding between the United Nations and troop-contributing countries to reflect the reforms proposed by his Special Adviser on Sexual Exploitation and Abuse by United Nations Peacekeeping Personnel in 2005 [ibid., p. 119]. The revisions included a new clause and annex relating to UN standards of conduct and an article on the conduct of investigations by a national investigations officer into allegations of criminal offences committed by military contingent members serving in UN peacekeeping operations.

The Secretary-General concluded that significant progress had been made in implementing the reforms endorsed by the Assembly in resolution 59/300, but dedicated resources were required to complete them and continue to provide oversight and guidance on conduct and discipline issues. A longer-term, dedicated capacity to address conduct and discipline issues at DPKO Headquarters and in all field missions was key to an efficient and professional approach to peacekeeping. Proposed conduct and discipline teams would provide the head of mission with strategic guidance and an overview of the state of discipline in the mission and ensure that a systematic and consistent approach was taken to
conduct and discipline issues in peacekeeping operations. The Secretary-General requested the Assembly to approve posts for a conduct and discipline unit at DPKO in the support account for peacekeeping operations for the 2006-2007 budget.

Annexed to the report were the terms of reference of the DPKO Headquarters Conduct and Discipline Team; model terms of reference for a Conduct and Discipline Team in a DPKO-led peace operation; and proposed staffing tables for the teams in peacekeeping operations and special political missions for 2006-2007.

The Secretary-General, in his May report [A/60/861] on special measures for protection from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse, submitted in response to Assembly resolution 57/306 [YUN 2003, p. 1237], presented data on allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse in DPKO, as well as other UN entities, as at 31 December 2005. DPKO reported 340 new allegations, 193 of which were brought against military personnel, 24 related to civilian police, 80 against UN staff and 42 related to other personnel, such as consultants and individual contractors. Among the 193 allegations brought against uniformed personnel, 50 were deemed to have required no further action, 3 were pending preliminary investigation, 7 were deemed to be unsubstantiated, 3 were substantiated and 15 submitted to Headquarters for disciplinary action as at 31 December 2005. Seventy-six allegations were under investigation by OIOS.

**Policy statement and strategy on victim assistance.** In May [A/60/877], the Secretary-General submitted to the Assembly President a draft policy statement and draft comprehensive strategy on assistance and support to victims of sexual exploitation and abuse by UN staff and related personnel, as requested by the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations in 2005 [YUN 2005, p. 120] and endorsed by the General Assembly in resolution 59/300 [ibid., p. 122]. In the World Summit Outcome, adopted by the General Assembly in resolution 60/1 [ibid., p. 48], Member States also encouraged the Secretary-General to submit proposals leading to a comprehensive approach to victim’s assistance. The strategy represented more than 12 months of internal and external consultation with UN departments, agencies, funds and programmes, Member States, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and other specialists and interested parties, both at Headquarters and in the field. The strategy identified the categories of persons who should receive assistance and support, the nature of assistance and support and how it should be provided. It noted that gender-based violence, including sexual exploitation and abuse, was endemic in the environments where the United Nations worked and that the resources for responding to it needed to be increased. That assistance should be provided in a manner that was appropriate to the community context, did not further isolate the victims, and improved the response capacity of service providers. The strategy also proposed that, to facilitate access to such services, the United Nations engage implementing partners to provide victim advocate services.

**Special Committee consideration (July).** The Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations and its Working Group reported in August [A/60/19/Add.1] on its first resumed session in 2006 (New York, 27 July). The Ad Hoc Working Group of Experts met on 26 and 27 June to consider the draft strategy for victim assistance (see above) and the draft revision to the 1997 model memorandum of understanding between the United Nations and Member States contributing resources to UN peacekeeping operations; a proposal on national investigations officers concept (see p. 179); and the proposed unification of standards of conduct for UN peacekeeping contingents. The Special Committee, having considered the Working Group’s recommendations, requested that the Secretariat submit the revised draft model memorandum of understanding to Member States as a General Assembly document by September. It decided to continue consideration of the draft policy statement and strategy and the revised draft model memorandum of understanding, and intended to reconvene the Ad Hoc Working Group to consider them from 11 to 15 December. It requested that the revised draft model memorandum of understanding take into consideration views expressed by Member States in 2005 and 2006.

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION**

On 8 September [meeting 99], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Fourth (Special Political and Decolonization) Committee [A/60/478/Add.2 & Corr.1], adopted resolution 60/289 without vote [agenda item 32].

**Comprehensive review of a strategy to eliminate future sexual exploitation and abuse in United Nations peacekeeping operations**

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 2006(XIX) of 18 February 1965 and all other relevant resolutions,

Recalling in particular its resolution 60/1, paragraph 165, of 16 September 2005, and its resolutions 59/281 of 29 March 2005 and 59/300 of 22 June 2005,
Recalling its resolution 60/263 of 6 June 2006, in which it endorsed the decision of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations, contained in paragraph 74 of its report, to consider, during the sixtieth session of the General Assembly, the Secretary-General’s strategy for victim assistance and the revised draft model memorandum of understanding, including a proposal on national investigations officers, Recalling its resolution 59/296 of 22 June 2005, as well as resolutions 59/300 and 60/263, and the need for the United Nations to implement its policy of zero tolerance of sexual exploitation and abuse in its peacekeeping operations as recommended by the Special Committee, Affirming the need for a comprehensive strategy of assistance to victims of sexual exploitation and abuse by United Nations staff or related personnel, Convinced of the need for the United Nations to take strong and effective steps in this regard, Welcomes the report of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations on its 2006 resumed session; Endorses the proposals, recommendations and conclusions of the Special Committee contained in paragraphs 5 to 10 of the report on its 2006 resumed session; Urges Member States, the Secretariat and the relevant organs of the United Nations to take all necessary steps to implement the aforementioned proposals, recommendations and conclusions of the Special Committee, and supports the request of the Special Committee to the Secretary-General that he provide a progress report on the implementation of its recommendations at its next regular session; Requests the Special Committee to include this issue in its report to the General Assembly at its sixty-first session.

Revised draft model memorandum of understanding. In response to General Assembly resolutions 59/300 [YUN 2005, p. 122], 60/263 (see p. 185) and 60/289 (see above), the Secretary-General, in a 3 October note [A/61/494], submitted the revised draft model memorandum of understanding between the United Nations and troop-contributing countries for consideration by the open-ended Ad Hoc Working Group of Experts, scheduled to convene in December. An earlier draft model memorandum was submitted in 1997 [YUN 1997, p. 55].

Special Committee consideration (December). At its second 2006 resumed session (New York, 18 December) [A/61/19 (Part I)], the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations requested the open-ended Ad Hoc Working Group of Experts to continue consideration of the revised draft model memorandum of understanding at a resumed session in 2007. It reiterated its belief that a strategy for victim assistance was an important element of a comprehensive response to the problem of sexual exploitation and abuse and requested the Chairperson of the Special Committee to consult with the Fourth Committee Chairman and the General Assembly President on the modalities for further consideration of the draft strategy, and to report to the Special Committee at its next substantive session. Until a comprehensive strategy for assistance to victims of sexual exploitation and abuse was implemented, missions should continue to provide emergency assistance to such victims within current mission budgets.

Strengthening operational capacity

The Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations, at its 2006 substantive session (New York, 27 February–17 March) [A/60/19], recognized that the current level of resources limited the scope and number of missions that DPKO could effectively undertake and manage. It shared the Secretary-General’s assessment that UN peacekeeping continued to face significant gaps, in particular in enabling and niche capabilities, rapid reaction in crisis situations, and strategic lift capabilities. The Special Committee requested the Secretariat to continue to provide it with information on how to address those issues.

Concerning rapid deployment, the Special Committee recommended that DPKO continue to facilitate enabling arrangements, including through Member States and bilateral arrangements, for overcoming the shortfall in contingent-owned equipment and sustainability faced by some troop-contributing countries. The Secretariat should continue to explore options for enhanced rapidly deployable capacities, in consultation with Member States, reinforce UN peacekeeping operations in crises, and report to the Special Committee at its next session; and refine existing UN Standby Arrangements System mechanisms. DPKO should produce a generic reinforcement policy for field missions, and conduct a reinforcement needs assessment for each mission, which should be revised periodically. While supporting the call for rapid deployment, the Special Committee urged the Secretariat to optimize pre-mandate operational preparedness and deployment. It called for more efficient management of the financial and logistical aspects of UN peacekeeping operations, both at Headquarters and in the field, to make deployment both rapid and effective.

The Special Committee requested that, within the integrated mission planning process, the practice of sharing the operational concept and plan early in the mission planning stage with relevant stakeholders, in particular troop-contributing countries, should be formalized, thus facilitating
national planning, further enhancing DPKO planning, enhancing transparency prior to submitting recommendations to the Security Council, and adding impetus to force generation. It recognized that an integrated mission planning process training course and handbook would be crucial to improving the planning process and should eventually be made available to relevant stakeholders, in particular the troop-contributing countries, as well as to all UN agencies.

The Special Committee recommended the early selection of Force Commanders, Police Commissioners and key mission headquarters staff, as well as joint training, before deployment. Key mission staff should be provided with induction and orientation training and the appropriate integrated planning tools. It stressed the need for the Secretariat to identify qualified candidates from troop-contributing countries for senior mission leadership posts and fully supported the UN Senior Mission Leaders Course and Senior Leadership Induction Programme, both of which should be mandatory for all senior mission leaders. It also emphasized the necessity for common guidelines and training for joint operation and joint mission analysis centres across all missions to maximize their potential.

The Special Committee welcomed the creation of an initial operating capability for the Standing Police Capacity and requested the Secretariat to review it at the end of its first year of operation and report to the Special Committee in 2007. The Secretariat should propose, for the Special Committee’s consideration, a UN formed police unit policy and doctrine on roles, responsibilities and anticipated tasks.

The Special Committee noted the definition of doctrine in the context of UN peacekeeping as the evolving body of institutional guidance that provided support and direction to personnel preparing for, planning and implementing UN peacekeeping operations, and which included guiding principles and concepts, as well as the policies, standard operating procedures, guidelines and manuals that support practitioners. It requested the Secretariat to provide an interim glossary of terminology for approval by the Special Committee that would be used during the further development of doctrine. It welcomed the proposal by DPKO to prepare a report articulating guiding principles, clarifying core tasks and encompassing major lessons learned, and expected an initial briefing in mid-2006 in order to elaborate the operational guidance framework and materials available.

**Guidance on Integrated Missions.** On 9 February, the Secretary-General issued a revised Note of Guidance on Integrated Missions, clarifying further the role, responsibility and authority of the Special Representative, Deputy Special Representative and the Resident Coordinator/Humanitarian Coordinator.

**Strategies for complex peacekeeping operations**

The Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations, at its 2006 substantive session (New York, 27 February–17 March) [A/60/19], reaffirmed the need for DPKO to plan and conduct UN peacekeeping activities in such a manner as to facilitate post-conflict peacebuilding and long-term prevention of the recurrence of armed conflict. It should develop, together with the UN system and other relevant actors, coherent operational strategies and early integrated mission planning based on lessons learned in the areas of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration; strengthening the rule of law; justice and reconciliation; security sector reform; quick-impact projects; and mine action. Cooperation and coordination for ensuring common needs assessments, operational clarity and policy coherence on the ground during implementation of the comprehensive strategies in the post-conflict peacebuilding phases should be strengthened, so as to ensure a smooth transition to long-term development activities. The Special Committee underscored the need for a coordinated, coherent and integrated approach at all phases and levels of UN peacekeeping and peacebuilding at Headquarters and in the field; noted efforts to improve UN system coherence in countries emerging from conflict; welcomed the current review of the integrated mission planning process; and requested the Secretariat to continue to report on efforts to improve coordination in existing operations.

The Special Committee decided to develop appropriate forms of interaction for consultation and coordination with the Peacebuilding Commission, and encouraged DPKO to collaborate closely with the Peacebuilding Support Office. It was of the view that a framework for coordination among these entities should be developed as early as possible.

The Special Committee requested that the Secretariat assess lessons learned regarding the rule of law, options for rule of law strategies for ongoing and future UN peacekeeping operations, the potential need for human and material resources to support UN peacekeeping activities in the judicial, legal and prison spheres. It urged DPKO to elaborate
a comprehensive policy on gender mainstreaming in UN peacekeeping operations, including systematic reporting about the nature and impact of gender-mainstreaming activities, building on the Gender Mainstreaming Policy Statement of the Under-Secretary-General issued in March 2005. The Special Committee commended DPKO for engaging staff members in workshops to design an action plan for the implementation of Security Council resolution 1325(2000) on women and peacekeeping [YUN 2000, p. 1113], and recommended that similar workshops be held in field operations. It supported the development of a roster of qualified female candidates from different geographical regions for senior appointments in UN peacekeeping operations. It urged Member States to include HIV/AIDS awareness training as part of predeployment preparation, and urged DPKO to ensure that all missions had sufficient HIV voluntary counselling and testing capacity for all UN peacekeeping personnel.

**Safety and security**

The Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations, at its 2006 substantive session [A/60/19], expressed concern about the precarious security environment in many field missions and called upon the Secretariat to give the utmost priority to enhancing the safety and security of United Nations and associated personnel in the field. It condemned the killing of UN peacekeeping personnel in several missions and recognized that the continued attacks and other acts of violence against them constituted a major challenge to the Organization’s field operations.

The Special Committee agreed with the assessment of the Secretary-General’s 2005 report [YUN 2005, p. 128] that the actors outside of a peace process posed serious risks for the safety and security of UN peacekeeping personnel, and although the new risk assessment process and better capacity for the collection, analysis and dissemination of field information reduced risks, it continued to advocate that the best assurance against such risks was a properly planned and mandated mission.

The Special Committee welcomed the Secretary-General’s report on a strengthened and unified security management system for the United Nations [ibid., p. 1558], in particular the progress made in improving coordination between the Department of Safety and Security and DPKO, and stressed the need for a clear and concise policy in that regard. Concerned that the Secretariat had not developed an accountability framework, it stressed the need for immediate action towards that end. The Special Committee requested the development of clear guidelines and procedures for information-sharing between the Secretariat and troop-contributing countries on safety and security issues and security management in peacekeeping operations. Constant communication with concerned Member States should be initiated and maintained throughout the investigation process whenever an incident in a field mission negatively impacted operational effectiveness and/or resulted in the serious injury or death of UN peacekeeping personnel. The findings of the Board of Inquiries on serious injury or death and lessons learned from such incidents should be shared with the Member States concerned, including troop-contributing countries in the field. It requested, as an urgent priority, that DPKO provide field missions with the capacity for improved use of information technology to ensure that information was disseminated to commanders and leaders in field missions, as underscored in the 2005 oitos report on the effectiveness of military information management in UN peacekeeping operations [ibid., p. 113].

