Americas

During 2006, the United Nations continued to advance the cause of lasting peace, human rights, sustainable development and the rule of law in the Americas. In Guatemala, following the 2005 establishment of a joint UN office for monitoring and reporting human rights in the country, the Government and the United Nations signed, in December 2006, an agreement to create an International Commission against Impunity in Guatemala.

Although the political and security situation in Haiti remained challenging, significant progress was made in the democratic process, with the holding of successful national, municipal and local elections. With the support of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) and the Organization of American States (OAS), presidential and legislative elections were held in February and April, and municipal and local elections in December, in a relatively calm manner. The new Government launched its long-term agenda for the modernization of the State and economic rebirth, as well as plans for improving living conditions in Haiti and reforming the Haitian National Police (HNP). In response to a request by the President for development support, a high-level delegation from the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) visited Haiti and discussed prospects for the full integration of the country into that organization, including the common market. Despite the political progress achieved, the security situation in the country remained precarious. Demonstrations, outbreaks of violence and attacks by armed groups, particularly against MINUSTAH and HNP continued, and in some areas, increased. The Mission's mandate was expanded to accommodate its post-electoral role in Haiti, which related to HNP reform, ensuring a safe and stable environment and strengthening State institutions. In November, the HNP started the vetting process to assess the professional skills and disciplinary background of police officers. MINUSTAH supported the training and institutional development of the police. By year's end, some 10,650 HNP officers and civilian employees had been registered within a UN police database, which would also serve HNP.

In other developments in the region, the General Assembly again called on States to refrain from promulgating laws and measures, such as the ongoing embargo against Cuba by the United States. The Assembly also considered activities undertaken by the United Nations to strengthen cooperation with CARICOM and OAS.

Central America

In 2006, Central America continued to consolidate peace and build democratic and equitable societies upon the foundation developed in years of successful UN peacemaking efforts. In support of those efforts, the United Nations continued to assist the region through development programming, the good offices of the Secretary-General and other means.

In September (meeting 17), the Nicaraguan Minister for Foreign Affairs, in briefing the General Assembly on the situation of the country, indicated that Nicaragua was experiencing a new political, economic and social reality. It envisaged the establishment of a Central American customs union, as well as an association agreement between the European Union and Central America, which would include a free trade agreement. On 5 November, in general elections held in Nicaragua, Daniel Ortega of the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN) was elected President for a five-year term.

Two years after the ending of the mandate of the United Nations Verification Mission in Guatemala (MINUGA) in 2004 [YUN 2004, p. 287], the country continued to build upon the foundation developed in previous years. Following the establishment of a joint UN office for monitoring and reporting human rights in Guatemala, and pursuant to the Secretary-General's 2005 recommendation that the issue of impunity should be addressed as it related to illegal security forces and other clandestine organizations [YUN 2005, p. 375], the Government and the United Nations signed an agreement in December to create an International Commission against Impunity in Guatemala (see p. 870).

The Assembly, by decision 61/552 of 22 December, decided that the item “The situation in Central America: progress in fashioning a region of peace, freedom, democracy and development” would remain for consideration during its resumed sixty-first (2007) session.
Communications. On 24 April [A/60/820-S/2006/265], Panama transmitted to the Secretary-General, the “Panama Declaration”, adopted by Colombia, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama at the Ministerial Conference on International Cooperation against Terrorism and Transnational Organized Crime (Panama City, Panama, 4-7 April) (see p. 73).

On 30 August [A/61/343], the Dominican Republic transmitted to the General Assembly a Declaration adopted as the outcome document of the Regional Consultation on Migration, Remittances and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (Dominican Republic, 27-28 July), which brought together 75 representatives from 13 countries in the region.

Cuba, on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement, transmitted to the Secretary-General, on 19 September [A/61/472-S/2006/780], documents adopted at the Fourteenth Conference of Heads of State or Government of the Non-Aligned Movement (Havana, Cuba, 11-16 September), which summarized political issues concerning Latin America and the Caribbean, and stressed the need for action by the international community to declare the Caribbean Sea as a “special area” for sustainable development.

Haiti

During 2006, although the political and security situation in Haiti remained challenging, significant progress was made in the democratic process, with the completion of the electoral calendar and installation of a new Government. In January, the Transitional Authorities announced the postponement of the elections due to logistical and technical difficulties. However, with the support of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) and the Organization of American States (OAS), national elections were held in February, and local and municipal elections in December—the first such elections in ten years. The incoming administration promulgated President René Préval’s recovery plan, the Programme d’apaisement social, to improve living conditions in Haiti in the short term. In August, a plan for the reform of the Haitian National Police (HNP) was adopted by the Government. In response to the President’s request for development support, a high-level delegation from the Caribbean Community and Common Market (CARICOM) visited Haiti and discussed with Haitian authorities prospects for the full integration of the country into the organization, as well as the possibility of opening a CARICOM office in Port-au-Prince. Although the security situation remained stable and calm, demonstrations and sporadic violence by armed groups continued, and in some areas, attacks against MINUSTAH and the HNP increased, resulting in fatalities. MINUSTAH mandate was expanded to accommodate its post-electoral role in Haiti relating to HNP reform, modernization of the State and ensuring a safe and stable environment to facilitate economic reactivation. In November, HNP started a vetting process, utilizing MINUSTAH expertise, to assess the professional skills and disciplinary background of police officers. MINUSTAH also supported the training and institutional development of the police. By year’s end, some 10,650 HNP officers and civilian employees had been registered. In addition to providing security support, MINUSTAH monitored the human rights situation, provided humanitarian assistance and coordinated its activities with regional organizations.

Political and security situation

National dialogue and electoral process

Haitian authorities and MINUSTAH continued to focus their efforts on organizing credible and timely elections. On 7 January, a new electoral calendar established by presidential decree scheduled the first round of national elections to be held on 7 February; the second round on 19 March; the swearing in of the new President on 29 March; and the holding of municipal and local elections on 30 April. Prime Minister Gérard Latortue had previously announced that, while his Government would formally resign on 7 February, it would carry out ongoing business until the new Government took office. The Secretary-General said that the postponement underlined the degree to which preparations for the elections continued to be complicated by a politically and technically fragile decision-making process in Haiti.

SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION

On 6 January [meeting 5343], following consultations among Security Council members, the President made statement S/PRST/2006/1 on behalf of the Council:

The Security Council reiterates its full support for the work of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Haiti, Mr. Juan Gabriel Valdés.

The Council reiterates that the future holding of elections is a fundamental step towards the restoration of democracy and stability in Haiti. The Council takes
note with concern of the new postponement of the elections in Haiti and, in this regard, trusts that the delay in the electoral calendar will enable the resolution of logistical and technical problems in order to ensure transparent, inclusive, free and fair elections.

The Council urges the Transitional Government of Haiti and the Provisional Electoral Council to expeditiously announce new and definitive dates for the elections, the first round to be held within weeks, but no later than 7 February 2006, and to ensure that the elections take place in accordance with international democratic standards and under conditions conducive to the widest possible participation. The Security Council calls upon all relevant international stakeholders to continue to collaborate closely with the Transitional Government and other national authorities in this endeavour. The revised electoral calendar and corresponding budget should be realistic and comprehensive, and should encompass national, municipal and local elections.

The Council reaffirms that security remains an essential element for the holding of free and equitable elections. The Council expresses its concern over the deterioration of security conditions in Port-au-Prince and urges the Haitian National Police and the Mission to continue their efforts to further intensify their cooperation to improve the security situation in order to restore and maintain the rule of law. In this regard, the Council pays tribute to those Mission peacekeepers that have been killed or injured in the line of duty.

The Council is of the view that, after the elections, a period of fundamental importance for long-term stability will follow. National reconciliation and political dialogue should continue to be promoted as a means to ensure long-term stability and good governance.

The Council reaffirms that open and credible elections, based on ownership by the Haitian people, are paramount to the consolidation of democratic institutions and procedures, but it recognizes at the same time that they do not constitute the sole means to address the longer-term problems that Haiti faces in the security sector and in the restoration of the rule of law, both of which are critical to stability and sustainable development. The Council welcomes, accordingly, the decision taken by the donor community to extend the Interim Cooperation Framework until December 2007 in order to assist the new elected Government to continue reconstruction efforts. The Council reaffirms that short-, medium- and long-term strategies, within a unified framework, are needed to ensure coordination and continuity in the international assistance to Haiti.

Statement by Secretary-General. In a 7 January press statement [SG/SM/10296], the Secretary-General said that he was saddened to learn of the death of Lieutenant General Urano Teixeira da Matta Bacellar (Brazil), MINUSTAH Force Commander, who had been found dead in his accommodations that morning. He indicated that a full investigation was being conducted.

Report of Secretary-General (February). In his February report on MINUSTAH [S/2006/60], the Secretary-General said that technical and logistical arrangements for the elections had progressed with the support of MINUSTAH and the Organization of American States (OAS), which played a lead role in the voter registration process. By the end of January, over 80 per cent of national identity cards had been distributed, nearly all voting centre supervisors recruited and polling workers identified. Remaining tasks included the training of poll workers, relocation of some voting centres; the resolution of technical problems; and preparations for municipal and local elections, which involved some 9,000 positions and a ballot printing process encompassing 700 districts.