The Special Committee recommended that the Security Council, together with the countries hosting UN peacekeeping operations, continue to ensure that those operations implemented their mandates fully and effectively, and called on DPKO to ensure that UN peacekeeping personnel were deployed in accordance with agreed concepts of operation. It stressed the need for accountability at all levels for the employment of UN peacekeeping personnel and their effective and efficient deployment, particularly in hostile and hazardous conditions. Welcoming the proposed establishment of joint operational and mission analysis centres, the Special Committee urged the Secretariat to provide a policy paper on the structure, functions and role of those centres, as requested in its 2005 report [ibid., p. 126].

The Special Committee stressed the need for priority action by DPKO to examine how all forms of technical monitoring and surveillance, in particular aerial monitoring, could be used by the United Nations to ensure the safety and security of UN peacekeeping personnel, particularly in volatile and dangerous conditions, and in situations too dangerous for ground-based monitoring. It recommended that DPKO discuss that issue with troop-contributing countries, and reiterated its request to the Secretary-General to provide the Special Committee with a comprehensive assessment in that regard in his next report. The Secretariat should undertake a comprehensive analysis of the factors and circumstances that contributed to all types of fatalities of UN peacekeeping personnel in the field, and report its findings.
Cooperation with regional organizations

The Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations [A/60/19] recognized that regional arrangements had unique and complementary capacities to offer, in cooperation with UN peacekeeping operations, and urged the United Nations to strengthen its operational linkages and partnership with such arrangements. It recommended that DPKO develop modalities for the use of regional capacities for enhanced, rapidly deployable capacities with regional arrangements; such modalities should also include provision for early warning and a smooth transition from one operation to another. The Special Committee welcomed the EU ongoing dialogue with the United Nations to define modalities and practical arrangements for enhancing cooperation.

Women in peacekeeping


The Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, reporting on DPKO efforts to implement resolution 1325(2000), said that assaults on women’s rights and gender equality continued in every post-conflict situation. He highlighted three priority issues facing peacekeeping missions in supporting women’s participation in transitional processes and beyond, which required the Council’s urgent attention. Those priorities were: the continuing problem of insecurity, even after fighting had stopped; beyond the initial step of supporting the participation of women in electoral processes, ensuring sustained support for women in the political arena so that they might be part of the decision-making process; and amending and reforming discriminatory laws that undermined equality of rights, so as to enable the effective participation of women in the peacebuilding process.

DPKO had developed a comprehensive action plan to support implementation of resolution 1325(2000), which was being monitored by a senior management team. The team provided policy guidance and training tools to peacekeepers and Member States; developed operational guidelines for DPKO mission personnel to enable them to translate resolution 1325(2000) into practice; and established gender components in missions and at Headquarters to oversee that work.

Although progress had been made, real gaps remained in the implementation of resolution 1325(2000), including pockets of resistance in seeking to transform the working culture. Some personnel had yet to understand their own responsibility for the implementation of resolution 1325(2000), and that it was not the sole responsibility of gender advisers, nor could it be outsourced to DPKO UN partners. In addition, a critical mass of male champions to advocate and support the translation of the commitments to gender equality into practice had to be built, and DPKO needed a senior male envoy to support its political advocacy efforts. Besides the action plan, the Under-Secretary-General planned to issue a policy directive to guide efforts to implement resolution 1325(2000).

Beyond DPKO actions, some of the outstanding challenges could best be addressed through partnerships with Member States and the broader UN system. Member States needed to nominate more women candidates for senior civilian positions in missions. As an operational imperative, a greater number of women peacekeepers had to be deployed in order to engage more effectively with the local population, and stronger partnership with UN agencies was needed to sustain the investments of peacekeeping missions during the transitional period. DPKO experiences in Sierra Leone and Timor-Leste highlighted the need for a smooth transitioning of gender-related programmes to the UN country team, following the completion of a peacekeeping mandate to avoid creating a programmatic gap that could unravel the gains made by peacekeeping missions. DPKO UN partners needed to be on the ground from the very beginning with the capacities and resources required to support women in the wide range of areas that fell beyond the scope and mandate of peacekeeping missions.

The Under-Secretary-General said that the United Nations had to continue to invest resources in creating a stable and secure environment that would allow women to restore dignity, normalcy and hope to their lives in the post-conflict period. Programmes for women’s economic and political empowerment and to support the education of girls could be sustained only under conditions of security. Therefore, Member States had to meet their
obligations to contribute sufficient troops to enable peacekeeping operations to deliver that security.

The Council President, in statement S/PRST/2006/42 of 26 October (see p. 1340), emphasized the need for the inclusion of gender components in peacekeeping operations and encouraged Member States and the Secretary-General to increase the participation of women in all areas and levels of peacekeeping operations, including civilian, police and military aspects.

Comprehensive review of peacekeeping

Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations

As requested by the General Assembly in resolution 59/281 [YUN 2005, p. 129], the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations and its Working Group continued their comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects [A/60/19 & Add.1; A/61/19 (Part I)]. In response to the Committee’s request, the Secretary-General submitted a report on the implementation of the Committee’s 2006 [A/61/668 & Add.1 & Corr.1] recommendations.

The Special Committee held three sessions in 2006, its substantive session (27 February–17 March) and two resumed sessions (27 July and 18 December, respectively), all in New York. During its substantive session, the Special Committee discussed safety and security, conduct and discipline, the agenda for reform of UN peacekeeping, strengthening operational capacity, strategies for complex peacekeeping operations, cooperation with troop-contributing countries, enhancement of African peacekeeping capabilities, cooperation with regional arrangements, best practices, training, and personnel and financial matters (for details, see respective sections above). It continued to consider the recommendations contained in the 2005 report of the Secretary-General’s Special Adviser on Sexual Exploitation and Abuse on a comprehensive strategy to eliminate future sexual exploitation and abuse in UN peacekeeping operations [YUN 2005, p. 119].

Communications. In separate letters of 20 February, Sierra Leone, in its capacity as Chairman of the African Group, informed the Presidents of the General Assembly [A/60/688] and the Security Council [S/2006/117] that the Group had noted with concern the Council’s decision to hold separate open debates on the themes “Peacekeeping operations management (procurement)” and “Sexual exploitation in United Nations peacekeeping missions”, on 22 and 23 February, respectively. The Group viewed the decision as an encroachment on the Assembly’s responsibilities and functions and incompatible with the current spirit of the ongoing discussions aimed at revitalizing the Assembly. In its letter to the Assembly, the Group stated that it wished to rely on the Assembly President’s leadership to safeguard the Assembly’s primacy and authority as the deliberative, policy-making and representative organ of the United Nations. The execution of the Assembly’s mandate without hindrances from organs such as the Security Council was indispensable to its revitalization.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 6 June [meeting 88], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Fourth Committee [A/60/478/Add.1], adopted resolution 60/263 without vote [agenda item 32].

Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects

The General Assembly, Recalling its resolution 2006(XIX) of 18 February 1965 and all other relevant resolutions, Recalling in particular its resolutions 59/281 of 29 March 2005 and 59/300 of 22 June 2005, Affirming that the efforts of the United Nations in the peaceful settlement of disputes, including through its peacekeeping operations, are indispensable, Convinced of the need for the United Nations to continue to improve its capabilities in the field of peacekeeping and to enhance the effective and efficient deployment of its peacekeeping operations, Considering the contribution that all States Members of the United Nations make to peacekeeping, Noting the widespread interest in contributing to the work of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations expressed by Member States, in particular troop-contributing countries, Bearing in mind the continuous necessity of preserving the efficiency and strengthening the effectiveness of the work of the Special Committee,

1. Welcomes the report of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations;
2. Endorses the proposals, recommendations and conclusions of the Special Committee, contained in paragraphs 28 to 188 of its report;
3. Urges Member States, the Secretariat and relevant organs of the United Nations to take all necessary steps to implement the proposals, recommendations and conclusions of the Special Committee;
4. Reiterates that those Member States that become personnel contributors to the United Nations peacekeeping operations in years to come or participate in the future in the Special Committee for three consecutive years as observers shall, upon request in writing to the Chair-
man of the Special Committee, become members at the following session of the Special Committee;

5. Decides that the Special Committee, in accordance with its mandate, shall continue its efforts for a comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects and shall review the implementation of its previous proposals and consider any new proposals so as to enhance the capacity of the United Nations to fulfill its responsibilities in this field;

6. Requests the Special Committee to submit a report on its work to the General Assembly at its sixty-first session;

7. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-first session the item entitled “Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects”.


By decision 61/520 of 14 December, the Assembly took note of the report of the Fourth Committee [A/61/409] on its consideration of the agenda item “Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects”. On 22 December, the Assembly decided that the agenda item would remain for consideration during its resumed sixty-first (2007) session (decision 61/552).

Operations in 2006

As at 1 January 2006, there were 15 peacekeeping missions in operation—7 in Africa, 1 in the Americas, 3 in Europe and the Mediterranean and 3 in the Middle East. During the year, one mission was closed (in Burundi) and a new one launched (in Timor-Leste); thus, the total number of missions in operation at the end of the year remained at 15.

Africa


Americas

In the Americas, the Security Council extended the mandate of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (minustah) until 15 February 2007.

Asia

In Asia, the United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (unmogip), established in 1949, continued to monitor the ceasefire in Jammu and Kashmir.

On 25 August, the Security Council established the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste (unmit) as a follow-on mission to the United Nations Mission of Support in East Timor (unmiset), which ended in 2005 [YUN 2005, p. 131]. The mission’s broad mandate included supporting the Government of Timor-Leste and relevant institutions with a view to consolidating stability, enhancing a culture of democratic governance and facilitating political dialogue among Timorese stakeholders. UNMIT had an authorized strength of 1,608 police personnel and 34 military liaison and staff officers.

The Council extended, in September, the authorization of the International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan for a further period of 12 months beyond 13 October 2006 (resolution 1707(2006) (see p. 381), and in November, the authorization for the multinational force in Iraq until 31 December 2007 (resolution 1723(2006) (see p. 403).

Europe and the Mediterranean

In Europe and the Mediterranean, the Security Council extended the mandates of the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia (unomig) until 15 April 2007 and of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (unficyp) until 15 June 2007. The United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (unmik), Serbia (formerly Serbia and Montenegro), remained in place. On 21 November 2006, the Council authorized the Member States, acting through or in cooperation with the eu, to establish for a further period of 12 months a multinational stabilization force
International peace and security

(eufor) in Bosnia and Herzegovina (resolution 1722(2006)) (see p.458).

Middle East

Three long-standing operations continued in the Middle East. The United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (untsos) continued to observe the truce in Palestine. The mandate of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (undof) was renewed until 30 June 2007. Consequent upon the escalation of hostilities in Lebanon and Israel, the Security Council, in resolution 1701(2006) of 11 August (see p. 583), authorized an increase in the strength of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (unifil) to a maximum of 15,000 troops and extended its mandate until 31 August 2007.

Roster of 2006 operations

UNTSO
United Nations Truce Supervision Organization
Established: June 1948.
Mandate: To assist in supervising the observance of the truce in Palestine.
Strength as at December 2006: 150 military observers.

UNMOGIP
United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan
Established: January 1949.
Mandate: To supervise the ceasefire between India and Pakistan in Jammu and Kashmir.
Strength as at December 2006: 41 military observers.

UNFICYP
United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus
Established: March 1964.
Mandate: To prevent the recurrence of fighting between the two Cypriot communities.
Strength as at December 2006: 853 troops, 64 civilian police.

UNDOF
United Nations Disengagement Observer Force
Established: June 1974.
Mandate: To supervise the ceasefire between Israel and the Syrian Arab Republic and the disengagement of Israeli and Syrian forces in the Golan Heights.
Strength as at December 2006: 1,048 troops.

UNIFIL
United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon
Established: March 1978.
Mandate: To restore peace and security and assist the Lebanese Government in ensuring the return of its effective authority in the area; expanded in 2006 to include monitoring the cessation of hostilities in Lebanon and Israel (see p. 583), supporting the deployment of the Lebanese Armed Forces throughout southern Lebanon, helping to ensure humanitarian access to civilian populations and the safe return of displaced persons, and assisting the Lebanese Armed Forces in establishing a permanent ceasefire and long-term solution to the situation between the two countries.
Strength as at December 2006: 11,563 troops.

MINURSO
United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara
Mandate: To monitor and verify the implementation of a settlement plan for Western Sahara and assist in the holding of a referendum in the Territory.
Strength as at December 2006: 31 troops, 183 military observers, 4 civilian police.

UNOMIG
United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia
Established: August 1993.
Mandate: To verify compliance with a ceasefire agreement between the parties to the conflict in Georgia and investigate ceasefire violations; expanded in 1994 to include monitoring the implementation of an agreement on a ceasefire and separation of forces and observing the operation of a multinational peacekeeping force.
Strength as at December 2006: 127 military observers, 12 civilian police.

UNMIK
United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo
Established: June 1999.
Mandate: To promote, among other things, the establishment of substantial autonomy and self-government in Kosovo, perform basic civilian administrative functions, organize and oversee the development of provisional institutions, facilitate a political process to determine Kosovo’s future status, support the reconstruction of key infrastructure, maintain civil law and order, protect human
rights and assure the return of refugees and displaced persons.

**Strength as at December 2006:** 1,960 civilian police, 37 military observers.

**MONUC**

United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo


*Mandate:* To establish contacts with the signatories to the Ceasefire Agreement, provide technical assistance in the implementation of the Agreement, provide information on security conditions, plan for the observation of the ceasefire, facilitate the delivery of humanitarian assistance and assist in the protection of human rights.

*Strength as at December 2006:* 16,487 troops, 734 military observers.

**MINUSTAH**

United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti

*Established:* 1 June 2004.

*Mandate:* To ensure a secure and stable environment in support of the Transitional Government; to support the constitutional and political process, and the Transitional Government in bringing about national dialogue, conducting free and fair elections, and extending State authority throughout the country; to promote and protect human rights and coordinate with the Government in the provision of humanitarian assistance.

*Strength as at December 2006:* 6,684 troops, 1,692 civilian police.