Additional funding would be required for holding the elections, as delays, the need for more rapid execution to compensate for them, and technical limitations on the ground had led to an increase in the budget, which totalled $73.2 million, some $12.4 million over the original figure.

The overall security environment in most of the country remained stable. Progress was made in the Capital, Port-au-Prince, including the Bel-Air district, where there had been problems previously. Nevertheless, the security situation had worsened in other parts of the capital, such as Cité Soleil, where gangs remained active and continued to attack peacekeepers. The Secretary-General observed that, while MINUSTAH authorized strength was adequate to maintain basic security, stability during the elections could be enhanced if one or more Member States backed up MINUSTAH capabilities. In the interim, specialized military engineering equipment was being sought for security operations in Cité Soleil.

Emphasis was placed on the reform and restructuring of HNP, which continued to be inhibited by professional, technical and logistical shortcomings. Demonstrations staged against HNP Director General Mario Andrésol and the vandalizing of MINUSTAH vehicles exemplified the potential for resistance to HNP reform efforts. Joint bodies, such as a MINUSTAH/HNP steering committee to oversee progress in reform implementation, and MINUSTAH/HNP planning teams, were established. To provide a basis for a comprehensive reform process, MINUSTAH worked with HNP to register current officers. By the end of January, 4,492 national police officers and staff had been registered. A certification programme was also envisaged to promote HNP reform, whereby MINUSTAH would issue provisional certification for individual HNP officers and units. The certification, which would
be valid for one year, would be renewed based on their observance of standards of conduct and satisfactory results from the vetting process. Haitian authorities would implement MINUSTAH recommendations, remain responsible for all personnel decisions and ensure that uncertified individuals did not serve in HNP. The process would terminate upon final certification of all HNP personnel and when the institution no longer required ongoing monitoring.

The Secretary-General stressed that HNP reform should be reinforced by efforts to improve the judicial system. A MINUSTAH review of the justice and corrections systems revealed a number of serious weaknesses, such as non-conformance with international standards; corruption at all levels of the legal system; prolonged and arbitrary detentions; and inadequate infrastructure to accommodate the increasing number of detainees, posing security and human rights concerns. The Secretary-General said that an extended programme of international assistance would be required to enhance the professional capacity of the judicial system. He recommended the incorporation of appropriately qualified experts within MINUSTAH, who would serve as a professional resource for judicial actors in the offices of the prosecutor, investigating magistrates and trial judges.

The Secretary-General concluded that significant progress had been made toward laying the basis for an inclusive democratic transition, but Haitian authorities had to complete the remaining preparations to support free, fair and transparent elections. MINUSTAH would redouble efforts to curb criminality and violence in the country, particularly in the capital, at a time when perceptions of insecurity could have an impact on public confidence.

The Secretary-General emphasized that the success of the new administration would depend on continued long-term international institution- and capacity-building assistance, in addition to enhanced security, to contribute to stability and facilitate economic and social development. As the registration of HNP officers would be completed in the coming months, intensified HNP reform efforts might involve demands beyond minustah’s current capacity, particularly in providing technical assistance for strengthening rule-of-law institutions and policy-level advice to related ministries. He recommended that the Mission be extended for a six-month interim period to allow for further consultation and assessment regarding MINUSTAH role in the post-electoral environment, for which recommendations would be presented to the Security Council.

SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION


The Security Council,
Reaffirming its previous resolutions on Haiti, in particular resolutions 1542(2004) of 30 April 2004, 1576(2004) of 29 November 2004 and 1608(2005) of 22 June 2005, as well as the relevant statements by its President,
Reaffirming its strong commitment to the sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and unity of Haiti,
Congratulating the Haitian people on the successful holding of the first round of Haiti’s elections on 7 February 2006, and commending the Haitian authorities, the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti, the Organization of American States and relevant international stakeholders for their efforts in this regard,
Welcoming the progress achieved thus far in Haiti’s political process, and urging all Haitians to continue to participate in it, and to accept peacefully its outcome,
Reaffirming the important role that the Mission, with the support of the international community, including regional and subregional organizations, has in supporting Haiti’s national elections, as well as municipal and local elections scheduled to take place on 30 April 2006,
Looking forward to the early inauguration of the elected President, and emphasizing that, after that event, national reconciliation, inclusiveness and political dialogue will continue to be of fundamental importance for the long-term political, social and economic stability of Haiti,
Recognizing that the installation of the new Government will represent a major event that will mark a new chapter in the efforts of the international community in Haiti,
Emphasizing that security, the rule of law, political reconciliation and economic and social development remain key to the stability of Haiti,
Underscoring that security remains an essential element for the completion of the electoral process, and calling upon Haitians to renounce all forms of violence,
Expressing its full support for the efforts of the Mission to continue to assist the Haitian authorities to ensure a secure and stable environment after the elections,
Stressing that the consolidation of Haitian democratic institutions will be crucial for achieving stability and development, and that the Mission and the international community should continue to assist in building the capacity of national and local authorities and institutions,
Recognizing that the rule of law and respect for human rights are vital components of democratic societies, reaffirming the mandate of the Mission in this respect, and calling upon the Haitian authorities to undertake a comprehensive reform in all areas of the rule of law and to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms,
Calling upon the Mission and the Haitian National Police to enhance coordination and to cooperate with
other international stakeholders to effect the reform of the Haitian National Police and to finalize the overall reform plan requested in its resolution 1608(2005) as soon as possible,

Encouraging the Mission to further explore possibilities for greater support to reform, modernize and strengthen the judiciary and correctional systems, including through the provision of targeted technical assistance to rule-of-law institutions,

Stressing the importance of rapid progress on disarmament, demobilization and reintegration,

Welcoming the extension of the Interim Cooperation Framework until December 2007, urging the Haitian authorities to continue to make progress in its implementation in close cooperation with all relevant international stakeholders, and reiterating the commitment of the international community to provide long-term support for the Haitian people, including to achieve and sustain stability and combat poverty,

Recognizing the progress achieved thus far in the disbursement of pledged assistance, and encouraging the international financial institutions and donors to continue to disburse promptly the funds pledged,

Noting that the Haitian people must take responsibility for achieving stability, social and economic development and law and order,

Recalling paragraph 3 of its resolution 1608(2005),

Determining that the situation in Haiti continues to constitute a threat to international peace and security,

Acting under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations, as described in section I of paragraph 7 of resolution 1542(2004),

1. Decides to extend the mandate of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti, as contained in resolutions 1542(2004) and 1608(2005), until 15 August 2006, with the intention to renew for further periods;

2. Welcomes the report of the Secretary-General of 2 February 2006, and supports the recommendations contained therein;

3. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the Security Council, as soon as possible after the conclusion of Haiti’s electoral process and drawing, as appropriate, on consultations with the elected Government of Haiti, on whether to restructure the mandate of the Mission after the new Government takes office, including recommendations on ways in which the Mission can support reform and strengthening of key institutions;

4. Decides to remain seized of the matter.

Elections

Presidential and legislative elections (February)
The first round of presidential and legislative elections, held on 7 February, were regarded as a success. For the first time in recent history, the legitimacy of the elections was not contested. Due to the fragile security situation in Port-au-Prince during the preceding months, MINUSTAH had stepped up its activities to promote a safe environment and the isolated incidents that occurred resulted from long queues at polling stations. The Secretary-General appealed for all to respect the official results, which would be announced by the Provisional Electoral Council.

SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION
On 9 February (meeting 5368), following consultations among Security Council members, the President made statement S/PRST/2006/7 on behalf of the Council:

The Security Council commends the Haitian people on the holding of the first round of national elections on 7 February 2006 with high voter turnout, and congratulates them on taking this fundamental step towards the restoration of democracy and stability in their country. The Council calls upon all parties to respect the outcome of the elections, remain engaged in the political process and renounce all forms of violence. The Council wishes to thank the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti, the Organization of American States and others in the international community for providing crucial assistance to the Transitional Government and the Provisional Electoral Council during this period.

The Council underlines the fact that the electoral process should lead to the inauguration of a representative government. The Council reiterates the importance of national, municipal and local elections as pillars of democratic governance in Haiti. The Council emphasizes that, once the new government takes office, Haitians should continue to promote national reconciliation and political dialogue in order to strengthen their democracy and to ensure social, economic and political stability.

The Council, while recognizing the importance of the elections for democratic institutions and procedures, stresses that they do not constitute the sole means to address Haiti’s longer-term problems and that significant challenges remain, in particular, in the fields of rule of law, security and development. Tackling these challenges will require a long-term engagement of the international community.

On the same date, the Council [meeting 5367], in a closed meeting with the troop-contributing countries, heard a briefing by the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations.

Polling aftermath. On 12 February, street protests erupted following the release of partial results of the presidential elections by the Provisional Electoral Council, which showed that Presidential candidate René Préval’s lead had dropped from over 60 per cent to below the 50 per cent threshold required to win the election in the first round. By the next day, large-scale demonstrations took place country-wide, stretching the ability of MINUSTAH to maintain a secure and stable environment, and
forcing the erection of roadblocks along main thoroughfares and the temporary closure of the Port-au-Prince airport. Protesters overran the hotel where the Provisional Electoral Council media centre was located and surrounded the tabulation centre, causing both centres to temporarily suspend their activities. On 14 February, after two days of demonstrations and negotiations between the main political actors, the Provisional Electoral Council decided to allocate an unusually high proportion of blank ballots (4.3 per cent), on a pro rata basis, among all the candidates according to the number of votes they had received, and thereby, declared Mr. Préval the winner of the presidential election, with an absolute majority of 51.2 per cent of the votes. Although the procedure and its subsequent result were politically criticized by some of the candidates, including runner-up Leslie Manigat, who received 12 per cent of the votes, no one legally challenged the outcome.

**Statement by Secretary-General.** In a 17 February statement [SG/SM/10353], the Secretary-General welcomed the results of the Haitian Presidential election, and congratulated Mr. René Préval on his victory. He commended the Haitian people for their commitment to the democratic process and stressed the importance of national reconciliation and the holding of local and municipal elections as early as possible to complete the electoral cycle.

**Security Council consideration.** On 22 February [meeting 5377], the Security Council heard a briefing by the Interim Prime Minister, Mr. Gérard Latortue, who said that the Transitional Government had accomplished its mission to organize free, fair, democratic, transparent and inclusive elections, with the participation of all Haitian political actors. He expressed gratitude to the 43 countries that had contributed troops and police to ensure the country’s stability and conveyed condolences to the families of the MINUSTAH soldiers who had lost their lives. After highlighting MINUSTAH efforts to improve relations with the HNP, collaborate with various segments of Haitian society in the public and private sectors, provide security to facilitate a high participation rate during the elections and assist the Provisional Electoral Council, he encouraged the Council to visit Haiti to demonstrate the international community’s support for the democratic process in the country. While the Interim Prime Minister welcomed the Council’s decision to extend MINUSTAH’s mandate for six months, he pointed out that new changes to support MINUSTAH would have to be considered, in consultation with the new Government. He also underlined the need for assistance in institution-building, improving the judicial system and professionalizing the national police.

**Security Council consideration.** On 27 March, the Security Council met [meeting 5397] to discuss the question of Haiti and heard statements by the Secretary-General, President-elect René Préval and the Secretary-General’s Special Representative Juan Gabriel Valdés.

The Secretary-General said that Haiti was beginning a long journey towards a stable and democratic future and deserved assistance to meet that goal. President-elect Préval’s efforts to encourage broad political reconciliation required generous support. While it was crucial that a multidimensional peacekeeping operation continue in Haiti following the February elections, MINUSTAH could only address the most urgent needs, and bilateral assistance would be required to build on those efforts.

President-elect Préval stated that the large turnout by the Haitian people at the elections demonstrated their desire to take part in national reconstruction and improve their living conditions. Citing chronic insecurity, poverty, widespread unemployment and the dilapidated state of basic infrastructure as challenges to be addressed, he called for a renewal of the international community’s commitment to a long-term assistance programme for Haiti. He emphasized that the Interim Cooperation Framework [YUN 2004, p. 296], a set of priorities and targets to address Haiti’s urgent and medium-term development needs, which had been extended to December 2007, should be taken into account. He also called for support from the international community for the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme and from MINUSTAH to help reform the police and the Haitian judicial system.

The Secretary-General’s Special Representative Juan Valdés reiterated the need to strengthen State institutions, security and rule of law, along with the launch of a sustainable socio-economic development process. He welcomed the decision taken by the Caribbean Community and Common Market (CARICOM) to re-establish its relations with the Government and the renewal of commitments by Argentina, Brazil and Chile to contribute troops to MINUSTAH.

At the Council’s resumed session [meeting 5397], OAS expressed its commitment to supporting long-term institution-building and reconstruction in Haiti and stressed the importance of maintaining the time frame for completing the second round of legislative elections, scheduled for 21 April, and the holding of municipal and local elections on 18 June. It would also continue to support the Haitian reg-
istry and identification system for future electoral processes and help build a solid, professional and permanent electoral institution.

SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION

On 27 March [meeting 5397], following consultations among Security Council members, the President made statement S/PRST/2006/13 on behalf of the Council:

The Security Council commends the Haitian people on the successful completion of the first round of their electoral process, congratulates Mr. René García Préval on his election as President, and looks forward to working with the new Government to help to build a better future for Haiti. This process will give Haiti a unique opportunity to break with the violence and political instability of the past. The Council expresses its full support for the work of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Haiti, Mr. Juan Gabriel Valdés.

The Council welcomes the announcement by the Haitian authorities that the second round of parliamentary elections will be held on 21 April 2006, which will allow the prompt inauguration of the President-elect. The Council emphasizes that timely municipal and local elections are also fundamentally important to complete Haiti’s electoral process and to strengthen its democratic institutions. The Council urges the Transitional Government of Haiti and the Provisional Electoral Council, with the support of the international community, to continue to ensure that the electoral process is conducted in a transparent and credible manner. The Security Council reiterates its call upon all parties to respect the outcome of the elections, remain engaged in the political process, and promote national reconciliation and inclusiveness in order to reach consensus on the basic policies that Haiti should pursue to bolster its democratic transition.

The Council stresses the need to ensure a secure and stable environment in Haiti and expresses its support for the continued efforts of the Mission to assist the Haitian authorities in that respect. The Council, in that regard, encourages all troop- and police-contributing countries to remain engaged in the Mission. The Council reaffirms that the establishment of the rule of law, including the protection of human rights, institutional capacity-building and rapid progress on disarmament, demobilization and reintegration will be crucial to Haiti’s future over the next few years. To this end, the sustained political will and the common strategic vision of the Haitian authorities and the international community are essential. In this context, the Council underlines the urgent need to proceed with a thorough and comprehensive reform of the Haitian National Police in line with its resolution 1608(2005) as well as concurrent justice reform.

The Council is aware that sustainable development in Haiti remains essential to the stability of the country. In that regard, the Council reiterates the need for the quick implementation of highly visible and labour-intensive projects that help to create jobs and deliver basic social services. Recognizing progress already made in donor efforts, the Council calls upon donors and relevant stakeholders to work with the new Government through the Interim Cooperation Framework to reassess assistance priorities in a targeted way and to work in close coordination, as appropriate, with the Mission. The Council reiterates its willingness to cooperate with the newly elected authorities in order to address the long-term challenges facing Haiti.

Legislative elections (April)

Although the second round of legislative elections were held in an atmosphere of calm on 21 April, two voting stations were closed in Grande Saline due to violent confrontations between supporters of rival political parties. On 9 May, pending run-off elections in localities where the electoral process had been disrupted or appeals had been upheld, 27 out of 30 senators and 88 out of 99 deputies were sworn into office. Front de l’Espoir (LESPWA), the coalition of President-elect Préval, won 11 seats in the Senate, followed by the Organisation du people en lutte with 4 seats. LESPWA also gained the most seats in the House of Deputies, a total of 20, with Fusion winning 15 seats.

On 14 May, Mr. Préval assumed office as President of Haiti, called for dialogue to bring stability to the country and acknowledged the efforts of the international community and MINUSTAH.

SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION

On 15 May [meeting 5438], following consultations among Security Council members, the President made statement S/PRST/2006/22 on behalf of the Council:

The Security Council congratulates Mr. René García Préval on his inauguration as President of the Republic of Haiti. The Council also congratulates all newly elected parliamentarians and calls upon them to recognize the importance of the mandate given to them by the Haitian people to work constructively to build a better future for their country. To this end, the Council urges the executive and legislative powers to establish a fruitful and collaborative relationship. The Council stresses that the timely holding of municipal, local and remaining parliamentary elections is fundamental to democratic governance.

The Council underlines the fact that many challenges remain to be tackled, including the need to ensure a secure and stable environment in Haiti, strengthen its democratic institutions, foster national reconciliation, inclusiveness and political dialogue, promote and
protect governmental capacity, and welcomes the commitment of Mr. Préval in this regard. The Council also emphasizes the need to reform and strengthen Haiti’s police, judiciary and correctional systems, and, in this regard, looks forward to the results of the discussions between the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti and the new authorities on how to address these and other security-related issues. Recognizing that development remains essential to Haiti’s stability, the Council calls upon donors and relevant stakeholders to continue to assess and coordinate assistance priorities, in close cooperation with the new Government, taking into account existing mechanisms such as the Interim Cooperation Framework. The Council reiterates the need for the quick implementation of highly visible and labour-intensive projects that help to create jobs and deliver basic social services. In this regard, the Council looks forward to the upcoming meeting to be held in Brasilia on 23 May 2006.

The Council welcomes the intention of the Caribbean Community to reintegrate Haiti fully into the activities of the Community. The Council also expresses its appreciation for the contribution of the Organization of American States to the electoral process. In this regard, the Council supports the commitment of the new Haitian authorities to enhance cooperation with regional partners in order to address issues related to regional stability.

The Council expresses its full support for the continued efforts by the Mission and the international community to assist Haiti in its ongoing transition, and requests that the Mission work closely with the new authorities in the implementation of its mandate. The Council looks forward to the report of the Secretary-General requested in resolution 1658(2006) on whether to restructure the mandate of the Mission and reiterates its willingness to cooperate with the newly elected authorities to address the long-term challenges facing Haiti. The Council would like also to thank the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for his tireless efforts and dedication to the success of the United Nations presence in Haiti.