**UNMEE**

United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea


*Mandate:* To establish and put into operation the mechanism for verifying the cessation of hostilities and to assist the Military Coordination Commission in tasks related to demining and in administrative support to its field offices.

*Strength as at December 2006:* 2,063 troops, 222 military observers.

**UNMIL**

United Nations Mission in Liberia


*Mandate:* To support the implementation of the ceasefire agreement and the peace process; protect UN staff, facilities and civilians; support humanitarian and human rights activities; and assist in national security reform, including national police training and formation of a new, restructured military.

*Strength as at December 2006:* 13,613 troops, 1,097 civilian police.

**ONUB**

United Nations Operation in Burundi

*Established:* 1 June 2004.

*Ended:* 31 December 2006.

*Mandate:* To monitor the implementation of ceasefire agreements; promote the re-establishment of confidence between Burundian forces; assist in disarmament and demobilization; monitor the quartering of the Armed Forces of Burundi and their heavy weapons; create security conditions for the provision of humanitarian assistance and the voluntary return of refugees; assist in the electoral process; protect civilians under threat, as well as UN personnel and facilities.

**UNOCI**

United Nations Operation in Côte d’Ivoire


*Mandate:* To monitor the implementation of the 3 May 2003 comprehensive ceasefire agreement and the movement of armed groups; assist in disarmament, demobilization, reintegration, repatriation and resettlement; protect UN personnel, institutions and civilians; support humanitarian assistance; support implementation of the peace process; assist in the promotion of human rights, public information, and law and order.

*Strength as at December 2006:* 7,847 troops, 190 military observers, 992 civilian police.

**UNMIS**

United Nations Mission in the Sudan


*Mandate:* To support the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement signed between the Government of the Sudan and the Sudan People’s Liberation Movement/Army on 9 January 2005; facilitate and coordinate the voluntary return of refugees and internally displaced persons, and humanitarian assistance; assist with humanitarian demining; and protect and promote human rights. The mandate was expanded in 2006 to support implementation of the May 2006 Darfur Peace Agreement (see p. 274) and the 2004 N’Djamena Humanitarian Ceasefire Agreement on the Conflict in Darfur [YUN 2004, p. 235].

*Strength as at December 2006:* 8,734 troops, 592 military observers, 680 civilian police.
Financial and administrative aspects of peacekeeping operations

The General Assembly considered a number of issues related to the financial and administrative aspects of UN peacekeeping operations, including budget presentation; the use of consultants; vacancy rates; staffing of field missions; accountability, fraud, corruption, mismanagement, misconduct and conflict of interest; integrated missions; procurement; quick-impact projects; regional cooperation; fuel management; cost structure for air operations; spare parts; better use of technology; disaster recovery; and strategic deployment stocks. It also considered issues related to the peacekeeping support accounts; the consolidation of peacekeeping accounts; commitment authority; accounts and auditing; reimbursement issues, including the UN Logistics Base; and restructuring issues and personnel matters. (These issues are considered in their respective sections below.)

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 30 June [meeting 92], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Fifth Committee [A/60/916], adopted resolution 60/266 without vote [agenda item 136].

Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations: cross-cutting issues

The General Assembly,

Having considered the interim report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations,

I

1. Reaffirms its resolution 59/296, and requests full implementation of its relevant provisions;
2. Appreciates the efforts of all peacekeeping personnel in the field and at Headquarters;
3. Decides to consider the report of the Secretary-General on the overview of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations and other relevant reports on the administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations at the main part of its sixty-first session;
4. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-first session on progress in training in peacekeeping;

II

Budget presentation

1. Recalls the unique nature and mandate of each operation, and stresses that the resource requirements should respond to the mandates and circumstances of each operation;
2. Requests the Secretary-General to continue to undertake the review of staffing requirements, function and level of posts that would reflect evolving mandates, changing operational requirements, actual responsibilities and functions performed, with a view to ensuring the most cost-effective use of resources;
3. Recalls section I, paragraph 6, of its resolution 49/233 A, and requests the Secretary-General to include in all performance reports in respect of peacekeeping operations, the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy, and the support account, details of monthly expenditure patterns, as well as to provide, in the context of the consideration of the budget submission, to the extent possible, supplementary information on the most up-to-date financial data available on actual expenditures for the current period;
4. Regrets the late issuance and receipt of budgets of some peacekeeping operations, which has placed some considerable strain on the ability of the General Assembly to engage in a detailed consideration of the requirements, and requests the Secretary-General to make every effort to improve the timely submission of peacekeeping budgets;
5. Notes the practice of allowing peacekeeping staff to take up temporary duty positions in other peacekeeping missions, and requests the Secretary-General to review this practice, including for staff currently seconded on temporary duty, to consider ways to limit the length of temporary duty secondments as well as to elaborate on the exceptions and ensure that such secondments do not impact adversely on the operational activities of the parent mission, in particular when the parent mission has existing vacancies;
III
Use of consultants
1. Requests the Secretary-General to ensure full utilization of synergies present in the United Nations system and to develop an effective evaluation mechanism for the use of outside expertise;
2. Also requests the Secretary-General to ensure that the commissioning of external consultants in the Organization by senior management and programme managers is conducted according to established administrative procedures and financial regulations and rules, with full respect for the mandates of internal and external oversight bodies and the oversight role of the General Assembly, and to report thereon;

IV
High vacancy rates
1. Requests the Secretary-General to intensify his ongoing efforts, including through innovative approaches, to ensure the expeditious filling of all vacant posts;
2. Also requests the Secretary-General to continue to ensure greater use of national staff in peacekeeping operations;
3. Further requests the Secretary-General, cognizant of the continuously high international staff vacancy rates in many missions, to consider, when formulating budget submissions, greater utilization of national staff, as appropriate, commensurate with the requirements of the mission and its mandate;
4. Requests the Secretary-General to strengthen coordination between the Department of Peacekeeping Operations of the Secretariat and the United Nations Volunteers programme for the use of volunteers in peacekeeping operations and to evaluate the contribution of United Nations Volunteers as a component of peacekeeping operations;

V
Accountability, fraud, corruption, mismanagement, misconduct and conflict of interest
1. Notes with concern the observations contained in the reports of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, the Board of Auditors and the Office of Internal Oversight Services, concerning instances of non-compliance with established guidelines, rules, regulations and procedures;
2. Regrets any incidence of fraud, corruption, mismanagement and misconduct;
3. Requests the Secretary-General, within his purview, to address all cases of fraud, corruption, mismanagement and misconduct and to ensure that United Nations staff are held accountable for any proven wrongdoings;
4. Also requests the Secretary-General to entrust the Office of Internal Oversight Services with ensuring that all current and future investigations by the Office are conducted impartially, thoroughly, expeditiously, taking into account current capacity, and with full respect for due process, and that they are not subject to any unnecessary delays;
5. Further requests the Secretary-General to take all necessary steps to recover financial and other losses and to take appropriate measures to prevent fraud, corruption, mismanagement and misconduct;
6. Requests the Secretary-General to ensure that the application and enforcement of accountability in the United Nations system is carried out impartially at all levels and without exception;
7. Notes with concern the increase in the level of fraud and presumptive fraud in respect of fuel abuse within some peacekeeping operations, and requests the Secretary-General to ensure that lessons learned from addressing these cases are shared systematically with all missions;
8. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-first session on the implementation of paragraphs 1 to 7 above;
9. Reiterates paragraph 28 of its resolution 52/226 A of 31 March 1998 and paragraph 30 of its resolution 54/14 of 29 October 1999, related to the issue of conflict of interest, and requests the Secretary-General to ensure their expeditious implementation and to submit the proposals requested in the aforementioned paragraphs to the General Assembly at the main part of its sixty-first session;

VI
Integrated missions
1. Requests the Secretary-General to continue to refine the concept and functioning of integrated missions, strengthening the mission planning process, and to clearly detail lines of responsibility and accountability within integrated missions as well as the interaction between such missions and the different partners;
2. Also requests the Secretary-General to ensure that the utilization of mission assets by United Nations agencies is fully justified and reimbursed and that such utilization is duly recorded and reported properly;

VII
Procurement opportunities
1. Requests the Secretary-General, taking fully into account the observations of the Board of Auditors, in paragraphs 71 to 74 of its report, to increase efforts to improve procurement opportunities for vendors from developing countries and countries with economies in transition, in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, and to report to the Assembly at its sixty-first session on the implementation thereof;
2. Recalls section XVI, paragraph 4, of its resolution 59/296, and requests the Secretary-General to continue to ensure that information on procurement opportunities in peacekeeping operations is made available to business communities, in particular in developing countries and countries with economies in transition, through, inter alia, continued cooperation between the Department of
Public Information of the Secretariat and the Procurement Service of the Department of Management of the Secretariat, utilizing the United Nations information centres and offices, as appropriate;

3. Requests the Secretary-General to make the United Nations Procurement Manual available to Member States through the website of the Procurement Service no later than August 2006;

VIII

Quick-impact projects

1. Welcomes the inclusion of quick-impact projects in the budgets of peacekeeping operations, and recognizes the important contribution that they make towards the successful implementation of the mandates of peacekeeping operations;

2. Stresses that quick-impact projects are an integral part of mission planning and development, as well as of the implementation of comprehensive strategies to meet the challenges facing complex peacekeeping operations;

3. Emphasizes the need for a comprehensive policy, including on resource allocations, for quick-impact projects, and, bearing in mind the unique nature and mandate of each operation, requests the Secretary-General to report thereon to the General Assembly at its sixty-first session, addressing, inter alia: the definition of quick-impact projects and the selection processes; the duration of such projects; how, and if, quick-impact projects complement the activities of other United Nations bodies on the ground; the role of the Mission, other United Nations bodies and implementing partners in managing and implementing quick-impact projects in the short and longer term; and how administrative costs can be minimized;

IX

Regional cooperation

1. Welcomes the efforts to increase collaboration between missions, in particular those in the same region, and emphasizes the importance of further enhancing collaboration, to the extent possible, with a view to achieving greater synergy in the effective and efficient use of the resources of the United Nations and the implementation of missions’ mandates, bearing in mind that individual missions bear a responsibility for the preparation and for overseeing their own budgets and for controlling their own assets and logistical operations;

2. Requests the Secretary-General to develop and implement regional coordination plans aligned to the missions’ objectives, while mindful of the specific mandate of each mission, and to report on the progress achieved in the context of his next overview report;

X

Fuel management

Requests the Secretary-General to review all aspects of fuel management, including the preparation of a comprehensive fuel management manual, implementation of the electronic fuel accounting system, development of standard operating procedures on fuel management and preparation of an annual fuel procurement plan, and to report on the status of implementation;

XI

Costing structure for air operations

1. Welcomes the efforts to enhance the optimal use of air assets, and requests the Secretary-General to ensure that operations share best practices in order to increase utilization of air assets;

2. Requests the Secretary-General to undertake an analysis of the impact of the new costing structure relating to air operations, bearing in mind the relevant observations and recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and the Board of Auditors, to determine whether the application of the new costing structure for air operations contracts has resulted in savings or brought about other benefits and to report thereon to the General Assembly at the sixty-second session in the context of his overview report;

3. Also requests the Secretary-General, mindful of the importance of air services to the effective operational activities of peacekeeping operations, to review, in all peacekeeping operations, the ongoing necessity and current frequency of flights, to ensure the optimal use of air assets, to reconfigure them to respond to changing circumstances, to increase the utilization of air assets, inter alia, by continuing to review flight schedules to accommodate more passengers and cargo and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its sixty-first session;

4. Further requests the Secretary-General to continue to explore ways to increase regional management of air assets and further strengthen the coordination between the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and relevant United Nations departments and entities, with a view to sharing air assets, when feasible;

XII

Spare parts

1. Encourages the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to limit the acquisition of new spare parts in the light of the current high level of holdings, requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-first session on optimal levels for spare parts in all missions, and also requests that the budget proposals for the period from 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2008 not exceed those levels;

2. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-first session on the possible establishment of a mechanism for global management of spare parts at United Nations Headquarters, including the ongoing identification of spare parts requirements, the capacity to redeploy them from other missions and any efficiencies to be achieved from such a mechanism;
XIII

Better use of technology

Requests the Secretary-General to make greater use of videoconferencing facilities and e-learning programmes for training and other purposes and to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-first session on improvements and efficiencies made through greater utilization of those tools;

XIV

Staffing of field missions, including the use of 300-series and 100-series appointments

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the staffing of field missions, including the use of 300-series and 100-series appointments and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on the staffing of field missions, including the use of 300-series and 100-series appointments;
2.Recalls section VIII of its resolution 59/296;
3. Decides to continue to suspend the application of the four-year maximum limit for appointments of limited duration until 31 December 2006;
4. Authorizes the Secretary-General, bearing in mind paragraph 3 above, to reappoint, under the 100 series of the Staff Rules, those mission staff whose service under 300-series contracts has reached the four-year limit by 31 December 2006, provided that their functions have been reviewed and found necessary and their performance has been confirmed as fully satisfactory, and requests the Secretary-General to report thereon to the General Assembly at its sixty-first session;
5. Requests the Secretary-General to continue the practice of using 300-series contracts as the primary instrument for the appointment of new staff;

XV

Disaster recovery

Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its resumed sixty-first session a comprehensive report on the implementation of strategic deployment stocks and the use of logistics base and installations, as well as all mechanisms for rapid deployment, including on the evolving concepts used in this regard, taking fully into account the surge in peacekeeping operations, the location, operational and strategic requirements of peacekeeping operations and the need to ensure the utmost efficiencies in the use of resources.


On 22 December, the Assembly decided that the agenda item “Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations” would remain for consideration during its resumed sixty-first (2007) session (decision 61/552).

Financing

Expenditures for United Nations peacekeeping operations for the period 1 July 2005 to 30 June 2006 totalled $4,582.8 million, compared to $4,074.3 million for the previous twelve-month period. The 12.5 per cent increase in expenditure was mainly attributable to the full-year impact of UNMIS and the expansion of MINUSTAH, MONUC and UNOCI, which was offset by the closure of the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL) and the United Nations Mission of Support in East Timor (UNMIT) in 2005 [YUN 2005, p. 131], as well as scaled-down operations in ONUB, UNMEE, UNMIL and UNMIL.

Overall liquidity improved markedly, as assessments and expenditures for active missions increased, while unpaid assessments decreased by $375.3 million or 34 per cent. There was no significant change with respect to unpaid assessments of closed missions. As at 30 June 2006, total unpaid assessments amounted to $1.3 billion, compared to $1.7 billion in the previous financial period.