Municipal and local elections (December)

In December [S/2006/1003], the Secretary-General reported the successful completion of the electoral process, after the holding of municipal and local elections. On 3 December, some 29,000 candidates competed for approximately 8,000 municipal and local positions—the first such elections in 10 years—and a second round was held for 3 senatorial and 11 deputy seats, which had been postponed from the previous legislative elections due to voting interruptions. The Provisional Electoral Council assumed increased responsibility for technical and administrative aspects of the process, including full responsibility for the training and payment of 40,000 poll workers. MINUSTAH provided logistic and security assistance, including the recruitment and training of some 4,000 electoral guards. Although some security incidents occurred, voter turnout was higher than expected, approximately 30 per cent, and Haitian electoral authorities were generally satisfied with the process. Nevertheless, a number of appeals were anticipated.

Further political and security developments

MINUSTAH post-election role

Report of Secretary-General. In July [S/2006/592], the Secretary-General reported that President Préval had ratified the appointment of Jacques Edouard Alexis as Prime Minister on 30 May. A process of consultation that preceded President Préval’s inauguration led to an agreement on a multi-party Government, reflecting a spirit of political diversity. The 18-member cabinet contained representatives for seven political formations, including Alyans, Fanmi Lavalas, Fusion, LESPWA, Movement pour l’instauration de la democratie en Haiti and l’Organisation du peuple en lutte et Union. The Government’s agenda—presented by Prime Minister Alexis in early June—which focused on the modernization of the State and on wealth creation, was approved by the Senate and the House of Deputies. President Préval’s recovery plan, the Programme d’apaisement social, which responded to immediate social needs, was also submitted for approval.

Overall, the security situation remained stable. However, in early July, violence and criminal activities by armed groups increased sharply. Killings and kidnappings dominated media reports and public debate, prompting criticism of the Government and MINUSTAH by political and civil society groups. In response, MINUSTAH and the Government designed an integrated security plan, with increased checkpoints and joint patrols, which was launched on 10 July. Other destabilizing factors included elements of the former military who remained scattered throughout the country; the dysfunctional state of the rule-of-law institutions; fragile political alliances; and continued drug and arms trafficking, which gave rise to gang criminality, engendered corruption and undermined efforts to reduce armed violence and strengthen State institutions.

Pursuant to Security Council resolution 1658(2006) (see p. 344), a thorough assessment of MINUSTAH mandate in Haiti was carried out, involving exchanges between MINUSTAH and UN Headquarters, as well as with international partners. In June, a UN team visited Haiti to dis-
discuss with Haitian authorities and other actors MINUSTAH role in the post-electoral period. The need to specify a clear division of labour among the relevant actors was stressed.

With regard to the modernization of the State, MINUSTAH would focus on providing support to the rule-of-law sector and State administration, particularly outside Port-au-Prince, where MINUSTAH often represented the largest, and in some areas, the only, international presence and where local authorities were weak or non-existent. In the area of economic reactivation, MINUSTAH would continue to ensure a secure and stable environment, whereby Haitians and international actors could pursue their activities in safety. MINUSTAH components that focused on cross-cutting issues, including human rights, gender, child protection and HIV/AIDS would work to ensure the mainstreaming of such matters. During the post-electoral period, MINUSTAH would continue to ensure a secure and stable environment, work with Haitian authorities on appropriate security measures and pave the way for HNP to assume full responsibility for security in the country. Specifically, MINUSTAH troops and police units would patrol towns and their surroundings; protect key installations and UN personnel and facilities; provide operational support to HNP and MINUSTAH police operations; facilitate access of humanitarian workers to Haitians in need; and protect civilians under imminent threat. As gang violence and kidnap-pings were the main factors destabilizing security, without significant added special police capacities, MINUSTAH’s ability to respond to crime would be limited. There was need for an enhanced security presence at key land border crossing points and selected ports to assist in extending State authority; increased support to the Haitian coast guard to respond to illicit activities in the coastal areas; and increased technical assistance from MINUSTAH military and police components to address specific issues, such as smuggling and the lack of proper customs administration in Haiti. To fulfil those responsibilities, MINUSTAH troops would continue to be deployed in all 10 regions of the country and would require expanded specific capacities, including engineering personnel, dump trucks, military police, and the deployment of sufficient aviation capabilities to maintain its airlifting capacity. The force strength would be maintained at its authorized ceiling of 7,500 troops, and its police strength increased to 1,951. It would also be provided with special weapons and tactics (SWAT) personnel and equipment and 16 corrections officers. Downsizing of international security components would take place progressively as HNP built up its capacity to handle primary security functions. MINUSTAH should also assist the Haitian authorities in the development and implementation of a disarmament and violence reduction programme.

The Secretary-General reported that an HNP reform plan, which had been finalized and was awaiting endorsement by the Conseil supérieur de la police nationale, estimated that essential policing functions in Haiti could be discharged by 12,000 well-trained and well-equipped officers, a figure that could be achieved in five years. The plan anticipated between 18,000 to 20,000 officers to implement the full range of Haitian security sector responsibilities, including border and coastal monitoring, fire fighting and responding to serious security threats. The MINUSTAH police component would assist in HNP reform and restructuring through a programme of monitoring, mentoring and field training at HNP stations and commissariats. Particular emphasis would be placed on the vetting process, to be conducted by 50 investigative teams and supported by MINUSTAH human rights experts. Fifty-four officers with specialized skills in investigation, database programming, engineering, finance, communication systems and training would be required, as well as experts in counter-kidnapping and anti-gang operations.

To strengthen the judicial system, MINUSTAH could provide experts to serve as a professional resource to the Ministry of Justice and other key justice institutions. It would continue to assist the Provisional Electoral Council in completing the electoral cycle, and in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), support democratic governance and the strengthening of State institutions. To that end, the establishment of a MINUSTAH parliamentary liaison office in the capital to provide hands-on assistance to parliamentarians was envisaged.

The Secretary-General recommended that the Security Council approve the proposals regarding MINUSTAH mandate and resources and extend the Mission for a 12-month period, as the minimum time needed to establish a solid basis for rule of law reform, achieve some initial results and make progress towards democratic governance. He called on the international community to complement MINUSTAH activities, in particular regional partners such as OAS and CARICOM. He further appealed to donors to provide their support in the context of the 25 July pledging conference held in Port-au-Prince.

Secretary-General’s visit to Haiti. On the occasion of his first official visit to Haiti on 3 and 4 August [SG/T/2506], the Secretary-General met
with MINUSTAH staff and contingent commanders and addressed HNP and the MINUSTAH police component at the Haitian Police Academy. He also met with President Préval and other senior Haitian officials. In a joint press conference with the President, he announced that he had asked the Security Council to extend MINUSTAH mandate for 12 months instead of the customary six, due to the difficulties that lay ahead for the country.

**Security Council consideration.** On 8 August [meeting 5506], the Security Council, in a closed meeting with the troop-contributing countries, heard a briefing by Edmond Mulet, Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of MINUSTAH.

**Security Council action**


The Security Council,


Reaffirming its strong commitment to the sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and unity of Haiti,

Welcoming the successful and peaceful political transition to an elected Government, as well as the election of a new President and Parliament, which will give Haiti a unique opportunity to break with the violence and political instability of the past,

Welcoming also the political agenda of the Government of Haiti on the modernization of State institutions and on wealth creation and the adoption, by the Haitian authorities, of the ‘Programme d’apaisement social’ to respond to Haiti’s immediate social needs,

Emphasizing that security, the rule of law and institutional reform, national reconciliation and sustainable economic and social development remain key to the stability of Haiti,

Recognizing that the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti constitutes a key actor in the continuing stabilization of the country, and expressing its appreciation for its efforts to continue to assist the Government of Haiti to ensure a secure and stable environment,

Reaffirming the importance of appropriate expertise on issues relating to gender in peacekeeping operations and post-conflict peacebuilding in accordance with its resolution 1325(2000) of 31 October 2000, recalling the need to address violence against women and children, and encouraging the Mission as well as the Government of Haiti to actively address these issues,

Condemning all violations of human rights in Haiti, calling upon all Haitians to renounce violence, and recognizing, in this context, that the rule of law and respect for human rights are vital components of democratic societies,

Urging the Government of Haiti to undertake, in coordination with the international community, a comprehensive reform of the police, judiciary and correctional systems, to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms and to end impunity,

Welcoming the final approval by the Government of Haiti of its Haitian National Police Reform Plan, and calling upon it to implement the Plan as soon as possible,

Recognizing that conditions for conventional disarmament, demobilization and reintegration do not currently exist in Haiti and that alternative programmes are required to address local conditions and to further the goal of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration,

Underlining the need for the quick implementation of highly effective and visible labour-intensive projects that help to create jobs and deliver basic social services, and emphasizing the importance of quick-impact projects in the post-electoral phase,

Welcoming the outcomes of the ministerial donor meeting on Haiti, held in Brasilia on 23 May 2006, as well as those of the International Conference of Donors for the Social and Economic Development of Haiti, held in Port-au-Prince on 25 July 2006,

Expressing its support for the extension of the Interim Cooperation Framework until September 2007, and urging the Government of Haiti to continue to make progress in its implementation in close cooperation with all relevant international stakeholders,

Welcoming the readmittance of Haiti to the Councils of the Caribbean Community, and calling upon the Mission to continue to work closely with the Organization of American States and the Caribbean Community,

Welcoming also the appointment of a new Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Haiti with overall authority on the ground for the coordination and conduct of all the activities of the United Nations agencies, funds and programmes in Haiti,

Paying tribute to the continued support of the international community, particularly the Core Group, interested stakeholders, donors and regional organizations, for Haiti and the Mission, which remains essential to the achievement of stability and development,