Available cash for active missions totalled $1,642 million, while liabilities dropped to $1,419 million. For closed missions, available cash totalled $341.2 million, while liabilities came to $362.2 million. Closed missions with cash surpluses continued to be the only available source for lending to active peacekeeping missions. During the reporting period, new loans totalling $44.5 million were made. Total loans outstanding as at 30 June 2006, amounted to $23.6 million.

Notes of Secretary-General. In January [A/C.5/60/27], the Secretary-General, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 49/233 A [YUN 1994, p. 1338], submitted to the Assembly’s Fifth Committee information on the approved resources for peacekeeping operations for the period 1 July
2005 to 30 June 2006, including requirements for the United Nations Logistics Base (UNLB) at Brindisi, Italy, and the support account for peacekeeping operations, amounting to $5,025,238,400. That figure took into account 2005 Assembly decisions in respect of MINUSTAH, MONUC, UNMIS and UNOCI.

In May [A/C.5/60/30], the Secretary-General submitted proposed budgetary requirements for peacekeeping operations, UNLB and the support account for peacekeeping operations for the period 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007, amounting to $4,768,987,500; and in July [A/C.5/60/32], information on the approved resources for them for the same period, amounting to $4,747,282,700.

**Financial performance**

In February [A/60/696], the Secretary-General submitted an overview report on the financing of UN peacekeeping operations: budget performance for the period from 1 July 2004 to 30 June 2005 and the budget for the period from 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007. In April [A/60/784], the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ), in its comments and observations on the report of the Board of Auditors on the accounts of UN peacekeeping operations for the period from 1 July 2004 to 30 June 2005 [A/60/5 (vol. II) & Corr.1] and the Secretary-General’s report on the implementation of the Board’s recommendations for the period ended 30 June 2005 [A/60/691], noted the Board of Auditors’ concern over the increase in the cancellation of prior-period obligations from $73.6 million to $167.8 million in 2004-2005, indicating either a need to improve budget planning and monitoring or invalid obligations had initially been raised, and urged the Administration to take prompt action to address any shortcomings in that regard. As to the registration of prospective local vendors, ACABQ said that a common framework or guidance was needed for ensuring consistency in the relevant procedures for evaluating those vendors. The Committee, noting that non-compliance with procurement directives had resulted in the failure to obtain performance bonds, supported the Board’s recommendation that they should be obtained in a timely manner. It urged the Administration to re-examine the contract approval process, including the delegation of authority, giving due account to the need for strong accountability measures.

ACABQ shared the Board’s view that the Administration should formalize the concept of integrated mission partnerships, determine their function, structure and role, and finalize principles, policies and guidelines for governing them, paying careful attention to establishing clear lines of accountability.

ACABQ shared the Board’s concern over the increase in the cases of fraud and presumptive fraud and encouraged the Administration to be proactive in its dealings with missions to ensure that cases were reported in a timely and accurate manner. The Committee requested the Administration to confirm the final list of fraud and presumptive fraud cases to the Board.

In June [A/60/880], ACABQ submitted an interim report on a number of cross-cutting issues in peacekeeping operations due to the late submission of Secretariat documentation and the subsequent delay in convening its winter session. Those issues related to: the assignment of staff to temporary duty in other missions; the use of general temporary assistance; air operations; quick-impact projects; fraud; the use of consultants; high vacancy rates in missions; and integrated and complex missions. The Committee recommended that any current consideration of cross-cutting issues should be preliminary in nature, pending a broader, definitive exposition of those matters after the relevant documentation had been received and considered.

**Peacekeeping support account**

In February [A/60/681 & Corr.1 & Add.1], the Secretary-General submitted the financial performance report on the budget of the support account for peacekeeping operations for the period from 1 July 2004 to 30 June 2005. Expenditure for the period totalled $118,025,500 against approved resources of $121,610,300, resulting in an unencumbered balance of $3,584,800, attributable mainly to under-expenditure in respect of post resources, as well as unspent balances under official travel, facilities and infrastructure, communications, information technology, medical and other supplies, services and equipment. The Secretary-General recommended that Member States waive their respective shares in other income and from the unencumbered balance, to be applied to meeting current and future UN after-service health insurance liabilities, and that the remaining unencumbered balance of $2,719,100 be applied to the 2006/2007 support account budget.

In March [A/60/727], the Secretary-General submitted the budget for the support account for the period from 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007 in the amount of $189,538,800, which provided for 831 continuing posts and a net increase of 142 posts, representing 146 new posts, the transfer of five existing resident auditor posts from UNMIS to the support account budget, the abolishment of four
resident auditor posts in UNAMSIL and the transfer of five posts from the support account to UNLB.

In April [A/60/807], ACABQ, while noting that peacekeeping missions had evolved into complex, multidimensional operations, emphasized that additional functions or tasks to be performed should not necessarily lead to a requirement for additional posts, nor should the creation of new units be proposed as a means to justify new or higher-level posts. The Committee reiterated that an analysis of the support account, as described in its 2005 report [YUN 2005, p. 140], be conducted by the Board of Auditors, which should also determine whether posts approved by the General Assembly in the years following the 2000 report of the Panel on United Nations Peace Operations [YUN 2000, p. 83] had been and continued to be used for the intended purposes. It should also analyze the ability of the relevant departments to manage senior staff flexibility so as to respond to new responsibilities and challenges without creating new structures and senior-level posts. An analysis should also be conducted of whether funds expended on consultancy represented the best use of financial resources, and on how the support account related to the regular budget.

ACABQ recommended approval of 55 posts of the 142 net additional posts proposed by the Secretary-General; that 45 posts not be approved; and that action on 42 be deferred. Of the posts recommended for deferral, 22 would be considered in the context of the Secretary-General’s forthcoming report on the evaluation of governance and oversight, which would include a detailed review of OIOS. It also recommended reductions amounting to $31,663,500 gross ($28,786,100 net) in the proposed 2006-2007 support account budget. Should the Assembly not be able to take action on the report to be submitted in follow-up to the Secretary-General’s report “Investing in the United Nations: for a stronger Organization worldwide” [A/60/692 & Corr.1] (see p. 1575), which included proposals related to peacekeeping (see p. 96), it might wish to consider approving general temporary assistance equivalent to 50 per cent of the posts deferred, amounting to an additional $2,425,800, including non-post resources.

With regard to the Secretary-General’s recommendation that Member States waive their respective shares in other income and from the unencumbered balance, to be applied for meeting current and future after-service health insurance liabilities, ACABQ said that those amounts would be dealt with in a manner to be decided by the Assembly. The Committee recommended approval of the Secretary-General’s proposal that the remaining unencumbered balance of $2,719,100 be applied to the 2006-2007 budget, and that the amount of $15,804,000 in excess of the authorized level of the Peacekeeping Reserve Fund, related to the period 1 July 2004 to 30 June 2005, be applied to the resources required for the period from 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007.

OIOS support account resource requirements

The Secretary-General, in a June note [A/60/898] on resource requirements for the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) under the support account for peacekeeping operations for the period from 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007, proposed that the General Assembly approve resources in the amount of $21,847,300 as an interim measure for OIOS in the support account for the 2006-2007 period, including $2,128,900 for general temporary assistance. The Secretary-General also proposed that the Assembly include the total amount in the resources for the support account for peacekeeping operations, to be prorated among the budgets of the active operations for the year ending 30 June 2007.

In June [A/60/900], ACABQ recommended maintenance of the resource level for the period from 1 July 2005 to 30 June 2006 and continuation of general temporary assistance approved in the 2005-2006 period, recosted using the budget parameters for the period 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007, amounting to $18,799,600, on the understanding that the required level of resources for OIOS would be revisited following the Assembly’s consideration of relevant forthcoming reports, including the Secretary-General’s report on governance and oversight. It also recommended approval of 50 per cent of the $2,128,900 in additional resources proposed by the Secretary-General. ACABQ intended to revisit the question of resources required for OIOS under the support account once the relevant decisions had been taken by the Assembly. In that connection, the Secretary-General should prepare revised estimates, including for the support account, that would reflect such decisions.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 30 June [meeting 92], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Fifth Committee [A/60/916], adopted resolution 60/268 without vote [agenda item 136].

Support account for peacekeeping operations

The General Assembly,

*Having considered* the reports of the Secretary-General on the financing of the support account for peacekeeping operations, the note by the Secretary-General on the resource requirements for the Office of Internal Oversight Services under the support account for peacekeeping operations for the financial period from 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007 and the related reports of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,

*Recognizing* the importance for the United Nations to be able to respond and deploy rapidly to a peacekeeping operation upon adoption of a relevant resolution of the Security Council, within thirty days for traditional peacekeeping operations and ninety days for complex peacekeeping operations,

*Recognizing also* the need for adequate support during all phases of peacekeeping operations, including the liquidation and termination phases,

*Mindful* that the level of the support account should broadly correspond to the mandate, number, size and complexity of peacekeeping missions,

1. *Takes note* of the reports of the Secretary-General on the financing of the support account for peacekeeping operations and the note by the Secretary-General on the resource requirements for the Office of Internal Oversight Services under the support account for peacekeeping operations for the financial period from 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007;

2. *Reaffirms* the need for effective and efficient administration and financial management of peacekeeping operations, and urges the Secretary-General to continue to identify measures to increase the productivity and efficiency of the support account;

3. *Also reaffirms* the need for adequate funding for the backstopping of peacekeeping operations, as well as the need for full justification for that funding in support account budget submissions;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure the full implementation of the relevant provisions of its resolutions 59/296 of 22 June 2005 and 60/266 of 30 June 2006 as well as other relevant resolutions;

5. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the reports of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, subject to the provisions of the present resolution;

6. *Decides* to establish the following posts:

   (a) Senior Political Affairs Officer (P-5) for the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti team in the Office of Operations of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations of the Secretariat;

   (b) Policy Coordinator (P-4) in the Peacekeeping Best Practices Section of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations;

   (c) Secretariat Services Officer (P-3) in the Fifth Committee secretariat;

   (d) Information/communications expert (P-3) in support of the African Peacekeeping Capacity in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations in Addis Ababa;

   (e) Administration/finance analyst (P-3) in support of the African Peacekeeping Capacity in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations in Addis Ababa;

7. *Also decides* to approve the establishment of the post of Chief of the Integrated Training Service (D-1) in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, and requests the Secretary-General to evaluate the functioning of this post and to report thereon within the context of the support account budget for the financial period from 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2008;

8. *Further decides* to approve the establishment of the post of Chief of the Transport and Movement Service (D-1) of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, to be funded from the abolishment of one existing P-4 post, with the balance of the requirements to be funded from within the approved level of the support account for the financial period from 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007;

9. *Decides* to approve the establishment of the post of Environmental Engineer (P-3) in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and requests the Secretary-General to rejustify the requirement for this post in the support account budget for the financial period from 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2008;

10. *Decides* not to approve the post of Security Coordinator Officer (P-4) in the Department of Safety and Security, and requests the Secretary-General to rejustify the requirement for this post in the support account budget for the financial period from 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2008;

11. *Decides* to approve an amount of 23,265,700 United States dollars in general temporary assistance and an amount of 4,417,900 dollars in non-post resources in the financial period from 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007 in respect of the African Peacekeeping Capacity in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, the Office of Internal Oversight Services, the Procurement Service and the Headquarters Committee on Contracts in the Department of Management of the Secretariat, procurement-related functions in the Office of Legal Affairs of the Secretariat and in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, and conduct and discipline capacity in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations;

12. *Decides* not to approve an amount of 154,200 dollars under consultancy;

13. *Notes* the request of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and requests the Secretary-General to undertake a comprehensive analysis of the evolution of the support account, on the basis of the recommendation of the Advisory Committee and in close consultation with the Office of Internal Oversight Services, bearing in mind section IV, paragraph 5, of General Assembly resolution 59/296, and to share the analysis with the Board of Auditors, and to report thereon to the Assembly at the second part of its resumed sixty-first session within the context of his next budget proposal for the support account;

15. Notes with concern that the financial provision for consultants has steadily increased in recent years despite the parallel provision of additional posts for the support account, while bearing in mind that the provisions were needed, inter alia, to enhance the quality of work, management efficiencies and skills of staff;

16. Requests the Secretary-General, when proposing resources for consultancies in subsequent support account budgets, to include a trend-analysis comparing the requested level of resources with the approved resource levels in the previous five financial years and to provide supplementary information with full justification for all consultancies including, inter alia, information on why the expertise is not available within the Organization;

17. Also requests the Secretary-General to entrust to the Office of Internal Oversight Services the task of refining the methodology for allocating resident auditors, taking into account the risks and complexity of the operation of individual peacekeeping operations, and to report thereon to the General Assembly;

18. Further requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-first session, within the appropriate context, on the efforts made in support of African Union capacity-building, taking into account the functions and contributions to be provided by the United Nations, its funds, programmes and agencies and all external partners, including the efforts made to avoid duplication and overlap;

19. Requests the Secretary-General to elaborate, at the sixty-first session of the General Assembly, on the relationship between the Senior Review Group and the proposed senior leadership review group in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations within the context of human resources management;

20. Decides to maintain, for the financial period from 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007, the funding mechanism for the support account used in the current period, from 1 July 2005 to 30 June 2006, as approved in paragraph 3 of its resolution 50/221 B of 7 June 1996;

21. Reaffirms the need for the Secretary-General to ensure that the delegation of authority to the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and field missions is in strict compliance with relevant resolutions and decisions and the relevant rules and procedures of the General Assembly on this matter;

Financial performance report for the period from 1 July 2004 to 30 June 2005

22. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on the financial performance of the support account for peacekeeping operations for the period from 1 July 2004 to 30 June 2005;

Budget estimates for the financial period from 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007

23. Approves the support account requirements in the amount of 183,187,000 dollars for the financial period from 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007, including 734 continuing and 56 new temporary posts and their related post and non-post requirements;

Financing of the budget estimates

24. Decides that the requirements for the support account for peacekeeping operations for the financial period from 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007 shall be financed as follows:

(a) The unencumbered balance of 3,584,800 dollars and other income of 2,121,900 dollars in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2005, to be applied to the resources required for the financial period from 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007;

(b) The amount of 15,804,000 dollars in excess of the authorized level of the Peacekeeping Reserve Fund in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2005, to be applied to the resources required for the financial period from 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007;

(c) The balance of 161,676,300 dollars to be prorated among the budgets of the active peacekeeping operations for the financial period from 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007;

(d) The net estimated staff assessment income of 18,186,100 dollars, comprising the amount of 18,804,200 dollars for the financial period from 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007 and the decrease of 618,100 dollars in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2005, to be set off against the balance referred to in subparagraph (c) above, to be prorated among the budgets of the individual active peacekeeping operations.