Expressing its gratitude to the troops and police personnel of the Mission and to their countries,

Noting that the Haitian people and their Government hold the ultimate responsibility for achieving political stability, social and economic development and law and order,

Determining that the situation in Haiti continues to constitute a threat to international peace and security,

Acting under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations, as described in section I of paragraph 7 of resolution 1542(2004),

1. **Decides** to extend the mandate of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti, as contained in its resolutions 1542(2004) and 1608(2005), until 15 Febru-
ary 2007, with the intention to renew for further periods;
2. Welcomes the report of the Secretary-General of 28 July 2006, and supports the priorities set out therein;
3. Decides that the Mission shall consist of a military component of up to 7,200 troops of all ranks and a police component of up to 1,951 officers;
4. Authorizes the Mission to deploy 16 corrections officers seconded from Member States in support of the Government of Haiti to address the shortcomings of the prison system;
5. Urges Member States to provide enough well-qualified, particularly francophone, police candidates, to ensure full staffing of the Mission police and, in particular, to provide specific expertise in anti-gang activities, corrections and other specializations identified as necessary in the report of the Secretary-General;
6. Urges the Haitian authorities to complete the run-off legislative, local and municipal elections as soon as feasible, and calls upon the Mission to provide all appropriate assistance in this regard, consistent with its mandate, and with the support of regional and subregional organizations;
7. Reaffirms its call upon the Mission to support the constitutional and political process in Haiti, including through good offices, and to promote national dialogue and reconciliation;
8. Welcomes the important contribution provided by the Mission in capacity- and institution-building at all levels, and calls upon the Mission to expand its assistance to support the Government of Haiti in strengthening State institutions, especially outside Port-au-Prince;
9. Underlines the importance of the continuing support of the Mission for the institutional strengthening of the Haitian National Police, and in this regard requests the Haitian authorities, especially the Haitian National Police, and the Mission to achieve optimal coordination in order to counter crime and violence, particularly in urban areas, taking into account the needs expressed by the Secretary-General for specialized capacities to enhance the ability of the Mission in this field;
10. Strongly supports, in this regard, the intention of the Secretary-General to maximize the crime prevention role of the Mission, particularly with regard to the threat of gang violence and kidnapping;
11. Requests the Mission to reorient its disarmament, demobilization and reintegration efforts, to further that goal, towards a comprehensive community violence reduction programme adapted to local conditions, including assistance for initiatives to strengthen local governance and the rule of law and to provide employment opportunities to former gang members, and at-risk youth, in close coordination with the Government of Haiti and other relevant actors, including the donor community;
12. Urges donors engaged in supporting the implementation of the reform of the Haitian National Police by the Haitian authorities to coordinate their activities closely with the Mission;
13. Reaffirms the mandate of the Mission to provide operational support to the Haitian Coast Guard, and invites Member States, in coordination with the Mission, to engage with the Government of Haiti in order to address cross-border drug and arms trafficking control;
14. Decides that the Mission, consistent with its existing mandate under resolution 1542(2004) to assist with the restructuring and maintenance of the rule of law, public safety and public order, shall provide assistance and advice to the Haitian authorities, in consultation with relevant actors, in monitoring, restructuring, reforming and strengthening the justice sector, including through technical assistance to review all relevant legislation, the provision of experts to serve as professional resources, the rapid identification and implementation of mechanisms to address prison overcrowding and prolonged pretrial detention and the coordination and planning of these activities, and invites the Government of Haiti to take full advantage of that assistance;
15. Reaffirms the human rights mandate of the Mission, and calls upon the Haitian authorities to undertake a comprehensive reform in all areas of rule of law and to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms;
16. Recognizes the progress achieved thus far in the disbursement of pledged assistance, welcomes the pledges of donors, and notes the need for these funds to be rapidly disbursed, given that further sustained and generous international assistance will be essential for the Haitian people and their Government to succeed in pursuing its programme for social and economic development;
17. Requests the Mission to continue to implement quick-impact projects;
18. Calls upon the Mission to enhance its coordination with the United Nations country team and with the various development actors in Haiti in order to ensure greater efficiency in development efforts and to address urgent development problems;
19. Reaffirms the need to maintain a proactive communications and public outreach strategy to improve public understanding of the mandate and role of the Mission in Haiti and to deliver messages to the Haitian people directly;
20. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the Security Council on the implementation of the mandate of the Mission no later than 31 December 2006;
21. Decides to remain seized of the matter.

HNP reform plan

On 31 August [S/2006/726], the Secretary-General transmitted to the Security Council the Haitian National Police Reform Plan, submitted to him by Jean Rénalde Clérisme, the Haitian Minister for Foreign Affairs, who confirmed the Government’s adoption of the plan on 8 August. The plan, which had been elaborated in coordination with MINUSTAH, was based on findings made by the Interim Cooperation Framework 2004-2006 and in-
cluded the anticipated size, standards, implementation timetable and resources required. According to the plan, essential policing functions would require 14,000 trained and equipped officers. That target would be achieved over a five-year period, at a rate of 1,500 new officers per year, reaching 9,000 officers by 2008 and 14,000 by 2011. The review of current personnel, leading to final certification, would remain a priority and would target the disciplinary and training record of each officer. The plan reflected a general consensus that 18,000 to 20,000 police and security officers would be required to cover the full range of security needs in Haiti. It also provided for the development of capabilities, such as a Coast Guard, border patrol and surveillance, fire brigades and penal system. According to the estimate for personnel expenditures, the national budget could support the HNP staffing increase. However, as the budget allocation for capital investments was insufficient, HNP development would rely heavily on external funding sources. The overall cost of HNP reform was estimated at $700 million.

Mr. Clérismé stressed that, although the Haitian Government would implement the HNP reform plan in close cooperation with MINUSTAH and the international community, its success depended on the ongoing support of the latter. Detailed implementation plans for each HNP functional area would be developed, focusing on execution modalities, as well as the roles and responsibilities of the international community, in coordination with bilateral and multilateral donors.

**End-of-year developments**

**Report of Secretary-General (December).** In his December report on MINUSTAH [S/2006/1003], the Secretary-General said that, while the overall security environment remained stable, with much of the violence taking place in the capital, armed attacks against MINUSTAH and violent demonstrations increased. On 19 July, armed groups, frustrated over the Government’s perceived inaction in meeting their amnesty demands in return for participation in a disarmament programme, fired weapons and created panic near Cité Soleil. The following day, they opened fire on MINUSTAH and a nearby HNP station, resulting in the injury of one police officer, the death of five gang members and the injury of another five. Over the two-day period, six civilians were killed, 80 injured and an unknown number abducted. On 25 August, Haitian and MINUSTAH officials agreed to an enhanced security plan, establishing 12 additional HNP/MINUSTAH checkpoints and 23 more HNP checkpoints around Port-au-Prince, in addition to the redeployment of three MINUSTAH platoons from the outlying regions to Cité Soleil. By mid-September, the situation had improved, and after joint MINUSTAH/HNP meetings with local residents and community leaders, HNP subsequently resumed patrols in the area during daylight hours. On 24 October, tensions again escalated as a group of 30 students protested a UN Day ceremony, holding anti-MINUSTAH placards and calling for the withdrawal of peacekeepers. The next day, 600 students held a similar protest near the Presidential Palace and erected roadblocks with burning tires. The Minister for Foreign Affairs, who had urged students not to resort to violence, remarked that the demonstrations illustrated the public’s impatience with the lack of social progress. Progress was made with the apprehension of an armed group leader who had been linked to large-scale killings in Martissant in 2005 and 2006. Ongoing violence had taken a toll on MINUSTAH troops and police, with the death of two MINUSTAH and one HNP soldiers, with seven officers having been murdered in the capital since August. In the light of the fragile security situation, the Secretary-General stressed that an international security presence in Haiti should continue and future reductions in MINUSTAH troop and police strength should be linked to proportionate increases in the ability of that country’s institutions to assume relevant tasks and to any changes in the security environment.

In the area of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR), MINUSTAH worked with national authorities to develop a DDR process appropriate to the country’s needs. On 29 August, the Government appointed a seven-member National Commission for Disarmament, Dismantlement and Reintegration, which had taken the lead in implementing its DDR programme. However, progress remained limited, with only two groups of 104 individuals having formally entered the programme. Meanwhile, in collaboration with the Government, MINUSTAH and UNDP continued to strengthen the legislative framework for small arms control; build community capacity for violence reduction; and maintain a focus on women affected by violence and children associated with armed groups.

An update on HNP reform provided information on the implementation status of its three main pillars: vetting, training and the strengthening of institutional capacities. On 9 November, HNP announced the beginning of the vetting process, which would assess professional skills and disciplinary background and draw on the efforts of combined MINUSTAH and Haitian police teams. In December, the 25 most senior HNP officers, including the
Director General and Inspector General took part in the process, along with 10 HNP investigators, who would be involved in the vetting process. By December, some 8,070 HNP officers and 1,580 civilian employees had been registered within a UN police database. A further 600 HNP candidates, including 30 women, would begin training in January 2007.