Consolidation of peacekeeping accounts

The Secretary-General, among the reform measures contained in his report “Investing in the United Nations: for a stronger Organization worldwide” [A/60/692 & Corr.1], made a number of proposals for improving financial management, including consolidating peacekeeping accounts (see below) and increasing the ceiling for commitment authority (see p. 97).

In the report, the Secretary-General again proposed that peacekeeping accounts for separate field missions be consolidated into a single set of accounts and reports, starting in 2007, to improve cash management and operational flexibility. The issue was last raised in 2003, when the General Assembly requested, in resolution 57/319 [YUN 2003, p. 90], that the Secretary-General submit a comprehensive report on the subject.

In response to the Secretary-General’s report, the Assembly’s 2003 request and its resolution 60/260 of 8 May 2006 (see p. 1576), the Secretary-General, in a 12 May report [A/60/846], elaborated on the proposals put forward in his March report, taking
into consideration guidance provided by ACABQ on 24 March [A/60/735]. Under the proposal related to financial management practices, the Assembly was requested to consolidate the various peacekeeping accounts retroactively, excluding those of the United Nations Emergency Force (UNEF), the United Nations Operation in the Congo (ONUC), the Peacekeeping Reserve Fund and the strategic deployment stocks, effective 1 July 2007. It was also asked to consolidate the individual resolutions on the financing of peacekeeping operations into a single resolution beginning with the 2007-2008 fiscal period, and the various peacekeeping assessments on Member States into two assessments at the beginning and at the halfway point of the peacekeeping fiscal period, also starting with the 2007-2008 period; and approve the de-linking of assessments for peacekeeping operations from the duration of the mandates approved by the Security Council and issue assessments in two separate components, and the consolidation of individual performance reports into a single report that would provide the overall peacekeeping budget level, as well as performance data identifying the budget provisions and expenditures for each individual mission. The Assembly was further asked to apply to the consolidated account the standard practice of utilizing unencumbered balances, interest income and other miscellaneous income to provide the first element of financing of appropriations for the subsequent fiscal period; return to Member States credits available in the accounts of closed missions with cash surpluses; and settle outstanding liabilities in the accounts of closed missions with cash deficits, except for ONUC and UNEF, on the date of consolidation.

An addendum to the report [A/60/846/Add.3] provided further details concerning the Secretary-General’s proposals in terms of the implications, benefits and specific issues to be considered. The proposed consolidation of the separate peacekeeping accounts into a single set of accounts and reports would allow a more consistent and timely reimbursement to troop- and formed police-contributing countries for the effect of consolidation on the reimbursement to troop- and formed police-contributing countries for the duration of the mandates approved by the Security Council and issue assessments in two separate components. The consolidation of peacekeeping accounts would strengthen liquidity and working capital further and permit repayment of the outstanding loan of $12.8 million by the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic.

Annexed to the addendum were mock-ups of a financing resolution, an assessment note and financial statements; an outline of the proposed consolidated performance report; a summary of the changes proposed to the current practice; and a table illustrating the effect of consolidation on the reimbursement to troop- and formed police-contributing countries for 2004 and 2005.

In June [A/60/870], ACABQ said that it was for Member States to decide whether or not the managerial advantages of the consolidation of peacekeeping accounts outweighed the fact that the overall availability of cash would continue to depend on the prompt payment of assessments by Member States. Consideration of the related proposals depended on the decisions the Assembly might take with regard to the consolidation of peacekeeping accounts.

The General Assembly, in section VII of resolution 60/283 of 7 July (see p. 1580), deferred consideration of the consolidation of peacekeeping accounts until the second part of its resumed sixty-first (2007) session.

Commitment authority

The Secretary-General, in his March report “Investing in the United Nations: for a stronger Organization worldwide” [A/60/692 & Corr.1], proposed that the ceiling of the commitment authority granted by the General Assembly for peacekeeping operations be increased from $50 million to $150 million and de-linked from a specified number of Security Council decisions. ACABQ, in its comments and observations on the Secretary-General’s proposals contained in its March report [A/60/735], said that clear and convincing justification was needed before the ceiling of the commitment authority for peacekeeping operations could be considered.

In his May report [A/60/846] elaborating further those proposals, the Secretary-General said that the
scope of the commitment authority granted him by resolution 49/233 A [YUN 1994, p. 1338] was expanded when the Assembly approved, in resolution 59/299 [YUN 2005, p. 145], the inclusion of strategic deployment stocks replenishment within that authority.

In view of the increasing size of new and expanding peacekeeping operations, including complex integrated structures and large military components, and the current practice of including projected expenditures for the replenishment of strategic deployment stocks in the overall estimate of requirements based on a decision of the Security Council relating to the start-up phase or expansion of peacekeeping operations, it was necessary to review the level of commitment authority currently established at a ceiling of $50 million per decision of the Security Council, not to exceed three such decisions. The Secretary-General outlined a proposed model for planning and start-up, including strategic deployment concept and replenishment, including estimated costs of $7.2 million for six months for a dedicated integrated planning team. Details on the composition of the planning team and related costing parameters were provided in an annex to the addendum. The model showed that for a complex mission, the current pre-mandated commitment authority of $50 million was inadequate to cover not only mission planning and start-up as originally conceived, but also complete strategic deployment stocks replenishment, which was critical in ensuring that adequate stocks were available to enable rapid deployment of peacekeeping operations. Under the Secretary-General’s proposal (see above), the pre-mandate commitment authority would be requested based on the individual mission planning requirements, including replenishment of the strategic deployment stocks, up to but not to exceed the level of the Peacekeeping Reserve Fund of $150 million. If the Fund was fully committed and the establishment of a new peacekeeping mission was anticipated, the matter would be brought to the General Assembly for a decision on commitment authority and assessment, in accordance with resolution 49/233 A. The proposal would not require additional funding from Member States, since the existing limit of the Peacekeeping Reserve Fund would be maintained. Governance and oversight arrangements would also remain unchanged.

The Secretary-General requested that the Assembly authorize him, with the prior concurrence of ACABQ, to enter into commitments not to exceed the current authorized level of the Peacekeeping Reserve Fund of $150 million, regardless of the number of Security Council decisions; increase the current delegation of commitment authority to ACABQ to the current authorized level of the Fund; and amend financial regulations 4.6 and 4.8 by replacing in each case the figure of $50 million with $150 million.

In a June report [A/60/870], ACABQ pointed out that the current level of commitment authority was set in 1994 in response to a sharp increase in peacekeeping activities, and it was not clear that the current heightened level of activity would continue. Moreover, commitment authority was decided on an urgent basis for the start-up phase of a mission, and ACABQ did not want to be in a position in which it would agree to a budget and related decisions without the necessary time for proper elaboration and consideration. For those reasons, ACABQ recommended that the current procedures for granting commitment authority be maintained.

The General Assembly, in section VII of resolution 60/283 of 7 July (see p. 1580), deferred consideration of increases in the Peacekeeping Reserve Fund and commitment authority until the second part of its resumed sixty-first (2007) session.

Accounts and auditing

At its resumed sixtieth (2006) session, the General Assembly considered the financial report and audited financial statements for UN peacekeeping operations for 1 July 2004 to 30 June 2005 [A/60/5 (vol. II) & Corr.1], the Secretary-General’s report on the implementation of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors [A/60/691] and the related ACABQ report [A/60/784].

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 30 June [meeting 92], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Fifth Committee [A/60/561/Add.1], adopted resolution 60/234 B without vote [agenda item 121].

Financial reports and audited financial statements, and reports of the Board of Auditors

The General Assembly,
Recalling its resolutions 58/249 B of 18 June 2004, 59/264 B of 22 June 2005 and 60/234 A of 23 December 2005,
Having considered the financial report and audited financial statements for the twelve-month period from 1 July 2004 to 30 June 2005 and the report of the Board of Auditors on the United Nations peacekeeping operations, the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the report of the Board of Auditors on the accounts of the United Nations peacekeeping operations, and the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors concerning the United Nations peacekeeping operations for the period ended 30 June 2005,
1. **Accepts** the audited financial statements on the United Nations peacekeeping operations for the period from 1 July 2004 to 30 June 2005;

2. **Takes note** of the observations and endorses the recommendations contained in the report of the Board of Auditors;

3. **Also takes note** of the observations and endorses the recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions related to the report of the Board of Auditors;

4. **Commends** the Board of Auditors for the quality of its report and the streamlined format thereof;

5. **Takes note** of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors concerning the United Nations peacekeeping operations in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2005;

6. **Requests** the Secretary-General to ensure full implementation of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors and the related recommendations of the Advisory Committee in a prompt and timely manner;

7. **Also requests** the Secretary-General to indicate an expected time frame for the implementation of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors as well as the priorities for their implementation, including the office-holders to be held accountable;

8. **Further requests** the Secretary-General to provide, in the next report on the implementation of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors concerning the United Nations peacekeeping operations, full explanation for the delays in implementation of the recommendations of the Board for the period ended 30 June 2005 or the prior periods.

OIOS audit of standard costs applied to Headquarters overhead

In February [A/60/682], OIOS reported on its audit of the standard costs applied to Headquarters overhead. The audit, conducted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 59/301 [YUN 2005, p. 140], assessed whether the standard cost guidelines for estimating common service costs in New York were applied consistently during budget preparation. The audit covered estimates for facilities and infrastructure, communications, and information technology, totalling $18.3 million, which were included in the budget for the support account for peacekeeping operations for the period from 1 July 2005 to 30 June 2006.

OIOS found that the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (dpko) had not established a policy for maintaining and updating the guidelines, which, in the past, had been adjusted only to reflect cost escalations based on an annual inflation rate of 2.2 per cent; some of the documentation for substantiating the cost structure of the guidelines was not available from the Department; and the guidelines were not applicable to all objects of expenditure. There were also instances in which the guidelines could have been applied but were not. In some of those cases, OIOS noted that the unit costs used by the Peacekeeping Financing Division were more appropriate, as they reflected current actual costs of goods and services.

With respect to costs for facilities and infrastructure, OIOS found that standard costs included in the guidelines needed to be aligned with the corresponding actual costs, and UN space standards were not applied consistently in estimating the costs of renting premises or making alterations and improvements. The Peacekeeping Financing Division did not apply the guidelines with regard to communications costs, establishing the budget instead on the basis of actual departmental expenditures, which, in the view of OIOS, was an effective practice that should be included in the guidelines. With respect to the budget for information technology, OIOS found that the actual cost structure for service-level agreements needed to be aligned with the current costs of services.

OIOS issued 12 recommendations for improving the use of standard costs in preparing the support account for the peacekeeping operations budget and for budget adjustments. It recommended that the Department of Management reassess the relevance of the standard cost guidelines every biennium or when major changes occurred in the way departments operated, and that it formalize its procedures for reviewing the standard cost guidelines. To facilitate budgetary control, the Department should improve its monitoring of the application of standard cost guidelines to the support account for peacekeeping operations. It should ensure that the Office of Central Support Services identified the most efficient space criterion for estimating rental costs, using the average market price, and align the standard costs for utilities, management and other rent-related costs with actual costs. In view of the significant variance between the standard cost per square foot and actual costs of alteration and improvement projects, the Department should revise the standard cost guidelines to include estimates based on justifiable historical expenditures.

OIOS recommended that the Department of Management update the standard cost guidelines to reflect the most current costs paid to the United Nations for furniture and the rental of office equipment and supplies. In updating the guidelines, the Department should estimate the communication costs for each department on the basis of historical expenditures and any other pertinent assumptions, instead of adopting a flat rate for all departments. The Information Technology Services Division
should review the cost structure of service-level agreements to reflect actual costs, and the revised agreements should be included in the guidelines. It should develop a clear policy for determining an efficient printer/desktop ratio; update the costs of acquiring desktop computers, printers and laptop computers set out in the standard cost guidelines whenever new contractual agreements or market conditions required such a change; and estimate and include in the guidelines a provision for spare parts and supplies.

Oios also recommended that the Department of Management revise the current estimates for the support account to reflect the cost estimates made by oios for each category of expenditure reviewed by the audit. The adjustments should result in a net reduction of $970,000 in the proposed support account budget for the period from 1 July 2005 to 30 June 2006.

The Department of Management generally accepted the recommendations issued by oios and would implement them by reviewing and updating the standard costs in the context of preparing the 2006-2007 support account budget.

By decision 60/551 C of 7 July, the Assembly deferred until its sixty-first (2006) session consideration of the oios report.

Results-based budgeting

In response to General Assembly resolution 57/290 B [YUN 2003, p. 83], the Secretary-General, in a March note [A/60/709], transmitted the Joint Inspection Unit (jiu) report entitled “Evaluation of results-based budgeting in peacekeeping operations”. The evaluation was intended to identify and evaluate the critical factors for the successful implementation of results-based management, as a basis for developing a broad management strategy for UN peacekeeping operations, and provide a benchmarking framework for that implementation. The analysis was based on relevant elements of jiu’s results-based management benchmarking framework, which covered the comprehensive implementation of results-based management. Since peacekeeping operations applied results-based budgeting and not results-based management, only some elements of the framework were included in the analysis. As results-based budgeting was a planning process for achieving results through improved strategic management, increased administrative and programme effectiveness and enhanced accountability of programme managers, there was an urgent need to develop further the results approach within peacekeeping operations. Therefore, the current implementation of results-based budgeting should be further developed towards a full implementation of results-based management, which should be applied with flexibility, taking into consideration the uniqueness and specific environment of each peacekeeping operation. The report also analysed the current peacekeeping planning process, and discussed aspects of the human resource management required for a sound implementation of any results-based approach, including accountability, delegation of authority, managerial flexibility and performance management, and all of which needed further development if full implementation were to be achieved.