The implementation of the Prime Minister’s Programme d’apaisement social had not advanced significantly. At the International Conference for Haiti’s Economic and Social Development (Port-au-Prince, 25 July), donors pledged $750 million to finance the budget deficit and the Government’s publicity investment programme for the next fiscal year. They reiterated their long-term support for the Government’s reform efforts in economic governance, fighting corruption, smuggling and tax evasion, and reaffirmed their willingness to support the reform of HNP and the judicial system, as well as efforts for social development and the DDR process. The follow-up conference (Madrid, Spain, 30 November) further helped to maintain international focus on Haiti and resulted in other sizeable pledges.

In the area of regional cooperation, the report summarized the 18 October visit to Haiti by a high-level CARICOM delegation, which met with Haitian authorities and discussed prospects for the full integration of the country into that organization, including the common market. The visit coincided with a CARICOM assessment mission, which considered the possibilities of opening an office in Port-au-Prince. Those initiatives were conducted within the framework of CARICOM’s response to a request from President Préval for support for Haiti’s development.

The Secretary-General concluded that the Haitian Government would continue to face significant challenges, including issues such as the distribution of responsibilities between central and local authorities; how best to meet the country’s security requirements; an appropriate response to armed groups and the development of relevant DDR programmes; finalization of justice system reform plans and the adoption of key related bills; resolution of the problem of pre-trial detentions; and adoption of a legislative framework for the Office of the Ombudsman. He stressed that, unless swift results were achieved in those areas, the situation in Haiti could deteriorate. He recommended the extension of MINUSTAH’s mandate for a further 12-month period, with its authorized capacity ceilings remaining at 7,200 troops and 1,951 police officers.

**Programme of support for Haiti**

**Ad Hoc Advisory Group.** The Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti, mandated by resolution 2004/322 [YUN 2004, p. 939] to follow and advise on the long-term development of the country, submitted a May report [E/2006/69 & Corr.1] to the Economic and Social Council, which summarized the political, social and economic situation in Haiti and presented information on international support provided to the country since the 2005 substantive session of the Council. It elaborated on prospects for assistance in the post-electoral context and made recommendations to Haitian authorities and their development partners. Progress highlighted in the report included the preparation by Haitian national authorities of an interim Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP); the development and attribution of “scores” for the accomplishment of ICP objectives; the identification by the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank of Haiti as one of 11 countries that could qualify for debt relief under the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative (HIPC); and the creation by the interim Government of a strategic “think tank” to work at the technical level on a long-term development plan for the country, in partnership with the Advisory Group and other actors.

On 26 July, the Economic and Social Council adopted **resolution 2006/10** on the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti (see p. 1087).

**MINUSTAH**

In 2006, the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH), established by Security Council resolution 1542(2004) [YUN 2004, p. 294], continued to focus on ensuring a secure and stable environment, supporting the electoral process and reform of rule-of-law structures, strengthening State institutions, providing humanitarian and development assistance and promoting human rights. In February, its mandate was extended to August 2006. In August, pursuant to Security Council resolution 1658(2006), the structure of the Mission was enhanced and its mandate extended to 15 February 2007 (see p. 344).

**Appointments.** By an exchange of letters between the Secretary-General and the Security Council President on 18 [S/2006/32] and 20 [S/2006/33] January, Lieutenant General José Elito Carvalho de Siqueira (Brazil) was appointed Force Commander of MINUSTAH to replace General Teixeira da Matta Bacellar.

In May, by an exchange of letters with the Council President [S/2006/303, S/2006/304], the Secretary-General appointed Edmond Mulet (Guatemala) as his Special Representative in Haiti and Head of MINUSTAH to replace Juan Valdés, who would complete his assignment on 31 May.
In July, the Secretary-General informed the Council of his intention to add Bolivia to the list of troop-contributing countries to MINUSTAH, of which it took note [S/2006/586, S/2006/587].

MINUSTAH activities

During 2006, the Secretary-General reported to the Security Council on MINUSTAH activities and developments in Haiti for the periods 7 October 2005 to 2 February 2006 [S/2006/60], 3 February to 28 July [S/2006/592] and 29 July to 19 December [S/2006/1003]. In addition to the political and security aspects, the reports summarized MINUSTAH activities dealing with human rights; child protection; the humanitarian and development situations; gender issues; the prevention of HIV/AIDS; the implementation of the Interim Cooperative Framework; UN country team activities; the conduct and discipline of UN personnel; and Mission support.

Human rights. The human rights situation in Haiti continued to fall short of acceptable standards, with armed gangs being responsible for killings, kidnappings, armed robberies, extortion and harassment. Mob violence, including lynchings and the destruction of property, remained widespread and summary executions perpetrated by HNP officers continued to occur. In February, former Prime Minister Yvon Neptune and former Minister for the Interior Jocelerme Privert remained incarcerated. Mr. Neptune was granted provisional release on 27 July and four high-profile Fanmi Lavalas activists were released on 8 August, after two and half years of pre-trial detention. In October, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights expressed concern over prison overcrowding and pre-trial detentions in Haiti. With the support of the High Commissioner’s Office, MINUSTAH augmented its training, civic education and advisory services. MINUSTAH, in collaboration with HNP, developed training materials for mainstreaming human rights standards into all aspects of basic police training.

Child protection. Grave violations against children, especially in areas affected by armed violence, remained a serious concern, as well as widespread rape and other forms of sexual abuse of girls. MINUSTAH and the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) initiated a campaign encouraging political parties and civil society representatives to include child protection in the political agendas of election candidates. To facilitate disarmament and the reintegration of children associated with armed groups, MINUSTAH, UNICEF and local partners advocated the development of transitional justice mechanisms, such as conditional amnesty for such children, as Haitian criminal law did not allow for disarmament of children recruited by armed gangs without punishment. Strengthening of the HNP Brigade de protection des mineurs (Brigade for the Protection of Minors) and the institution of a training programme for the police on children’s rights were stressed as priorities, as was the resumed functioning of the juvenile court.

Humanitarian situation. MINUSTAH continued to respond to the humanitarian situation in Haiti. In August, Hurricane Ernesto killed four people, left 515 in temporary shelters, and destroyed 83 houses and damaged another 759. It prompted the activation of the UN contingency plan for natural disasters and the establishment by MINUSTAH of a joint operations coordination centre. Heavy rains in September and October caused a succession of floods and landslides, also resulting in fatalities, infrastructure damage to two hospitals and eight water supply systems, and the destruction or damage of 792 houses. MINUSTAH worked with local authorities to clear a major drainage channel in Cap Haitien following landslides there.

Development. In June, President Préval proposed a recovery plan, the Programme d’apaisement social, to improve living conditions in Haiti in the short-term, by ensuring access to basic services such as, electricity, garbage disposal and employment generation (see p. 353). At the High-level International Meeting on Haiti (Brasilia, Brazil, 23 May), participants discussed the Interim Cooperation Framework (ICF), which had been extended from September 2006 to 2007 [YUN 2005, p. 390]. Donors reiterated their support for ICF and aligning it with the Programme d’apaisement social. To that end, under the auspices of the UN Resident Coordinator, donors formed a Comité de partenariat with the Government. In December, the Secretary-General reported that steps had been taken to ensure enhanced coordination among the UN country team, MINUSTAH and development actors in Haiti, as well as improved monitoring and reporting on the impact of humanitarian and development efforts.

Gender. Following its activities to promote women’s participation in the electoral process, MINUSTAH, as a member of the National Coordination Committee on the Prevention of Violence against Women, intensified its work in that area, in order to strengthen prevention and develop activities to fight violence against women. Statistics provided by local authorities revealed that a large number of rapes had been carried out under the intimidation of weapons; there was a high occurrence of gang rapes; and 50 per cent of the rape victims were minors.
However, few cases were reported due to the lack of confidence in the justice system and fears of retribution. MINUSTAH was involved in programmes to establish a database for harmonizing data collection on violence; create reception units for women exposed to violence within HNP stations; and to institute a national non-governmental organization (NGO) created by men for men to combat violence against women. MINUSTAH also continued its policy of training all categories of Mission personnel in sexual exploitation and abuse prevention, conducting outreach activities with the local community and enforcing off-limit locations.

**Other activities.** The UN country team continued to implement its mandated activities in the areas of food aid to vulnerable populations, rehabilitation of schools, legal aid for children at odds with the law, psychosocial assistance to women and girl victims of sexual violence, HIV/AIDS prevention, distribution of medical equipment and electricity generators, technical assistance to farmers and employment generation. Stabilization of the security situation made it possible for humanitarian and development actors to provide aid to groups most affected by the chronic emergency conditions. A UN country team task force for Cité Soleil, established to coordinate the conduct of assessment missions to, and interventions in the shantytown, comprised representatives of MINUSTAH, donors and NGOs.

**Financing of MINUSTAH**

In January [A/60/646], the Secretary-General submitted the performance report on the budget of MINUSTAH for the period from 1 July 2004 to 30 June 2005, in which he recommended that the General Assembly decide on the treatment of the unencumbered balance of $1,374,000 for the period ended 30 June 2005 and interest income of $2,000 for the period ended 30 June 2004.

On 28 March [A/60/728], the Secretary-General submitted to the Assembly MINUSTAH budget for the period from 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007, which amounted to $490,636,200 gross and provided for the deployment of 7,500 military personnel, 1,897 UN police officers, including 1,000 formed units, 510 international staff, 1,072 national staff and 189 United Nations Volunteers.