The report set out nine benchmarks for achieving results-based management in peacekeeping operations. Those benchmarks related to a results-based management conceptual framework as a broad management strategy; the definition of the responsibilities of the main parties of the United Nations; the formulation of long-term objectives for the United Nations and the alignment of UN programmes with long-term objectives and resources; an effective performance monitoring system; the effective use of evaluation findings; the internalization of results-based management throughout the Organization; and the development of a knowledge-management strategy to support results-based management.

jiu recommended that the Assembly, in keeping with resolution 55/231 [YUN 2000, p. 1295], request the Secretary-General to develop feasible measures for implementing results-based management and apply them gradually and fully in peacekeeping operations. He should submit to the relevant organs for consideration and approval a proposal for assisting the Security Council in the adoption of coherent and consistent mandates and objectives for peacekeeping operations and the provision of related resources for their implementation. The Secretary-General’s reports to the Council and Assembly on peacekeeping operations should conform with the principles, methodology and benchmarks of results-based management, in particular with regard to the need for proposing specific, measurable, attainable, relevant and time-bound mandates and objectives. The Assembly should re-examine the recommendations contained in the 2000 report of the Chairman of the Panel on United Nations Peace Operations [YUN 2000, p. 83] and request the Secretary-General to establish the Executive Committee on Peace and Security Information and Strategic Analysis secretariat [ibid., p. 84]. The Secretary-General, as the Chairman of the UN System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (ceb), should lead the preparation of an institutional framework within ceb for UN system involvement in integrated peace
missions and submit it for approval by UN system organizations. He should enforce full integration and coordination within the Secretariat and UN funds and programmes throughout the planning, programming, budgeting, monitoring, evaluation and reporting cycle of the integrated missions by formulating a clear instruction in that regard and designating a leading coordinator department.

Jiu further recommended that the Secretary-General review all aspects of human resources management in peacekeeping operations, with a view to realigning policies, regulations, rules, procedures and practices to the specific needs of the operations in a results-based management framework, and present a revised human resources management policy framework for the Assembly’s consideration and approval at its resumed sixty-first (2007) session. He should review the disparity between the financial and human resources management cycles and recommend ways to harmonize them; and streamline the process of preparation, submission and approval of peacekeeping budgets. The Assembly should call upon internal and external oversight and control bodies to adhere to their advisory and mutually complementary functions in relation to the Assembly and the Secretary-General, and not interfere in the management of peacekeeping operations, and coordinate their oversight and control activities with a view to avoiding overlapping, duplications and potentially contradictory guidance in their coverage of operations.

Further recommendations dealt with the Secretary-General’s report to the Security Council for new integrated missions and the consolidation of progress and performance reports related to results-based budgeting; the procedure for approving future peacekeeping operations; the development of the enterprise budget application by DPKO and the Office of Programme Planning, Budget and Accounts (OPPBA); and the development of a results-based management training module.

In March [A/60/709/Add.1], the Secretary-General, in transmitting his comments on the Jiu report, noted that the application of results-based budgeting in peacekeeping operations had facilitated a greater understanding of the need to focus on the achievement of results.

Reimbursement issues

Methodology for rates of reimbursement to troop-contributing countries

The General Assembly, in resolution 59/298 [YUN 2005, p. 144], requested the Secretary-General to submit a comprehensive report on the rates used to reimburse troop-contributing countries to compensate for the pay and allowances of troops and for supplementary payments for specialists contributing to UN peacekeeping. Based on the information provided, it would also review the daily allowance for troops. The Secretary-General, in a March report on the review of the methodology for rates of reimbursement [A/60/725 & Add.1], proposed a methodology for determining those rates, as well as for adjusting the daily allowance for troops.

Since the establishment of the standard rates of reimbursement for troop-contributing countries by the Assembly in 1974 [YUN 1974, p. 215], they had been reviewed by the Secretariat nine times, and five surveys had been conducted. In 2001 and 2002, the Assembly had approved a 2 per cent increase on an interim and ad hoc basis because of problems with the reliability and validity of the data collected for review. The new methodology for determining the rates proposed by the Secretary-General, which took into account the guidance provided by the Assembly, consisted of four phases that would define the survey process, including survey design, data collection, data analysis and reporting. The survey design phase would cover periodicity, population and modes of dissemination of the survey. The data collection phase would determine the cost components of the survey and the actual questionnaire to be sent to the population, and cover the design of the portfolio of evidence for the collected data. The data analysis phase would define the response rate that would yield representative data on costs of countries contributing troops to peacekeeping, technical details on the calculation of the absorption factor used to analyse the cost data and the presentation (level of aggregation) of the actual rates of reimbursement. The reporting phase would describe how the outcomes of the data analysis would be conveyed to the Assembly, to enable fully informed decisions concerning rates of reimbursement.

Previous reviews had not considered the daily allowance for troops, which was originally intended to cover incidental personal requirements, and which had remained unchanged at the rate of $1.28 since 1974. In the absence of a methodology for conducting a review, the Secretary-General proposed a three-tiered approach. Data and views on the rate would be collected through separate questionnaires to force commanders and randomly selected peacekeepers, and the Secretariat would summarize the data from the surveys and report its findings to the Assembly for further consideration. The proposed questionnaires were contained in the addendum to the report.
The Secretary-General recommended that the Assembly approve: the proposed methodology for the rates of reimbursement, including the proposed questionnaire; the proposed rate of exchange reference for conversion of collected cost data from national currencies to United States dollars; the conduct of the first survey in 2006 and the proposed periodicity of every three years thereafter; and the proposed field questionnaires for collecting data on the daily allowance for troops.

**Contingent-owned equipment**

On 11 January [A/C.5/60/26], the Chairman of the 2004 Working Group on Contingent-Owned Equipment transmitted to the General Assembly the Contingent-Owned Equipment Manual. The Manual, which was distributed in the six official UN languages, would allow Member States to become fully conversant with contingent-owned equipment policy, processes and procedures, ensure a common understanding of those procedures, and improve their effective application.

**Management of peacekeeping assets**

**UN Logistics Base**

The General Assembly, at its resumed sixtieth (2006) session, considered the performance report on the budget of the United Nations Logistics Base (UNLB) at Brindisi, Italy, for the period from 1 July 2004 to 30 June 2005 and implementation of the strategic deployment stocks, including the award of contracts for procurement [A/60/700]. Expenditure for the period totalled $28,184,700 gross ($26,580,000 net) against total apportions of $28,422,000 gross ($26,861,400 net), resulting in an unencumbered balance of $237,300. The Assembly was asked to decide that Member States would waive their respective shares in other income for the period ended 30 June 2005 and from the unencumbered balance, to be applied to meeting current and future UN after-service health insurance liabilities. It was also asked to decide on the treatment of the remaining unencumbered balance.

As recommended by ACABQ in 2004 [YUN 2004, p. 100] and endorsed by the Assembly in resolution 58/297 [ibid., p. 99], the report also contained information on the implementation of the strategic deployment stocks and a summary of the award of strategic deployment stocks procurement contracts for the period from 1 July 2004 to 30 June 2005, during which the strategic deployment stock replenishment expenditure totalled $89,400,800 and assets valued at $106,657,000 were issued to missions.

The Assembly also had before it the proposed budget for UNLB for the period from 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007 [A/60/711] in the amount of $35,621,200, an increase of $4,108,100, or 13 per cent in total resources over the previous twelve-month period, and provided for the deployment of 47 international and 169 national staff. It also included an initiative to relocate the Training Delivery Cell of DPKO’s Integrated Training Service from Headquarters to UNLB and a pilot project to establish a regional aviation safety office at the Base.

In April [A/60/787], ACABQ recommended that the unencumbered balance and other income/adjustments for the period ended 30 June 2005 be credited to Member States in a manner to be determined by the Assembly, and that the Secretary-General’s proposal on the financing of UNLB during the financial period ending 30 June 2007 be approved.

In June [A/C.5/60/31], the Secretary-General submitted to the Fifth Committee a note on the amounts to be appropriated in respect of each peacekeeping mission, including the prorated share of UNLB for the period from 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007.

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION**

On 30 June [meeting 92], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Fifth Committee [A/60/916], adopted resolution 60/267 without vote [agenda item 136].

**Financing of the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy**

*The General Assembly,*

Recalling section XIV of its resolution 49/233 A of 23 December 1994,

Recalling also its decision 50/500 of 17 September 1996 on the financing of the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy, and its subsequent resolutions and decisions thereon, the latest of which was resolution 59/299 of 22 June 2005,

Recalling further its resolution 56/292 of 27 June 2002 concerning the establishment of the strategic deployment stocks and its subsequent resolutions 57/315 of 18 June 2003, 58/297 of 18 June 2004 and 59/299 on the status of the implementation of the strategic deployment stocks,

Having considered the reports of the Secretary-General on the financing of the United Nations Logistics Base and implementation of the strategic deployment stocks, including the award of contracts for procurement, the report of the Secretary-General on the use of the United Nations Logistics Base to provide efficient and economical communications and information technology services, as well as other services, for United Nations peacekeeping and Headquarters clients, the report of the Secretary-General on the cost-benefit analysis on the issue of the transfer of vehicles with high mileage to the United Nations Logistics Base, to other missions and to upcoming
United Nations peacekeeping operations, and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,

Reiterating the importance of establishing an accurate inventory of assets,

1. Notes with appreciation the facilities provided by the Government of Italy to the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy;
2. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on the use of the United Nations Logistics Base to provide efficient and economical communications and information technology services, as well as other services, for United Nations peacekeeping and Headquarters clients, and the report of the Secretary-General on the cost-benefit analysis on the issue of the transfer of vehicles with high mileage to the United Nations Logistics Base, to other missions and to upcoming United Nations peacekeeping operations;
3. Also takes note of the proposals of the Secretary-General for the establishment at the United Nations Logistics Base during the fiscal year 2007/08 of a strategic air operations centre, an aviation quality assurance programme, a central design unit and a geographical information system centre;
4. Endorses the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, and requests the Secretary-General to ensure their full implementation;
5. Recalls paragraph 3 of its resolution 59/299, in which it took note of the proposal to expand the United Nations Logistics Base, and requests the Secretary-General that detailed information on the concept of operations, financial and legal implications and expected benefits that may arise from the expansion be submitted with the budget for 2007/08 to the General Assembly for its decision;
6. Requests the Secretary-General to provide to the General Assembly at its sixty-first session, in the context of the reporting on the Training Delivery Cell, detailed information on the efficiency and effectiveness of all Department of Peacekeeping Operations training programmes to be implemented at the United Nations Logistics Base, drawing a comparison with training programmes provided at other facilities and United Nations offices;
7. Welcomes the establishment of a pilot project for the regional aviation safety office at the United Nations Logistics Base, and requests the Secretary-General to provide, to the extent possible, a preliminary assessment of the pilot project in the next presentation of the budget, and notes that if the concept is applicable it will consider proposals to establish regional aviation safety offices for other peacekeeping missions;
8. Encourages the Secretary-General to ensure the active participation of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations of the Secretariat in the negotiations with the Government of Italy concerning the possible extensions of the facilities at Brindisi;
9. Requests the Secretary-General, in future budget submissions, to report on any proposals to extend the facilities at Brindisi;
10. Also requests the Secretary-General to continue to analyse how the Logistics Base could best be utilized to provide efficient and economical communications and information technology services, as well as other services for United Nations peacekeeping and Headquarters clients, and to ensure that any related proposals contain full justification and detailed cost-benefit analyses;
11. Further requests the Secretary-General to ensure the full implementation of the relevant provisions of General Assembly resolutions 59/296 of 22 June 2005 and 60/266 of 30 June 2006;
12. Reiterates the need to implement, as a matter of priority, an effective inventory management standard, especially in respect of peacekeeping operations involving high inventory value;

Financial performance report for the period from 1 July 2004 to 30 June 2005

13. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on the financial performance of the United Nations Logistics Base for the period from 1 July 2004 to 30 June 2005 and implementation of the strategic deployment stocks, including the award of contracts for procurement;

Budget estimates for the period from 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007

14. Approves the cost estimates for the United Nations Logistics Base amounting to 35,478,700 United States dollars for the period from 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007;

Financing of the budget estimates

15. Decides that the requirements for the United Nations Logistics Base for the period from 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007 shall be financed as follows:
   (a) The unencumbered balance and other income in the total amount of 1,399,200 dollars in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2005 to be applied against the resources required for the period from 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007;
   (b) The balance of 34,079,500 dollars to be prorated among the budgets of the active peacekeeping operations for the period from 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007;
   (c) The net estimated staff assessment income of 2,579,300 dollars, comprising the amount of 2,535,200 dollars for the period from 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007 and the increase of 44,100 dollars in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2005, to be set off against the balance referred to in subparagraph (b) above, to be prorated among the budgets of the individual active peacekeeping operations;
16. Also decides to consider at its sixty-first session the question of the financing of the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy.

In December [A/61/679], the Secretary-General submitted the financial performance report on the UNLB budget for the period from 1 July 2005 to 30 June 2006 and implementation of the strategic de-
ployment stocks, including the award of contracts for procurement. Expenditure for the period totalled $27,527,400 gross ($25,678,300 net) against total apportionments of $31,513,100 gross ($29,280,000 net), resulting in a total unencumbered balance of $3,985,700. Strategic deployment stocks replenishment expenditure totalled $47,831,100, and assets valued at $30,625,600 were issued to missions.

Communications and information technology services

In March [A/60/715], the Secretary-General reported on the use of UNLB to provide efficient and economical communications and information technology services, and other services, for UN peacekeeping and Headquarters clients. In response to General Assembly resolution 59/299 [YUN 2005, p. 145], the Secretariat conducted a review of its peacekeeping operations and identified services that could be provided by UNLB. The report discussed functions proposed for establishment at UNLB for the fiscal years 2006-2007 and 2007-2008. In 2006-2007, a Regional Aviation Safety Office and a Training Delivery Cell were to be established. In the 2007-2008 fiscal year, the significant increase in DPKO's aviation fleet would necessitate the strengthening of the Department's aviation programme for commercially contracted and Government-provided air assets by establishing a Strategic Operations Centre, which would consist of the Strategic Air Operations Centre and the Aviation Quality Assurance Programme. DPKO would also establish a Central Design Unit at UNLB to reduce or eliminate the requirement for engineering skills in missions and standardize designs and drafting of accommodation and other engineering work. The establishment of a Geographical Information System Centre at UNLB would support rapid mission start-up and improve field mission readiness by, among other functions, acquiring/producing base geographical data for mission start-up and planning; providing on-demand geographical analysis and maps, Geographical Information System (GIS) application services and logistics and requisitions support for start-up missions; and deploying a GIS start-up team to provide on-site assistance. The Secretariat continued to expand its operations at UNLB to meet the increasingly complex information needs of field missions and satisfy disaster recovery and business continuity requirements within infrastructure limitations. A centralized data backup system between field missions and UNLB, between UNLB and Headquarters, and vice versa, was in place. Other expansion projects included the centralization of information systems utilizing web technologies, the transfer of critical information and communications technology infrastructure and equipment to a secure and fault-tolerant facility, and an expansion of the video bridge to facilitate secure videoconferencing. DPKO would also establish a secondary active communications facility and a disaster recovery and business continuity centre for information and communications technology.

The report also cited major improvements in the composition of strategic deployment stocks, including increased capacities to support the material requirements of new minimum operating safety standards; increased variety and quantities of fuel equipment to support the rapid deployment of aircraft in remote locations; and the creation of a second fly-away kit to provide the capacity to support multiple rapid deployments of new or expanding peacekeeping operations.

Vehicles and other equipment

In response to General Assembly resolution 59/296 [YUN 2005, p. 133], the Secretary-General, in February [A/60/699], submitted a cost-benefit analysis on the issue of the transfer of high mileage vehicles to UNLB, other missions and upcoming UN peacekeeping operations. DPKO would continue to review the transfer of such vehicles to new and expanding missions, as exceptions and on a case-by-case basis, keeping in view operational needs, the condition of vehicles and the cost-effectiveness of such shipments. In May [A/60/842], responding to Assembly resolution 59/270 [YUN 2004, 1368], the Secretary-General reported on the procedures implemented for the purchase and utilization of vehicles and other equipment by UN field missions. DPKO had greatly enhanced the level of standardization of its vehicle fleet by establishing system contracts for almost all of its vehicle requirements. As a result, about 90 per cent of the vehicle fleet would be sourced from six major manufacturers, with the remaining 10 per cent, including specialized equipment, from 70 different manufacturers. It also established system contracts for spare parts, as well as focal points in each mission to improve information-sharing and inter-mission cooperation on the use and transfer to other missions of excess spare parts.

DPKO reviewed the mission budgets to ensure that mission vehicle holdings were within the established standard ratios, and developed a policy setting limits on the number and price of vehicles for senior mission personnel. It took steps to help minimize vehicle accidents in missions, including the appointment of dangerous goods safety advisers in each mission, and established a system of vehicle rotation to ensure optimal use and maintenance of vehicles.
Air operations

In April [A/60/784], ACABQ, having considered the report of the Board of Auditors on the accounts of UN peacekeeping operations for the period from 1 July 2004 to 30 June 2005 [A/60/5 (Vol. II) & Corr.1], noted that DPKO had moved from the commercial industry approach of block-hours costing for air operations contracts to a costing structure whereby a basic monthly fee was paid, as well as a fee for every hour flown. ACABQ believed that DPKO had sufficient experience with implementing the new costing structure for air operations contracts to be able to undertake a meaningful analysis of its impact, and joined the Board in recommending that the Administration determine whether the change to the new costing structure had resulted in savings or other benefits. It reiterated its recommendation that DPKO continue to explore ways to increase regional management of air assets and recommended that DPKO coordinate with the UN Department of Political Affairs with a view to sharing assets between peacekeeping operations and special political missions.

Improvement of internal controls

In response to General Assembly resolution 59/270 [YUN 2004, p. 1368], the Secretary-General, in May [A/60/843], reported on the improvement of internal controls in management, accounting and reporting of assets of all UN field missions. DPKO prepared a comprehensive Property Management Manual, to be promulgated to all field missions in 2006, standardizing property management practices and providing guidance on day-to-day operational matters. It also issued related policies for standardizing the management, accounting and reporting of UN assets in field missions and annual guidelines for the preparation of financial year-end inventory reports, and monitored their submission from the field. Peacekeeping missions provided a monthly status report on the level of assets pending write-offs and disposal. DPKO completed the implementation of the Galileo Inventory Management System in peacekeeping missions in 2005 to facilitate the management and recording of United Nations–owned property. A Galileo asset disposal module was developed to enhance the utility of the system in the field, which was expected to be fully implemented by the second half of 2006. DPKO conducted training courses on property management for staff at UNLB and at Headquarters. It launched a one-year codification and data integrity project in 2005, which, on its completion in 2006, would improve the global oversight of assets. In response to a request by legislative bodies for a comprehensive review of property management, DPKO was constituting a Property Management Steering Group, which would review cross-cutting property management issues continuously and provide authoritative guidance on those issues.

Restructuring issues

Management audit

In response to General Assembly resolution 59/296 [YUN 2005, p. 133], the Secretary-General, in March [A/60/717], transmitted the OIOS report on the comprehensive management audit of DPKO. The main objectives of the audit were to identify and report on risks and exposures to duplication, fraud and abuse of authority in finance and budgeting; procurement; human resources, including recruitment and training; and information technology.

OIOS concluded that DPKO had made some progress in improving the management of peacekeeping operations. Recent initiatives included the introduction of the integrated mission planning process for new missions; the establishment of strategic deployment stocks, which reduced the time frame for mission start-up; the design and delivery of training programmes for peacekeeping personnel; and a robust response to allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse in field missions. However, those achievements had not kept pace with the challenges of the rapid increase in field operations. DPKO, in cooperation with the UN Department of Management, needed to do more to strengthen internal controls and ensure their enforcement. Inadequate emphasis on establishing a high level of ethical behaviour and accountability had led to a culture of impunity.

In the opinion of OIOS, the control environment in DPKO and the Department of Management was inadequate. OIOS was particularly concerned about the risks and exposures in the area of procurement, where it found a number of cases indicating systematic breaches of UN regulations and rules. One of the root causes of that situation was management’s reluctance to hold staff members accountable for violations of rules and regulations and poor management, which led to an unacceptably high exposure to the risk of fraud and abuse. Appropriate mechanisms needed to be established to ensure managerial accountability at all levels, both at Headquarters and in field missions. OIOS noted that management had initiated an inquiry into the specific cases highlighted in the report to address the issue of accountability.
Oios identified the scope for improving the management of peacekeeping operations, including reorganizing the budget process for efficiency and to eliminate duplication; delegating recruitment authority to field missions concomitant with effective monitoring at Headquarters; optimizing the use of information and communication technology; strengthening the capacity for mission planning and the provision of strategic guidance and direction; improving coordination between DPKO and other UN departments and agencies; and placing greater emphasis on the identification and dissemination of best practices from lessons learned.

The report summarized some of the critical recommendations relating to oios major findings in the areas of procurement, financial management and budgeting, human resources management, information and communication technology, mission planning, substantive operations and best practices.

In the area of procurement, oios recommended that the Secretary-General hold senior management and staff in DPKO and the Department of Management accountable for lapses in internal controls and failure to establish a high level of ethical integrity. Both Departments should jointly review the appointments of chief/director of administration and section chief with fiduciary responsibility to ensure that they had the requisite qualifications and experience. They should address managerial responsibility for the specific instances of waste of resources, poor planning, inflated requirements and losses identified by oios; and reorganize the budget process for peacekeeping operations to eliminating specifically duplication of tasks between the Finance Management and Support Service and the Office of Programme Planning, Budget and Accounts (OPPBA).

Regarding financial management and budgeting, the two Departments should revise the procedures for reviewing the monthly and annual financial statements of missions, so as to eliminate duplication, and assess the resource requirements resulting from such elimination. DPKO should revise the Secretary-General’s bulletin [ST/SGB/2000/9] on the functions and organization of the Department to establish clear lines of authority, responsibility and accountability for the peacekeeping budget process and develop a template for strategic mission planning. The Department of Management should seek the approval of legislative bodies to develop a shorter budgeting model when mission mandates changed or when operational requirements necessitated substantial revision of the budget and study the feasibility of implementing an enterprise resource planning application, which would include a budgeting module.

As to human resources management, oios recommended that the Department of Management conduct an objective assessment of the success of the delegation of authority of human resources management to DPKO. OHRM should establish a human resources action plan with each field mission to better manage the missions’ human resources. DPKO should complete its succession planning strategy to fill vacancies in a timely manner and ensure that the appointment of field staff adhered to the principles in Article 101 of the Charter; reassign roster management responsibilities to a team independent of recruitment and placement functions; and develop separate training programmes for its core functions and for staff development.

In the area of information and communication technology (ICT), DPKO should finalize its information management strategy; establish a function dedicated to the development and enforcement of ICT security standards and procedures and the monitoring of compliance therewith; and develop standard telephone billing and accounting procedures.

Regarding mission planning, oios recommended that DPKO expedite the development of strategic guidance, policies and standard operating procedures for the system-wide implementation of the integrated mission planning process; establish a dedicated planning cell with staff at Headquarters to lead, coordinate and monitor the process; appoint senior leaders of a new mission early to ensure their involvement at the initial stage of planning; and integrate the results-based budgeting requirements into the process.

Oios also recommended that DPKO should develop a framework for cooperation and a clear division of labour with UN departments and agencies on substantive programmes. It should develop adequate institutional capacity at Headquarters for policy advice and the monitoring and evaluation of human rights, the rule of law, civil affairs and protection of civilians in peacekeeping missions; strengthen coordination between the Peacekeeping Best Practices Section and the Office of Operations for monitoring the implementation of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme plans; and institutionalize compliance with the International Mine Action Standards by troop-contributing countries. Oios further recommended that DPKO ensure that the Peacekeeping Best Practices Section focused its activities on its core functions, and review the responsibilities of the Director of Change Management to address overlap in that Section.

In all, oios made 158 recommendations, including 105 considered to be critical, in the seven audit reports that were issued to DPKO and the Departments
of Management and Political Affairs. Of those, 133 recommendations were accepted by the departments concerned, most of which were being implemented. Oios reiterated 25 unaccepted recommendations for reconsideration by those departments.

By decision 60/551 C of 7 July, the Assembly deferred until its sixty-first (2006) session consideration of the oios report.

Review of management structure

In response to General Assembly decision 59/507 [YUN 2004, p. 94], the Secretary-General submitted a May note [A/60/856] on the review of the management structure of all peacekeeping operations. The management structure and the levels of posts were reviewed in the context of the preparation of the 2006-2007 budget submissions of individual missions. In addition, an extensive external management review was conducted of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC). The results of the reviews were reflected in the 2006-2007 budget proposals.

The mission reviews yielded two significant findings. Firstly, while the mandate, complexity and operational environment of individual missions were unique, the types of activities performed were fairly consistent across multidimensional missions, suggesting that there were basic building blocks from which missions were constructed and models and standards could be created. Secondly, existing organizational design tools for stable headquarters operations were dated. The development and implementation of field-relevant model mission structures, benchmarks and standards would build on the ongoing analysis of existing structures and identified norms.

Work on the review continued as part of a broader DPKO initiative to better position itself, both at Headquarters and in the field, to meet future peacekeeping challenges. The initiative comprised two parallel exercises: to benchmark the functions performed in, and post requirements for, multidimensional peacekeeping operations; and to develop standard organizational models that would enable senior leadership to focus on achieving mandates, ensure manageable spans of control, clarify reporting lines and promote coordination and communication. As the review was still in progress, the Secretariat was unable to submit the completed report on the review for consideration at the second part of the resumed sixtieth (2006) session. It was expected that the report would be submitted for consideration by the Assembly at its sixty-first (2006) session.

Personnel matters

Discipline in field missions

In March [A/60/713], Oios reported on its global review of discipline in field missions led by DPKO. The objective of the review, which was conducted at the request of the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, was to assist DPKO senior management in strengthening UN standards of conduct and ensuring full compliance. Towards that end, Oios assessed the state of discipline in field missions, identified gaps in relevant policies and procedures, and identified tools the missions needed to maintain good order and adherence to the UN standards of conduct. Based on the reviews, Oios issued 19 individual reports to management in the field recommending corrective actions.

In recent years, a sharp increase in the number of reported cases of serious misconduct, especially sexual exploitation and abuse, highlighted the overall issue of discipline in peacekeeping and other field missions. In 2003 and 2004, the Oios Investigations Division received 1,182 cases of various types of misconduct and violations of UN rules and regulations, including sexual exploitation and abuse. Oios findings with regard to the general subject of discipline were generally in line with those contained in the 2005 report of the Secretary-General’s Adviser on Sexual Exploitation and Abuse by United Nations Peacekeeping Personnel [YUN 2005, p. 119]. (For further information on sexual exploitation and abuse in UN peacekeeping operations, see p. 77.)

Oios found that indiscipline existed to varying degrees in all missions, but the inadequacy of records and their inconsistency with Headquarters data made it impossible to determine precisely the extent of the problem. Headquarters guidance was inadequate in terms of policies, procedures and guidelines; enforcement of policies and procedures at Headquarters and in the field was poor; and resources and skills were insufficient to prevent misconduct and to enforce the Organization’s standards of conduct. Management efforts to address the problem were made mainly in reaction to events and negative publicity, were inconsistent across missions, and had only recently been undertaken. Accordingly, deep-rooted and long-standing indiscipline issues had not been addressed adequately. Overall, the review showed that monitoring the conduct of peacekeepers could no longer be addressed in an ad hoc manner, and peacekeepers clearly required sustained, methodical vigilance, through an institutionalized, full-time professional capacity at Headquarters and in the field.
The report discussed major findings related to management responsibilities, duties and accountability; policies, directives and guidelines; the handling and recording of complaints; coordination and information-sharing; and misconduct prevention programmes.

Oïlos issued 28 recommendations to address the issues discussed in the report and to improve the state of discipline in field missions. It recommended that Dpko establish a full-time capacity at Headquarters and in the missions to address misconduct issues; establish procedures and guidelines and ensure their consistent application; and develop and implement prevention programmes and data tracking to ensure that personnel acted under the highest standards of efficiency, competence and integrity, as required by the Charter of the United Nations. Dpko should create, under the aegis of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations, a joint committee or working group to monitor the conduct of peacekeepers and the enforcement of disciplinary mechanisms and accountability in the field; and ensure that senior managers and commanders led by example. The Department should ensure the consistent and fair application of the Organization’s disciplinary mechanism across all categories and levels of peacekeeping personnel; establish procedures to include the implementation of measures to address misconduct in the field, especially sexual exploitation and abuse, in the performance goals of civilian managers and civilian police managers in their performance evaluations; and establish criteria to evaluate the performance of uniformed managers and contingent commanders in preventing sexual exploitation and abuse. It should also prepare a report for the General Assembly recommending the mandatory adoption of the standards of conduct contained in the Secretary-General’s 2003 bulletin [ST/SGB/2003/13] [YUN 2004, p. 107] and the Dpko publications “Ten Rules: Code of Personal Conduct for Blue Helmets” and “We Are United Nations Peacekeepers”. Dpko should also establish a policy on the maintenance and retention of records concerning misconduct cases; develop a comprehensive code of ethics specific to procurement staff, and require all Headquarters and field procurement staff, and members of the Headquarters Committee on Contracts and the local Committee on Contracts to acknowledge in writing annually that they had read and understood the code; include a provision on preventing sexual exploitation and abuse cases in new contracts; and require existing and new contractors to certify in writing that they would comply with the provisions of the Secretary-General’s bulletin. Dpko should develop a standardized, comprehensive data tracking system to enable senior management to obtain information on the number and type of allegations and the status of follow-up action or investigations, and ensure that those found culpable of serious misconduct were not rehired; develop formal procedures for receiving, handling and monitoring complaints; and establish formal coordination mechanisms for improving information-sharing and coordination of misconduct investigations.