In its May report [A/60/869], the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) identified reductions totalling $385,300. It therefore recommended that the Assembly appropriate $490,250,900 for the period 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007; and that the unencumbered balance and the amount resulting from other income and adjustments for the period 1 July 2004 to 30 June 2005 be credited to Member States in a manner to be determined by the Assembly.

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION**

On 30 June [meeting 92], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Fifth (Administrative and Budgetary) Committee [A/60/541/Add.1], adopted resolution 60/18 B, without vote [agenda item 145].

**Financing of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti**

**B**

*The General Assembly,*

_Having considered_ the reports of the Secretary-General on the financing of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,*


_Recalling also_ Security Council resolution 1542(2004) of 30 April 2004, by which the Council decided to establish the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti for an initial period of six months, and the subsequent resolutions by which the Council extended the mandate of the Mission, the latest of which was resolution 1658(2006) of 14 February 2006,*

_Recalling further_ its resolution 58/315 of 1 July 2004,*

_Recalling its resolution 58/311 of 18 June 2004 on the financing of the Mission and its subsequent resolutions thereon, the latest of which was resolution 60/18 A of 23 November 2005,*

_Reaffirming_ the general principles underlying the financing of United Nations peacekeeping operations, as stated in General Assembly resolutions 1874 (S-IV) of 27 June 1963, 3101 (XXVIII) of 11 December 1973 and 55/235 of 23 December 2000,*

_Mindful_ of the fact that it is essential to provide the Mission with the necessary financial resources to enable it to fulfil its responsibilities under the relevant resolutions of the Security Council,*

1. _Requests_ the Secretary-General to entrust the Head of Mission with the task of formulating future budget proposals in full accordance with the provisions of General Assembly resolutions 59/296 of 22 June 2005 and 60/266 of 30 June 2006, as well as other relevant resolutions;

2. _Takes note_ of the status of contributions to the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti as at 30 April 2006, including the contributions outstanding in the amount of 66.8 million United States dollars, representing some 11 per cent of the total assessed contributions, notes with concern that only thirty-five Member States have paid their assessed contributions in full, and
urges all other Member States, in particular those in arrears, to ensure payment of their outstanding assessed contributions;

3. Expresses its appreciation to those Member States which have paid their assessed contributions in full, and urges all other Member States to make every possible effort to ensure payment of their assessed contributions to the Mission in full;

4. Expresses concern at the financial situation with regard to peacekeeping activities, in particular as regards the reimbursements to troop contributors that bear additional burdens owing to overdue payments by Member States of their assessments;

5. Also expresses concern at the delay experienced by the Secretary-General in deploying and providing adequate resources to some recent peacekeeping missions, in particular those in Africa;

6. Emphasizes that all future and existing peacekeeping missions shall be given equal and non-discriminatory treatment in respect of financial and administrative arrangements;

7. Also emphasizes that all peacekeeping missions shall be provided with adequate resources for the effective and efficient discharge of their respective mandates;

8. Reiterates its request to the Secretary-General to make the fullest possible use of facilities and equipment at the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy, in order to minimize the costs of procurement for the Mission;

9. Endorses the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, subject to the provisions of the present resolution, and requests the Secretary-General to ensure their full implementation;

10. Requests the Secretary-General to ensure that future budget submissions include clear information regarding mandated disarmament, demobilization and reintegration activities, including clear justification for post and non-post resource requirements and their projected impact on the effective delivery of the Mission's objectives in this field, as well as information on collaboration with all relevant United Nations entities present in the field and acting in this area;

11. Also requests the Secretary-General to ensure the coordination and collaboration of efforts with the United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, to report on progress made and to provide a clear description of their respective roles and responsibilities in future budget submissions;

12. Further requests the Secretary-General to review the use of consultants required for disarmament, demobilization and reintegration in order to ensure the successful implementation of the mandated programmes, and to report thereon in the performance report;

13. Requests the Secretary General to ensure that the utilization of these resources takes fully into account the functions performed by existing capacities;

14. Looks forward to the consideration of the comprehensive report requested in section VIII, paragraph 3, of its resolution 60/266;

15. Requests the Secretary-General to ensure that quick-impact projects are implemented in compliance with the original intent of such projects and relevant General Assembly resolutions;

16. Decides to approve the resources requested for quick-impact projects in the proposed budget for the Mission for the period from 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007, in the interim, bearing in mind Security Council resolution 1608(2005) of 22 June 2005 and relevant presidential statements;

17. Requests the Secretary-General to ensure full implementation of the quick-impact projects for the financial period 2006/07;

18. Notes that full information on the need for the establishment of an off-site, in-theatre secondary disaster recovery and business continuity centre for the Mission has yet to be provided, and requests the Secretary-General to provide comprehensive and detailed information in this regard in the context of the budget for the Mission for the period from 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2008;

19. Requests the Secretary-General, in future budget submissions, to ensure that resource requirements for national interpreters include full justification of the rationale for the number of interpreters, taking fully into account the principles of efficiency, ensuring effective implementation of the Mission mandate and the requirements of the various components of the Mission in the field;

20. Also requests the Secretary-General, in this regard, to rejustify the need for five administrative staff in the light of the experience of the Mission in the context of the next budget submission for the Mission;

21. Further requests the Secretary-General to continue to report on specific management improvements achieved, taking fully into account relevant recommendations of the Advisory Committee;

22. Requests the Secretary-General to ensure the full implementation of relevant provisions of its resolutions 59/296 and 60/266;

23. Also requests the Secretary-General to take all necessary action to ensure that the Mission is administered with a maximum of efficiency and economy;

24. Further requests the Secretary-General, in order to reduce the cost of employing General Service staff, to continue efforts to recruit local staff for the Mission against General Service posts, commensurate with the requirements of the Mission;

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

25. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on the financial performance of the Mission for the period from 1 July 2004 to 30 June 2005;

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

26. Decides to appropriate to the Special Account for the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti the amount of 510,394,700 dollars for the period from 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007, inclusive of 489,207,100 dollars for the maintenance of the Mission, 17,500,200
dollars for the support account for peacekeeping operations and 3,687,400 dollars for the United Nations Logistics Base;

Financing of the appropriation

27. Also decides to apportion among Member States the amount of 63,799,300 dollars for the period from 1 July to 15 August 2006, in accordance with the levels updated in General Assembly resolution 58/256 of 23 December 2003, and taking into account the scale of assessments for 2006 as set out in its resolution 58/1 B of 23 December 2003;

28. Further decides that, in accordance with the provisions of its resolution 973(X) of 15 December 1955, there shall be set off against the apportionment among Member States, as provided for in paragraph 27 above, their respective share in the Tax Equalization Fund of 1,455,800 dollars, comprising the estimated staff assessment income of 1,174,800 dollars approved for the Mission, the prorated share of 246,100 dollars of the estimated staff assessment income approved for the support account and the prorated share of 34,900 dollars of the estimated staff assessment income approved for the United Nations Logistics Base;

29. Decides to apportion among Member States the amount of 446,595,400 dollars for the period from 16 August 2006 to 30 June 2007 at a monthly rate of 42,532,892 dollars, in accordance with the levels updated in General Assembly resolution 58/256, and taking into account the scale of assessments for 2006, as set out in its resolution 58/1 B, and the scale of assessments for 2007, subject to a decision of the Security Council to extend the mandate of the Mission;

30. Also decides that, in accordance with the provisions of its resolution 973(X), there shall be set off against the apportionment among Member States, as provided for in paragraph 29 above, their respective share in the Tax Equalization Fund of 10,190,500 dollars, comprising the estimated staff assessment income of 8,223,900 dollars approved for the Mission, the prorated share of 1,722,400 dollars of the estimated staff assessment income approved for the support account and the prorated share of 34,900 dollars of the estimated staff assessment income approved for the United Nations Logistics Base;

31. Further decides that, for Member States that have fulfilled their financial obligations to the Mission, there shall be set off against their apportionment, as provided for in paragraph 27 above, their respective share of the unencumbered balance and other income in the total amount of 6,646,600 dollars in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2005, in accordance with the scheme set out in paragraph 31 above;

32. Also decides that the decrease of 909,400 dollars in the estimated staff assessment income in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2005 shall be set off against the credits from the amount of 6,646,600 dollars referred to in paragraphs 31 and 32 above;

33. Emphasizes that no peacekeeping mission shall be financed by borrowing funds from other active peacekeeping missions;

34. Encourages the Secretary-General to continue to take additional measures to ensure the safety and security of all personnel under the auspices of the United Nations participating in the Mission, bearing in mind paragraphs 5 and 6 of Security Council resolution 1502(2003) of 26 August 2003;

35. Invites voluntary contributions to the Mission in cash and in the form of services and supplies acceptable to the Secretary-General, to be administered, as appropriate, in accordance with the procedure and practices established by the General Assembly;

36. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-first session the item entitled “Financing of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti”.


Other questions

Cuba-United States

On 8 February [A/60/676], Cuba transmitted to the Secretary-General a statement concerning the expulsion of a group of Cuban businessmen from the Hotel María Isabel Sheraton in Mexico City on 3 February, in application of the Helms-Burton Act and requesting that the document be circulated under the agenda item on the necessity of ending the United States’ economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba.