Oïlos recommended that Dpko ensure that training programmes on the UN standards of conduct for all categories and levels of peacekeeping personnel were instituted prior to deployment and during the mission assignment, and provide additional training to senior managers in the missions, up to the level of head of mission. It should include the discipline risk assessment in the pre-mandate assessment for each mission, pre-deployment assessments of uniformed personnel and any ongoing evaluations during the life of the mission, and direct the missions to conduct an ongoing, regular risk assessment exercise. It should provide guidance to missions on enforcing UN standards of conduct; be more proactive in instituting measures to ease living conditions in the missions; and ensure that missions identified the reasons for the dissatisfaction of UN staff members and volunteers, particularly women, along with the state of discipline in the field and the missions’ ability to address conduct and discipline issues.

Oïlos recommended that the UN Office of Human Resources Management compile existing policies, regulations and rules on misconduct in a more user-friendly form, and assist Dpko in providing guidelines to managers in the field on how to address misconduct based on lessons learned and frequently asked questions. It should develop practical guidance on how to implement the Secretary-General’s 2003 bulletin [ST/SGB/2003/13], expedite the finalization and implementation of policies and procedures dealing with the protection of whistle-blowers among UN staff members and develop consistent policies for their protection. In consultation with the UN Office of Legal Affairs, Dpko should determine what disciplinary regime applied to formed police units and whether they should be accorded a status similar to that of troops deployed under the memorandum of understanding with troop-contributing countries or regular civilian police officers hired under individual secondment contracts.

Dpko and Ohrm accepted the recommendations and had started to implement most of them.

By decision 60/551 C of 7 July, the Assembly deferred until its sixty-first (2006) session consideration of the oïlos report.
Criminal accountability of UN staff and experts on mission

In response to General Assembly resolution 59/300 [YUN 2005, p. 122], the Secretary-General established a Group of Legal Experts to prepare a report on how to ensure that UN staff and experts on mission would never be effectively exempt from the consequences of criminal acts committed at their duty station, nor unjustly penalized. In August [A/60/980], the Secretary-General transmitted the Group’s report, which discussed accountability with regard to criminal conduct and misconduct; the jurisdiction of the host State, of States other than the host State, and of an international court or tribunal; and investigations. Annexed to the report were the Group’s terms of reference and a draft convention on the criminal accountability of UN officials and experts on mission.

Among its recommendations for overcoming the obstacles in holding UN peacekeeping personnel accountable for crimes committed during peacekeeping operations, the Group proposed that the United Nations give priority to facilitating the exercise of jurisdiction by the host State, and should not assume that the host State was unable to exercise jurisdiction merely because a peacekeeping operation was conducted in a post-conflict area. If the host State was unable, even with UN assistance, to exercise all aspects of criminal jurisdiction, other States would need to be relied on to do so. However, even in those circumstances, the host State might be able to provide some assistance to enable the exercise of criminal jurisdiction by another State, including by gathering evidence or arresting alleged offenders. Jurisdiction was not an indivisible concept and the host State and other States might be involved in different but mutually supportive aspects of the overall exercise of criminal jurisdiction.

Nevertheless, the exercise of jurisdiction by States other than the host State presented many challenges that were not unique to the peacekeeping environment, including the extradition of persons and securing admissible evidence for use in another jurisdiction. To provide a sound legal basis for the exercise of jurisdiction by States other than the host State, the Group recommended the development of a new international convention to address jurisdiction and related issues. Administrative investigations conducted by the United Nations for disciplinary purposes might be relevant to holding a person criminally accountable, as they might be the only means of gathering evidence of an alleged crime; therefore, UN administrative investigators needed to be cognizant of the fact that the material they collected might be used to support not only disciplinary action but also criminal proceedings. The Group also made recommendations for ensuring that administrative investigations were carried out to the highest possible standard.

The Group, in acknowledging the steps taken by the United Nations to ensure that departments adopted a cooperative and coordinated approach to dealing with misconduct issues, said there needed to be clearer guidelines about the role of oios and its relationship with other departments, in particular DPKO and peacekeeping missions.

By decision 60/563 of 8 September, the General Assembly postponed consideration of the Group’s report until the Assembly’s sixty-first (2006) session to avail the Sixth (Legal) Committee of the opportunity to consider the report at that session.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 4 December [meeting 64], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Sixth (Legal) Committee [A/61/450], adopted resolution 61/29 without vote [agenda item 33].

Criminal accountability of United Nations officials and experts on mission

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 59/281 of 29 March 2005, in which it endorsed the recommendation in paragraph 56 of the report of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations that the Secretary-General make available to the United Nations membership a comprehensive report on the issue of sexual exploitation and abuse in United Nations peacekeeping operations,

Noting that the Secretary-General, on 24 March 2005, transmitted to the President of the General Assembly a report of his Adviser concerning sexual exploitation and abuse by United Nations peacekeeping personnel,

Recalling its resolution 59/300 of 22 June 2005 endorsing the recommendation of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations that a group of legal experts be established to provide advice on the best way to proceed so as to ensure that the original intent of the Charter of the United Nations can be achieved, namely that United Nations staff and experts on mission would never be effectively exempt from the consequences of criminal acts committed at their duty station, nor unjustly penalized, in accordance with due process,

Noting the report of the Group of Legal Experts established by the Secretary-General pursuant to resolution 59/300,

Convinced of the need for the United Nations to take strong and effective steps in this regard,

1. Decides to establish an Ad Hoc Committee, open to all States Members of the United Nations or members of specialized agencies or of the International Atomic Energy Agency, for the purpose of considering the report of the Group of Legal Experts, in particular its legal aspects;
2. Decides also that the Ad Hoc Committee shall meet from 9 to 13 April 2007;
3. Requests the Secretary-General to provide the Ad Hoc Committee with the necessary facilities for the performance of its work;
4. Requests the Ad Hoc Committee to report on its work to the General Assembly at its sixty-second session;
5. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-second session the item entitled “Criminal accountability of United Nations officials and experts on mission”.

Peacekeeping standards and norms of conduct

In response to General Assembly resolution 59/300 [YUN 2005, p. 122], the Secretary-General established a Group of Legal Experts with two distinct terms of reference. Under the first term of reference, the Group was tasked with providing advice on how the standards contained in the Secretary-General’s 2003 bulletin [YUN 2004, p. 107] on special measures for protection from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse [ST/SGB/2003/13] could bind contingent members in the period prior to the conclusion of a memorandum of understanding or other agreement or action by a troop-contributing country that incorporated those standards in a legally effective way under its national laws. Under the second term of reference, the Group was to propose ways of standardizing the norms of conduct applicable to all categories of peacekeeping personnel, paying particular attention to sexual exploitation and abuse. The Secretary-General transmitted the Group’s report on 18 December [A/61/645].

The Group considered the process for deploying personnel from a troop-contributing country and identified a number of ways by which such a country could be obliged in international law to ensure that allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse by members of its contingent could be investigated properly and, if substantiated, punished. The Group also considered the roles of heads of mission, Force Commanders, Security Council resolutions and troop-contributing countries themselves. It noted that, even if a troop-contributing country was under an international law obligation, the United Nations might still be unable to compel it to take the necessary action under its domestic law to ensure that members of its national contingent were bound by the 2003 bulletin. It was for each troop-contributing country to act in accordance with its national legal system to ensure that the conduct proscribed by that bulletin was punishable in accordance with its laws.

Since a formal invitation was usually sent by the United Nations to potential troop-contributing countries in the form of a note, following the adoption of the Security Council resolution authorizing the peacekeeping operation, the Group recommended that DPKO consider including in the note a statement that the contribution of a national contingent was based on the understanding that the country would take action to ensure that its members observed the standards contained in the 2003 bulletin and take measures under its national law to ensure that allegations against its personnel of sexual exploitation and abuse were properly investigated and, if substantiated, punished; or that the general administrative arrangements applicable to the contribution were those set out in the guidelines for the peacekeeping operation, which should require troop-contributing countries to prohibit sexual exploitation and abuse. The pre-deployment visit should be used to ascertain whether and how the troop-contributing country intended to ensure that its members observed the standards of conduct set out in the 2003 bulletin, and the practice of including in Security Council resolutions authorizing or extending peacekeeping mandates a call on the Secretary-General to take all necessary action to give effect to the bulletin should be retained. To reinforce the importance of the UN zero-tolerance policy on sexual exploitation and abuse, the Directive to the Force Commander should include a specific reference to the need to ensure compliance with the bulletin, and heads of mission and/or Force Commanders should issue directives prohibiting the conduct set out in the bulletin and requiring contingent commanders to disseminate them and ensure compliance. Troop-contributing countries should consider taking formal legislative action to ensure that, where acts prohibited by the 2003 bulletin amounted to crimes under their national law, those laws were applied to crimes committed abroad by members of their national contingent. DPKO should reinstate the practice of receiving assurances from participating States on the exercise of criminal jurisdiction in accordance with the status-of-forces agreement, and from troop-contributing countries that commands were issued in a manner binding under their military and/or criminal justice system either proscribing the conduct set out in the 2003 bulletin and/or giving effect to the Force Commander’s directives that related to the bulletin.

Under its second term of reference, the Group reviewed instruments that set out the norms of conduct for peacekeeping personnel, and found that the same basic norms were generally applicable to all categories of peacekeeping personnel. Differences resulted largely from mission-specific rules and rules for different categories of peacekeeping personnel that could not apply readily to other categories. The analysis also showed that different
categories of peacekeeping personnel were subject to different consequences for failure to comply with the norms of conduct. As the different categories of peacekeeping personnel served the United Nations under different terms and conditions and performed different functions, having a single set of norms was neither practical nor necessary; however, there might be specific issues that were of significance to the United Nations, including that of sexual exploitation and abuse, where a common set of norms were justified. The Group recommended that consideration should continue to be given to applying the same norms of conduct to all categories of peacekeeping personnel in relation to such issues.

Some basic norms of conduct were set out in two pocket guides: “We Are United Nations Peacekeepers” and “Ten Rules: Code of Personal Conduct for Blue Helmets”. However, there was no convenient guide that summarized the basic norms for all categories of peacekeeping personnel. The Group considered that there was merit in having such a guide and identified two options for doing so. The first and simplest option was to amend “We Are United Nations Peacekeepers” to make it applicable to all categories of peacekeeping personnel; a draft of the amended document, entitled “We Are United Nations Peacekeeping Personnel”, was annexed to the report. The second option was to replace both of the pocket guides with a new one setting out the basic norms of conduct that were common to all categories of peacekeeping personnel; a draft of such a guide, drawn from instruments that already applied and bound peacekeeping personnel, was also annexed to the report. Each option standardized the conduct proscribed by the 2003 bulletin. The decision as to whether either option was pursued and what should be included in such a document were matters of policy to be addressed by DPKO in consultation with relevant stakeholders.

**Staffing of field missions**

As requested by the General Assembly in resolution 59/296 [YUN 2005, p. 133], the Secretary-General reported in February [A/60/698 & Corr. 1, 2] on the staffing of field missions, including the use of 300- and 100-series appointments. As a follow-up to his 2005 report on the subject [YUN 2005, p. 150], the February report provided information on the reappointment of mission staff under 300- to 100-series contracts after reaching the four-year limit of their 300-series contracts.

As at 30 June, 482 international staff would have reached four years of service under 300-series appointments of limited duration and were considered for reappointment under a 100-series contract, in accordance with the criteria set out in section VIII of resolution 59/296 [Ibid., p. 135]. As a result of the review, 403 staff members met the criteria set out in resolution 59/296, and 21 did not. The reappointment of 58 staff members was still being reviewed.

As part of his effort to standardize contractual arrangements, the Secretary-General noted that, given the growth in demand in peacekeeping, with mission staff accounting for over half of the total staff of the global secretariat at the end of 2005, some 45 per cent of which served under appointments of limited duration in difficult and often dangerous duty stations with inferior conditions of service, the concept of the appointment of limited duration no longer met peacekeeping needs. It did not provide competitive compensation or job security to attract and retain the skilled experts, or the leaders and managers needed in larger, multidimensional missions, nor did it allow the Organization to develop and capitalize on the talents of mission staff. Pending the Assembly’s consideration of the Secretary-General’s proposals on human resources management reform at its sixty-first (2006) session (see p. 1689), the Secretariat sought approval to continue the practice of reappointing serving staff under 100-series contracts on a case-by-case basis, provided the criteria set out in section VIII of resolution 59/296 were met.

In May [A/60/851], ACABQ reported that following an in-depth discussion with the representatives of the Secretary-General on the status of the various reports related to the staffing of field missions, the Secretariat modified the proposal contained in the Secretary-General’s February report, requesting instead that consideration of the recommendation to use the 100-series contract for the appointment of all mission staff be deferred, and as an interim measure, the Secretary-General be authorized to continue the practice of reappointing staff under a 100-series appointment after completing four years on a 300-series contract, subject to the conditions specified in section X of Assembly resolution 59/266 [YUN 2004, p. 1418], and section VIII of resolution 59/296. ACABQ was informed that the International Civil Service Commission (icsc), at its sixty-second session (Vienna, 13-31 March), took up the question of contractual instruments available to common system field staff, pursuant to section X of resolution 59/266, and that the Secretary-General intended to provide further views on the subject to icsc at its sixty-third session (New York, 10-28 July). Pending the outcome of those deliberations and consideration of the relevant reports of the Secretary-General, ACABQ recommended that the modified measures requested by the Secretariat be authorized.