Report of Secretary-General. On 8 August [A/61/132], in response to General Assembly resolution 60/12 [YUN 2005, p. 394], the Secretary-General forwarded information received from 96 States, one non-member State, the European Union and 20 UN bodies and specialized agencies, as at 21 July 2006, on the implementation of that resolution. The text of the resolution had called on States to refrain from the unilateral application of economic and trade measures against other States, and urged them to repeal or invalidate such measures.
GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 8 November [meeting 50], the General Assembly adopted resolution 61/11 [draft: A/61/L.10] by recorded vote (183-4-1) [agenda item 18].

Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba

The General Assembly,

Determined to encourage strict compliance with the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations,

Reaffirming, among other principles, the sovereign equality of States, non-intervention and non-interference in their internal affairs and freedom of international trade and navigation, which are also enshrined in many international legal instruments,

Recalling the statements of the Heads of State or Government at the Ibero-American Summits concerning the need to eliminate unilateral application of economic and trade measures by one State against another that affect the free flow of international trade,

Concerned at the continued promulgation and application by Member States of laws and regulations, such as that promulgated on 12 March 1996 known as the “Helms-Burton Act”, the extraterritorial effects of which affect the sovereignty of other States, the legitimate interests of entities or persons under their jurisdiction and the freedom of trade and navigation,

Taking note of declarations and resolutions of different intergovernmental forums, bodies and Governments that express the rejection by the international community and public opinion of the promulgation and application of measures of the kind referred to above,


Concerned that, since the adoption of its resolutions 47/19, 48/16, 49/9, 50/10, 51/17, 52/10, 53/4, 54/21, 55/20, 56/9, 57/11, 58/7, 59/11 and 60/12, further measures of that nature aimed at strengthening and extending the economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba continue to be promulgated and applied, and concerned also at the adverse effects of such measures on the Cuban people and on Cuban nationals living in other countries,

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of resolution 60/12;

2. Reiterates its call upon all States to refrain from promulgating and applying laws and measures of the kind referred to in the preamble to the present resolution, in conformity with their obligations under the Charter of the United Nations and international law, which, inter alia, reaffirm the freedom of trade and navigation;

3. Once again urges States that have and continue to apply such laws and measures to take the necessary steps to repeal or invalidate them as soon as possible in accordance with their legal regime;

4. Requests the Secretary-General, in consultation with the appropriate organs and agencies of the United Nations system, to prepare a report on the implementation of the present resolution in the light of the purposes and principles of the Charter and international law and to submit it 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 “Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba”.

RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 61/11:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Moldova, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: Israel, Marshall Islands, Palau, United States.

Abstaining: Micronesia.

Communications. Cuba, on 21 March [S/2006/180], requested that the four items it had previously submitted to the Council be retained on the list of matters of which the Council was seized.

Cuba transmitted to the Secretary-General the 15 August [A/61/280] declaration of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Affairs of its National
Assembly expressing outrage at the ruling of the United States Court of Appeal in Atlanta, Georgia, vacating the verdict of the panel of three judges that had rescinded the judgment handed down in Miami against five Cuban anti-terrorist heroes.

Cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations

Caribbean Community

The Secretary-General, in response to General Assembly resolution 59/138 [YUN 2004, p. 306], submitted, in his August consolidated report [A/61/256 & Add.1] on cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations, a summary of UN-Caribbean Community (CARICOM) collaborative activities, which highlighted consultations with the Department of Political Affairs on the holding of the fourth general meeting between CARICOM representatives and the UN system. Participants would review progress in the implementation of UN-CARICOM cooperation and discuss measures to strengthen cooperation between the two organizations. The report also covered CARICOM activities with various UN system bodies to address issues such as the import and export of firearms; terrorism and organized crime; sustainable and social development; statistics; gender; censuses in the Caribbean region; childhood education; and HIV/AIDS.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 4 December [meeting 65], the General Assembly adopted resolution 61/50 [draft: A/61/L.29 & Add.1] without vote [agenda item 108(c)].

Cooperation between the United Nations and the Caribbean Community

The General Assembly,
Bearing in mind the provisions of Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations on the existence of regional arrangements or agencies for dealing with such matters relating to the maintenance of international peace and security as are appropriate for regional action and other activities consistent with the purposes and principles of the United Nations,
Bearing in mind also the assistance given by the United Nations towards the maintenance of peace and security in the Caribbean region,
Recalling the signing, on 27 May 1997, by the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Secretary-General of the Caribbean Community of a cooperation agreement between the secretariats of the two organizations,
Bearing in mind that, in its resolutions 54/225 of 22 December 1999, 55/203 of 20 December 2000, 57/261 of 20 December 2002 and 59/230 of 22 December 2004, it recognized the importance of adopting an integrated management approach to the Caribbean Sea area in the context of sustainable development,
Bearing in mind also that in the United Nations Millennium Declaration, adopted by resolution 55/2 of 8 September 2000, Heads of State and Government resolved to address the special needs of small island developing States by implementing the Barbados Programme of Action and the outcome of the twenty-second special session of the General Assembly rapidly and in full,
Noting that the World Summit on Sustainable Development considered the specific issues and problems facing small island developing States, taking note in this regard of the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development, and noting the outcome of the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,
Noting also that the Caribbean region is the second most hazard-prone region in the world and is frequently exposed to devastating hazards including earthquakes, floods, hurricanes and volcanic eruptions,
Noting further that the Caribbean region has been hard hit, and in some cases devastated, by hurricanes in the recent past, and concerned that their frequency, intensity and destructive power continue to pose a challenge to the development of the region,
Noting that the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS adopted by the General Assembly in resolution S-26/2 of 27 June 2001 recognized the Caribbean region as having the second-highest rate of infection after sub-Saharan Africa and that the region therefore needs special attention and assistance from the international community,
Noting also the commitment undertaken by the international community in the Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS, adopted by the High-level Meeting on HIV/AIDS on 2 June 2006, to assist low- and middle-income countries in achieving universal access to comprehensive HIV/AIDS prevention programmes, treatment, care and support by 2010,
Affirming the need to strengthen the cooperation that already exists between entities of the United Nations system and the Caribbean Community in the areas of economic and social development, as well as the areas of political and humanitarian affairs,
Convinced of the need for the coordinated utilization of available resources to promote the common objectives of the two organizations,
Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations,
1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General, in particular part one, section IV, on the Caribbean Community, as well as efforts to strengthen cooperation;

2. Calls upon the Secretary-General of the United Nations, in association with the Secretary-General of the Caribbean Community, as well as the relevant regional organizations, to continue to assist in furthering the development and maintenance of peace and security within the Caribbean region;

3. Invites the Secretary-General to continue to promote and expand cooperation and coordination between the United Nations and the Caribbean Community in order to increase the capacity of the two organizations to attain their objectives;

4. Urges the specialized agencies and other organizations and programmes of the United Nations system to cooperate with the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Secretary-General of the Caribbean Community in order to initiate, maintain and increase consultations and programmes with the Caribbean Community and its associated institutions in the attainment of their objectives, with special attention to the areas and issues identified at the third general meeting between representatives of the Caribbean Community and its associated institutions and of the United Nations system, held in New York on 12 and 13 April 2004, as set out in the report of the Secretary-General, as well as in resolutions 54/225, 55/2, 55/203 and S-26/2 and the decisions of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, and the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, as well as the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development;

5. Invites the organizations of the United Nations system as well as Member States to increase financial and other assistance to the countries of the Caribbean Community to help to implement the priorities of the Caribbean Regional Strategic Framework for HIV/AIDS, which sets out realistic targets for reducing the rate of new infections, raising the quality and coverage of care, treatment and support and building institutional capacity, and to cope with the problems and the burden caused by the HIV/AIDS pandemic;

6. Invites the Secretary-General to consider utilizing a strategic programming framework modality to strengthen the coordination and cooperation between the two secretariats as well as between the United Nations field offices and the Caribbean Community;

7. Calls upon the United Nations, the specialized agencies and other organizations and programmes of the United Nations system to assist the countries of the Caribbean in addressing the social and economic consequences of the vulnerability of Caribbean economies and the challenges that this poses for achieving the Millennium Development Goals and the goal of sustainable development;

8. Reaffirms the objective of strengthening the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, including through the mobilization of financial and technological resources, as well as capacity-building programmes;

9. Welcomes the initiatives of Member States in assisting in the cooperation between the United Nations and the Caribbean Community, and encourages their continuing efforts;

10. Recommends that the fourth general meeting between representatives of the Caribbean Community and its associated institutions and of the United Nations system be held in the Caribbean in early 2007 in order to review and appraise progress in the implementation of the agreed areas and issues and to hold consultations on such additional measures and procedures as may be required to facilitate and strengthen cooperation between the two organizations;

11. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-third session a report on the implementation of the present resolution;

12. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-third session the sub-item entitled “Cooperation between the United Nations and the Caribbean Community”.

**Cooperation with OAS**

In response to General Assembly resolution 59/257 [YUN 2004, p. 307] on cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of American States (OAS), the Secretary-General, in his consolidated report on cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations [A/61/256 & Add.1], reviewed the close cooperation between OAS and the UN Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, which had maintained the joint UN-OAS small arms and light weapons administrations and had developed, with other partners, an integrated weapons management system to register firearms, ammunition and explosives and manage weapons facilities. OAS activities with the International Labour Organization to establish national labour councils, promote social dialogue, organize training and promote human rights and the application of international labour standards were also highlighted.

By decision 61/552 of 22 December, the Assembly decided that the item entitled “Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of American States” would remain for consideration during its resumed sixty-first (2007) session.